

**EDITORIAL**

*By Dana Redford and Tom Muller*

**Moving towards a Holistic Approach: Entrepreneurial Schools**

**Why are Entrepreneurial Schools important?**

One major challenge for schools is fostering essential skills for the labour market. To help students establish a career plan, and to help them be able to constantly adapt, take initiative and cooperate with others is essential for success. Unemployment is too often an incompatibility between the needs of the labour market and the supply of needed competences.



Dana Redford



Tom Muller

**What is needed?**

The promotion of entrepreneurial skills:  
1) Developing basic core entrepreneurial competences (proactivity, initiative, innovation, managing one’s own project, etc.); 2) Promoting an entrepreneurial culture (open-mindedness, risk taking, creativity, etc.); 3) Fostering social entrepreneurial behaviours (development of new forms of responsibility, etc.)

**What are the objectives?**

Connecting education to economic and social developments outside school

- Developing transversal competences with a strong focus on the use of ICT tools
- Combating early school-leaving through an innovative learning programme
- Improving employability
- Preparing students for a professional future and helping them become active citizens
- Creating real links between schools and local partners

**Entrepreneurial Schools in Action: Luxembourg**

As described in a previous editorial, Luxembourg has, as part of the Youth Start project, developed “Entrepreneurial Schools”. These principally develop entrepreneurial competences through different activities (amongst them

<b>Name</b>	Dana Redford / Tom Muller
<b>Project Responsibilities</b>	International Coordinator and Portugal Country Coordinator / Luxembourg Country Coordinator
<b>Country</b>	Portugal / Luxembourg
<b>Title</b>	President / Teacher
<b>Organisation</b>	PEEP / SCRIPT – Department for innovation in education
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.peep.pt/">www.peep.pt /</a> <a href="https://portal.education.lu/script/">https://portal.education.lu/script/</a>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:dana.redford@peep.pt">dana.redford@peep.pt /</a> <a href="mailto:Tom.Muller@men.lu">Tom.Muller@men.lu</a>

the Youth Start Challenges) within normal lessons. To become an “Entrepreneurial School”, entrepreneurship education must cover at least 10% of the total weekly school time.

The impact of the program was even wider, however: project work in secondary schools is increasingly promoted and has even found its way in the curricula of some subjects; teachers’ work is more action-oriented even with the youngest children in primary education; the entrepreneurship programs offered by “Jonk Entrepreneurien ASBL” have become more successful due to a higher demand from the schools, teachers and students; and developing financial literacy competences has become a major goal of the current government. Last but not least, Luxembourg will launch its first national edition of The Entrepreneurial School Award at the end of this school year.

Youth Start Entrepreneurial Challenges have increased the awareness that entrepreneurial education is fundamental. Let’s keep things moving even beyond the end of the Erasmus+ Programme.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This school year the teachers training in Portugal began in November 2017 and ends in June 2018. In the training sessions, teachers have been experimenting, building, prototyping just as their students do in the classroom.

During the three years of You<sup>th</sup> Start Entrepreneurial Challenges experimentation period, the project counted on the participation of about 40 school clusters and secondary schools combined, a universe of about 700 teachers and 10,000 students, from the 1st and 2nd cycles of basic education and upper secondary education.

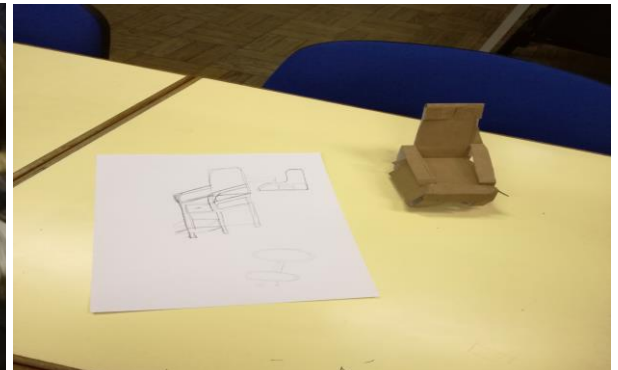
In the third year of implementation of You<sup>th</sup> Start, there were schools and teachers from the north, centre and Lisbon area involved, really committed in the activities as you can see in the photos below.

