



**EDITORIAL**

*By Dana T. Redford*

**Entrepreneurial capability is based upon nurture, not nature.**

**T**raditionally, entrepreneurs have been considered to be unique, few in number and born that way. The predisposition for someone becoming an entrepreneur can be likened to that of someone becoming an engineer. Of course, natural born traits can mean that someone might be more inclined to more easily become an engineer, but just as engineering can be taught research has shown that entrepreneurial skills, knowledge and even attitude can be acquired and effectively utilized by the majority of people. Furthermore, societies that provide environments of entrepreneurial nurturing will enjoy the social and economic benefits that will result.



In regard to the current context of Entrepreneurship Education in Europe, the majority of countries are in a process of educational reform and embedding this type of educational offering (EURYDICE, 2016). Among their objectives is to strengthen entrepreneurship education from the perspective of lifelong learning across all educational levels. The Youth<sup>th</sup> Start Entrepreneurial Challenges Project promotes practical experiential learning programs at the compulsory school level by developing an innovative, transferable and scalable program through the collaboration of the high-level public authorities of Austria, Luxembourg, Portugal and Slovenia. The Youth<sup>th</sup> Start program is designed to be flexible in its application and has intensive and extensive programs making it possible for teachers in all kinds of schools and from various disciplines to use Youth<sup>th</sup> Start modules with their students.

The primary target group in this 3-year project is teenagers from 13-17 years old, through two large-scale interventions. Through the

Name	Prof. Dr. Dana T. Redford
Project Responsibilities	International Coordinator
Country	Portugal
Title	President
Organization	PEEP
Website	www.peep.pt
Contact	dana.redford@peep.pt

leadership of the Ministries of Education from each of the participating countries to give further emphasis on working with primary schools (students from 8-11 years) than was in the original proposal.

The Project is designed to foster self-directed learning with its transversal interdisciplinary method for conquering the “isolated application” and single activity approach in schools. I invite you to learn more about our project through this, our first project newsletter, and contact us if you have any further questions or might be interested in working with us in the current [Call for Associate Partners](#).



### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The You<sup>th</sup> Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges educational program is designed to increase the students’ desire and ability to participate in entrepreneurial activities. We believe that it is through education that we can create a sustainable culture of entrepreneurship, changing the mind/set of our students, parents and school communities. Through this project we are testing the idea that this experiential program will increase the participants’ motivation to learn and engage in school activities and also help develop their pro-activeness, creative thinking and a risk-taking attitude that will allow them to be more participative citizens and develop their full potential.

#### Policy Experimentation

The You<sup>th</sup> Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges will use the random control trials (RCT) methodology as our experimentation design as we have full control over the educational “treatment” and are able to randomize which students will experience it. All participating schools will use the educational modules at some point except in some cases where the schools are part of the “pure control group”.

The questionnaires used to evaluate the program were first developed through the [ASTEE](#) project which developed measurement tools to assess the impact of educational programs. This measurement tool was specifically designed to assess the influence educational programs have on participants’ entrepreneurial self-efficacy, attitudes, mindset and intentions as well as their future intention to work in innovation-oriented professions.

During this project we will test the effects of an extensive and an intensive version of You<sup>th</sup> Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges at secondary schools and primary schools in four countries. Since it is particularly important to test different moderators in order to inform policy makers in the most efficient way, we will test the programs in different types of schools (normal and intervention schools). The programs will also be tested at different educational levels.

#### Consortium

All public authorities from participating countries with experimental actions are at the Ministerial level and are responsible for Education. These partners act as the highest authorities in

education, and will enable the experimentation in the targeted school levels. They have the ownership of collected data to buttress policy reforms. Teacher training will be developed and facilitated by these ministerial authorities. Local partners will complement the knowledge available at these Ministries with specific expertise. The partnership includes an evaluation body from Denmark, the Danish Foundation for Entrepreneurship, which has one of the longest-on-going evaluation and assessment projects in Europe. For the final external evaluation, the Youth Start Consortium will recur to the expertise of EM Lyon University under the direction of Professor Alain Fayolle.

