

The 16th Economic International Conference
New Challenges and Opportunities for the Economy 4.0
May 7, 2020 – May 8, 2020

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION: A TOOL FOR REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST YOUTH. GOOD PRACTICES IN EU COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

This article approaches entrepreneurship education as an important tool for reducing youth unemployment. Taking into consideration the fact that entrepreneurship is regarded an engine of the economic growth of a country which contributes to the well-being of individuals, have been undertaken more and more measures of entrepreneurial thinking stimulation. In order to initiate and develop a new business, it is not required for young people to be born with certain entrepreneurial skills. Entrepreneurship education supports young people to expand the skills and knowledge necessary for conducting a successful business. The entrepreneurial spirit manifests itself as a result of education but also of experience. One phenomenon that persists among young people is unemployment. Entrepreneurship education is a solution for reducing youth unemployment in the EU countries. Through entrepreneurship education, the young generation acquires entrepreneurial knowledge and skills that they can subsequently employ to implement a business plan. Young people are among the persons most damaged by the unemployment rate, thereby the countries are introducing policies and strategies in the field of entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurship. The research methodology involves the analysis of a number of good practices in the field of entrepreneurship education in some EU countries, in order to highlight the importance given by the authorities in this field. The results highlight the fact that entrepreneurship education is currently an important and effective tool for reducing the number of unemployed, through the jobs that are created in new businesses.

Structure of presentation

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Keywords

- Entrepreneurship education
- Unemployment
- Youth
- Good practices
- EU countries

Introduction

- Young people are the present and the future of the European labor market and nowadays EU countries are confronted with high unemployment rates amongst youth (more than **3.3 million young people** (aged 15-24 years) are **unemployed** in 2019 in the EU).
- In the context of high youth unemployment, Covid-19 pandemic and rapid changes related to our complex economy and society, transversal skills such as entrepreneurship are essential not only to shape the mindsets of young people, but also to provide the skills, knowledge and attitudes that are central to developing an entrepreneurial culture in Europe.

Entrepreneurship Education: concept and importance

- Can **entrepreneurial spirit** be acquired through education or represents something that only certain people acquire through birth?
- **Alan Gibson** defines entrepreneurship education as *"the process of using personal initiative to transform a business concept into a company or to develop and diversify an existing enterprise into a high-potential enterprise"* (Gibson, 2001).
- „**Entrepreneurship education** is defined as being about learners developing the skills and mindset to be able to turn creative ideas into entrepreneurial action” (European Commission, 2017).

Reducing young unemployment through Entrepreneurship Education

- **Youth entrepreneurship** is a tool to combat youth unemployment and social exclusion as well as stimulating innovation among young people.
- **Entrepreneurship education** is one more opportunity for mitigating youth unemployment in the EU countries.
- Through entrepreneurship education, the young generation acquires **entrepreneurial knowledge** and **expertise** which can be later used to think and enforce a business plan.

Good practices in Entrepreneurship Education in EU countries

- Nowadays, **entrepreneurship education** is being promoted and deployed in many public and private education institutions.
- EU countries encourage young people to embrace a **career** as an **entrepreneur** due to the fact that businesses have a critical role in the socio-economical development.
- For the implementation of entrepreneurship education in different institutions, EU countries deploy various **projects** or learn from **good practices** in other countries.

Good practices in Entrepreneurship Education in EU countries

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICES	COUNTRY
Aarhus Start-up Week-end	DENMARK
Entrepreneurial Spirit in Schools	GERMANY
RubikHub	ROMANIA
Be an entrepreneur	SPAIN
Year of research	AUSTRIA
Children's Week of Entrepreneurship	CROATIA
Innovation Challenge	FRANCE
Big Ideas Wales	UNITED KINGDOM
Hot Spirits	ITALY

Conclusion

- Entrepreneurship education encourages young people to rediscover themselves by earning entrepreneurial proficiency, due to the fact that entrepreneurial spirit can be attained through learning.
- The necessity of supporting and promoting entrepreneurship education amongst young people in EU countries is apparent: both from the perspective of economic and social development, also for the professional and personal development of young people.

THANK YOU!