This group of teachers from Bonança school is putting in practice the Design Thinking method to create the ideal chair for Idea Challenge A2.



This other group from vocational school of Rio Maior are working on the Empathy Map for Empathy Challenge B1.

This is a group of teachers from Maria Amália school in Lisbon working on the ideal chair activity for Idea Challenge.



## PROJECT NEWS

### Portugal

On the 12 and 13 April there was an exhibition of the works made by the students participating in the project Youth Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges from Agrupamento de Escolas de Santo António, Barreiro (Portugal). The activity was open to all the school community and it was part of “Santo António é R.E.E.I.”, the Annual School Open Days.

A dissemination article on the implementation of You<sup>th</sup> Start Project in Portugal was written by the Portuguese You<sup>th</sup> Start teacher trainers team and published in the APPI eJournal of the English Teachers Portuguese Association (APPI) in April. Find out more in: [APPI eJournal, Spring, 2018](#) (p. 42-46).

Two students’ teams (14) and 4 teachers from two schools involved in the You<sup>th</sup> Start project have participated in a secondary pilot programme for cooperative entrepreneurship in Valnalón, Spain. This activity was carried out within the ECOOPE project, in which PEEP participates as a partner. The students were able to further develop their entrepreneurial competences and lessons learned in You<sup>th</sup> Start project and exchange experiences with Spanish students.



### Austria

In Salzburg (Austria), there was in April 18<sup>th</sup> a kick off event for the dissemination of Youth Start Project involving 100 headmasters and teachers from 66 schools, with the governor of the region of Salzburg.

Students exhibition (Barreiro, Portugal)



Kick off dissemination event (Salzburg, Austria)



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

**MULTIMEDIA**

**Entrepreneurial Design Thinking**



This is a microteaching video of the You<sup>th</sup> Start Learning Programme. This video addresses entrepreneurial design thinking in order to create a business. Design thinking, and entrepreneurship seem to be a promising combination as a teaching approach in entrepreneurship education. There are a lot of similarities between entrepreneurs and designers. Entrepreneurs use empathy to gauge the appropriateness of novel ideas and understand the problems customers have, just like designers use

empathy when they imagine the world from the user’s perspective. In design thinking, creativity is the core of discussion in all works and in entrepreneurship creativity is required to identify opportunities that lead to new ventures when they imagine the world from the user’s perspective. When we combine Design Thinking and entrepreneurship, we get EDT – Entrepreneurial Design Thinking, which we could describe as an entrepreneurship education approach for treating user centered problems as entrepreneurial opportunities within an iterative process of creating solutions and exploitation.

You can find the video on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= dbwwUo54rg&t=132s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbwwUo54rg&t=132s)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Name	Date	Venue
Digital and Entrepreneurial Skills for Inclusive, Cohesive and Innovative Societies	April 11	Brussels
Youth Start Students Exhibition	April 12-13	Portugal
Kick off for the dissemination of Youth Start Project	April 17	Salzburg (Austria)
Festival of Ideas (Students presenting their business ideas and business plans)	April 18	Austria
4 <sup>th</sup> Leadership Forum	April 18	Portugal
Teacher Training: A1, A2, B1 and B2 Challenges	April-June	Austria and Portugal
Ministries Commission II	May 8	Portugal
Closing Event	June 1	Slovenia
National Open Door Challenge Award (MetschMatt)	June 6	Luxembourg



## PROJECT PARTNERS



## 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)

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>You<sup>th</sup> Start – Entrepreneurial Challenges</b>
<b>Project Acronym</b>	Ustart
<b>Programme</b>	Erasmus +
<b>Duration</b>	1/1/2015 - 30/06/2018
<b>Key Action</b>	Key Action 3: Support for policy reform
<b>Policy Area</b>	Education and Training & Youth
<b>International Coordinator</b>	Dana T. Redford, PhD

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