Countries involved in the policy experimentation implementation:

Austria is a country with many internationally recognized best practices in entrepreneurship education, with over 15 years of development. In Austria, the University College of Teacher Education Vienna/Krems (KPH) has established a cycle of teacher training seminars in entrepreneurship education (EE), together with the EESI-Impulse Centre of the Ministry of Education, which has done “in-house training”. Until now KPH has trained over 3,000 teachers in EE. Along the Project KPH will be the partner responsible for teacher training. IFTE (Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship) is the project partner that will take the lead on the development of the You<sup>th</sup> Start Entrepreneurial Challenges Model.

Luxembourg’s Ministry of National Education is involved in the Youth Start program through a



department called SCRIPT. This Department is responsible for innovation in education pedagogy. At the moment there is a strong will in the ministry to give more importance to transversal skills and to embed them in the curricula of both primary and secondary education. SCRIPT works closely together with the IFEN (National Institute for Teacher Education and Training) and the University of Luxembourg.

Portugal has many initiatives at local, regional and national level. One of these best practices is INOVA!, a national idea plan competition that is a cross-ministerial, cross-stakeholder initiative, in which the Directorate General of Education (DGE) plays a key role. DGE has developed a microsite as well as didactic material to support entrepreneurship education. In Portugal it is the DGE from the Ministry of Education (the principal project partner in Portugal) that has, among others, the mission to ensure that national policies are implemented regarding the pedagogical and didactic components of pre-school, primary, lower and upper secondary education. DGE gives

technical guidance and support, as well as evaluating impact. The Platform for Entrepreneurship Education in Portugal (PEEP) - the coordinating partner - has led inter-ministerial efforts in Portugal to develop a national strategy for entrepreneurship education as well as a national evaluation framework.

**Slovenia's** Ministry of Education, Science and Sport has different areas of working units/directorates for policy making in pre-school, primary education, and secondary education, and is divided into general and vocational, higher vocational education and adult education. The Education Development Office (EDO - unit of the Ministry) is creating a National Strategy for Entrepreneurship Education together with the National Education Institute (NEI) and the National School of Leadership in Education (NSLE). NEI is responsible for tasks related to research and development at the pre-university level and provides regular training for professional staff. NSLE is responsible for training and professional development of head teachers and candidates.

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## You<sup>th</sup> Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges' Newsletter

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### PROJECT NEWS

The You<sup>th</sup> Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges project started in January 2015, and it was officially launched during the Kick-off Meeting in Brussels (EACEA – March 12-13, 2015). The Implementation phase I started at the beginning of the 2015/2016 school year, after the Teachers Training phase, that took place in all the four implementation countries. New project initiatives will start during the next two months related with the research (teachers' groups interviews & A1/A2/B1 case studies) and the dissemination (workshops with university students & leadership forums) of the You<sup>th</sup> Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Project.

#### Teachers Training



#### Implementation I



## MULTIMEDIA

### What is Entrepreneurship?



The You<sup>th</sup> Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges is all about entrepreneurship education – promoting practical experiential learning programs at the compulsory school level. But what is entrepreneurship? Discover the meaning of this process/capacity with this video produced by the EU Commissions Expert Group on Entrepreneurship Education in 2013.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Name	Date	Venue
<a href="#">Portuguese Teacher Trainer Meeting</a>	May 12 - 13	Curia
<a href="#">Coordinating Team Meeting IV</a>	June 21 - 23	Ljubljana
<a href="#">Train the Trainers in German for Scaling Partners</a>	July 11 - 15	Kitzbühel
<a href="#">TIC@Portugal'16</a>	July 1	Lisbon
<a href="#">Presentation at 2016 ATEE Annual Conference</a>	August 22 - 24	Eindhoven

## PROJECT PARTNERS



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale,  
de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse

Service de coordination de la recherche  
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ZNANOST IN ŠPORT



Zavod Republike Slovenije za šolstvo



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## CONTACTS

Website: [www.youthstartproject.eu](http://www.youthstartproject.eu)

E-mail: [info@youthstartproject.eu](mailto:info@youthstartproject.eu)

Project Coordinators:

PEEP

Website: [www.peep.pt](http://www.peep.pt)

E-mail: [info@peep.pt](mailto:info@peep.pt)

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Project Acronym	Ustart
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Policy Area	Education and Training & Youth
International Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Dana T. Redford

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