

EDITORIAL

By Tom Muller

Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges – Innovation in Pedagogic Methods in Luxembourg

Well known for the hyperdiversity of its school population as well as its excellence in language teaching, the Luxembourgish school system used to be considered as a very conservative and traditional one. Although on the system level innovative pedagogical methods have always been developed, the implementation in schools was often difficult.



However, there has been a change in educational policy in recent years considering that it became harder, even for highly qualified students, to find jobs partly due to the mismatch between supply and demand on the labour market: reforming VET, adapting national

curricula, and focusing on transversal skills were only some of the initiatives taken. In this context, the Ministry of Education also supported the development and implementation of the Youth Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges Program.

The tremendous success achieved by the program led the SCRIPT (the ministerial department responsible for pedagogical innovation and research) to start a national initiative in 2016 called “Entrepreneurial Schools”. This initiative has been launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy as well as some of the most important stakeholders in the Luxembourgish private economic sector.

4 secondary schools in a first phase will go through a three-year process at the end of which entrepreneurial activities will be/are going to be implemented in all classes for about 70-80 lessons per school year.

4 levels of entrepreneurial activities will be offered:

- Level 1: Youth Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges (school/teacher based entrepreneurial activities)
- Level 2: National Entrepreneurial Programs which scale the challenge approach to a national context
- Level 3: Experts invited to play an active role with teachers and students
- Level 4: Company visits.

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The entrepreneurial activities offered to students should contain activities from level 1 to about 50% at least. The rest can be done on level 2-4.

Every school is accompanied throughout the process by a team composed of a representative of each the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Economics, the headmaster and a small group of teachers. The aim is to consider every school’s individual background (and already existing initiatives) in the new concept.

A very close collaboration with the economic and social world surrounding the schools is necessary for a successful implementation: every school will get in touch with a portfolio of local companies and associations willing to collaborate with the teachers and students.

Finally, there will be a certification of the student’s development of entrepreneurial competences based on the EntreComp reference framework (adapted to national needs).

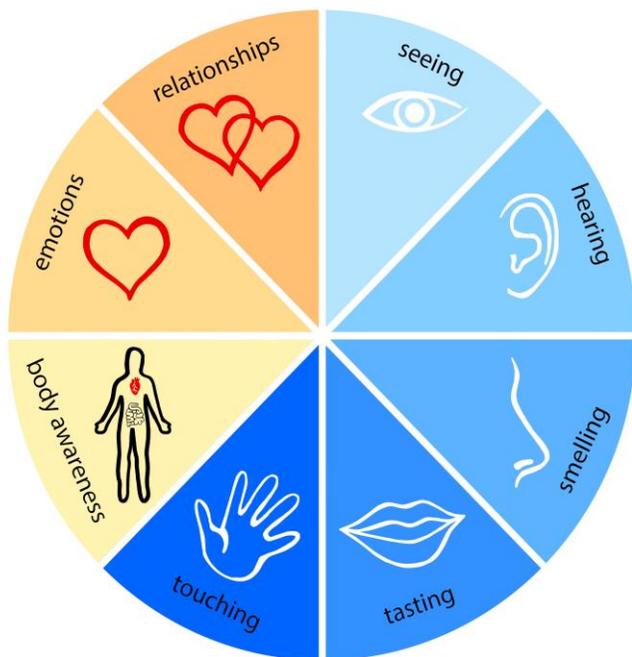
The development of the “Entrepreneurial Schools” wouldn’t have been possible without the full support of the Youth Start Project team, and particularly Prof. Johannes Lindner and Prof. Dana Redford.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Start on its way to Mindfulness!

The “Youth Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges” programme regards learning as a holistic process that involves “head, heart and hand”. It has, thus, developed a complementary area dedicated to Mind & Body that intends to promote and make schools communities aware of the benefits of the practice of Mindfulness, which, according to the definition of the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, is “the practice of maintaining a nonjudgmental state of heightened or complete awareness of one's thoughts, emotions, or experiences on a moment-to-moment basis; also: such a state of awareness”.

The Mindfulness wheel



Studies have demonstrated that the practice of regular mindfulness exercises can benefit both our physical and mental health. The set of activities proposed by Mind & Body combine physical activity with rhythmic exercises, kinesthetic learning and tuina. It is believed it can help us activate our brain and thus improve our concentration. Tuina is a massage and one of the therapies used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). TUI means to push, to set, to compress, to stimulate, to separate and to dissipate. NA means grasping, holding, pulling, kneading and massaging. This term is represented in Chinese by two overlapping characters: the lower one means "hand" and the

upper one means "union", "harmony". Tuina can thus be translated by "The hand that seeks harmony, compressing, stimulating, setting in motion".

These techniques involve movements that challenge our brain and thereby enhance our coordination, our ability to think and our mental fitness. Some of the exercises of the Activate & Concentrate set, put together for the “Youth Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges” programme, involve the production of various rhythms through “body percussion”, which allows us to experience rhythm physically, mentally and emotionally. The use of cross-lateral exercises activates both hemispheres of the brain at the same time, thereby promoting the interplay of different abilities. This can help to connect our powers of communication and analytical thinking (left side of the brain) with our emotions and our power of imagination (right side of the brain).

The “Youth Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges” programme promotes the use of mindfulness exercises to improve students’ and teachers’ perception and concentrate their attention at the present moment, thus allowing them to stay focused despite the sensory overload to which they are often exposed and to face challenges in a more relaxed way. The practice of Mindfulness can also help students (re)act in a more self-efficacious manner, without being influenced by any sort of prejudice. In brief, mindfulness exercises can teach us how to look into ourselves and the others without pre-judgments.

The activities suggested in Mind & Body advocate the principle that treating ourselves as well as the others in a mindful manner enhances our own emotional intelligence and it is an essential factor for social cohesion. For trying out this methodology, there are detailed instructions for 23 physical exercises to activate your brain and/or improve your concentration in PDF format that can be downloaded from the site of the project. There are also videos that illustrate all the exercises so that you can join right in (see “Activate &

Concentrate”).

In a separate document, you will also find an extensive range of instructions and materials on the practice of mindfulness at schools. The site also provides access to eight more video clips illustrating the practice of mindfulness techniques at a Viennese school. Mind & Body resources are currently available in English and German at: <http://www.youthstart.eu/en/warmup/>. In the short-term all resources will be translated into the other languages of the consortium.

Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges’ Newsletter

PROJECT NEWS

DGE (an entity of Ministry of Education from Portugal) recently has contributed to the dissemination of Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Project including a summary of the Project in Open Book of Education Innovation, an initiative of [European SchoolNet](#), that will be published in [Eminent 2017 event](#). The Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges Project had registered higher rates in questionnaire answers (above 80 % overall) regarding the collection of data of the pre and mid-test for the Implementation Phase II (2016/2017 school year). Great news for the research of the Project.

On March 29-30, the 6th Coordinating Team Meeting occurred in Vienna, and some guests were invited to contribute. The guests were Tatiana Niskacova, Programme Manager from EACEA – Unit A1; Anusca Ferrari, Project Manager from European SchoolNet; Heinrich Himmer, President, and Horst Tschaikner, head of European Office, both from Vienna Board of Education; Gerda, Andrea Bizanz, and Ingrid Teufel, Youth Start Multipliers (Vienna); and also, ten representatives from Associated partners of Youth Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges Project from Bulgaria, led by Goranka Nedeva.

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VI Coordinating Team Meeting, Vienna (Austria),
photo from Norbert Hanauer, bmb



VI Coordinating Team Meeting, Vienna (Austria),
photo from Norbert Hanauer, bmb



See the pictures of Project Events in <http://www.youthstartproject.eu/#!events/fd21h>

MULTIMEDIA

Entrepreneurship is about financial and economic literacy



"Financial and economic literacy " is one of 15 competences that any learner can develop to become entrepreneurial, according to the [European Commission Entrepreneurship Competence Framework](#), known as the EntreComp.

This video comes from EU Science Hub – [Joint Research Centre YouTube channel](#) and was made for "[Boosting a Sense of Initiative and Entrepreneurship in Your Students](#)" MOOC course from [European SchoolNet Academy](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Name	Date	Venue
Teacher training	January-May	All implementing countries
4th Leadership Forum: “Development of Entrepreneurial Skills”	May - June	Portugal (e-learning)
You th Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges Teacher Training B1 with International Teachers	May 1 - 6	Vienna, Austria
DigComp and EntreComp Stakeholders Event	May 12	Brussels
Teacher group interviews	May	All implementing countries
Monitoring the Implementation of Challenges in Primary and Secondary Schools	May	Slovenia
Evaluation Workshop for Primary and Secondary Schools	May	Slovenia
Debate Challenge, Championship	June 2	Vienna, Austria
Trash Value Festival	June 13	Vienna, Austria
You th Start - Entrepreneurial Challenges B1 Teacher Training	June 26 - 30	Indonesia

PROJECT PARTNERS



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Policy Area	Education and Training & Youth
International Coordinator	Dana T. Redford, PhD

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