# YEAP! NEWSLETTER





**1st Issue** 

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# **Our YEAP! project**

The economic crisis and its impact on the labour market have put a large number of young Europeans at risk of social exclusion. Since 2011, twothirds of EU countries recorded an increase in long-term youth unemployment for those aged 25-29. The largest increases were registered in Greece (+86.8%) and Cyprus (+313.6%.)

Encouraging entrepreneurship is particularly important as part of the approach needed to tackle these alarmingly high youth unemployment rates in most of the EU Member States. For many years, the development of the entrepreneurial capacity of European citizens and organisations has been one of the key EU policy goals. This situation has called for and brought together project partners from across Europe to design, develop and implement "Youth Entrepreneurship Advanced Pathway" (YEAP!).

The YEAP! project aspires not only to contribute to shaping the mind-sets of young people but also to provide knowledge, skills and competences that are crucial to the development of an entrepreneurial culture. It aspires to do so through an innovative, individualised learning pathway.

How does the YEAP! project achieve its goals?

By implementing innovative activities that foster the development and assessment of entrepreneurial skills promoted by using them every day.



By developing new approaches to strengthen education and training pathways for prospective young entrepreneurs

By promoting the engagement of youth workers.

## YEAP! consortium ...

seeks to develop new approaches to strengthen the education and training paths of prospective young entrepreneurs, while the engagement and work of youth workers will be promoted. It is based on a multidisciplinary-multinational network of organizations largely varied on their type, activities and expertise in order to create synergies and reflect the perspectives of different actors, types of education and business models that

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will ultimately lead to a new innovative solution raising the skills quality & young people capacity to effectively enhance their entrepreneurial potential.

#### **Issue Contents :**

#### Objectives

Intellectual Output 1: YEAP! Flexible Learning 2 Intellectual Output 2: Youth Workers' Methodological Guide

Intellectual Output 3. Youth Workers' Toolbox

Intellectual Output 4. Business Idea Assess-

Intellectual Output 5. Youth & Social Entrepreneurship e-tools for Business Start-up Database

Kick off meeting in Thessaloniki, GREECE

#### **State of the art:**

At the beginning of the project the partners have carried out a short review (state of the art) in each partner country regarding entrepreneurship programmes designed for youth. A joint report has been developed that integrates the main points of all national good practices in youth entrepreneurship support programmes. This report

forms the starting point for the development of the project intellectual outputs and will soon be available at the projects website https://yeapproject.eu



## **Objectives**

The overall objective of the YEAP! project is to instil a spirit of (social) entrepreneurship among young people – through initiative-taking, building confidence calculated risk-taking and creativity. By placing the needs of young people at its centre, the project is developing a set of activities and a variety of methodological approaches to support their integration into the labour market either as self-employed people or as entrepreneurs.

The specific objectives are to:

Identify and apply ele-

ments to formulate an effective customised learning approach that will become the YEAP! Flexible Learning Pathway - one that can strengthen the entrepreneurial quality and motivation of youth.

Promote high-quality youth work by developing:

Guidelines for trainers/ vouth workers on how to involve young people in entrepreneurshipan based learning pathway that is focused on developing entrepreneurial mind-sets

Toolbox especially

customised to address their needs including practices that enable the use of their multiple talents to become entrepreneurs

A Business Idea Assessment Guide for aspiring young entrepreneurs to select and formulate the right type of entrepreneurial activity

Open and innovative etools to put entrepreneurial ideas into practice, by formulating a sustainable business start-up venture and/or for building high growth businesses that deliver social and environmental returns

**"** Developing new approaches to strengthen education and training pathways for prospective young entrepreneurs

## Intellectual Output 1: YEAP! Flexible Learning Pathway (Level 4)

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way that delivers individ- pathway" are to: ualised training for youth to potentially become Develop a common con-entrepreneurs or self- ceptual approach, which employed.

port young people to at the European level have options to change direction or even start Establish a bridge beafresh. Flexible and per- tween the worlds of edumeable learning path- cation and work ways enable learners to Be taken as a de facto move within and across reference by future proeducation, training and employment.

Aims to develop and test The key objectives of a flexible learning path- "YEAP! flexible learning

could support the development of youth entre-The main idea is to sup- preneurship competence

jects and initiatives, which aim at fostering

vouth entrepreneurial learning.

The Flexible learning pathway is aimed at trainees to reach Level 4 of the European Qualification Framework (EQF) regards with to knowledge, skills and competences and to develop the critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork skills that they need in the workplace.



### Intellectual Output 2: Youth Workers' **Methodological Guide**

The O2 aims to develop youth integrated an workers' methodological guide, which will help youth workers to use the YEAP! Flexible Learning Pathway developed under the O1 for young entrepreneurs. It will be developed as a separate

quide and then enriched with theoretical material. contents and methodological approaches for the youth worker to use.

methodological The auide will adopt a workshop methodology' in which the trainer/youth worker provides the main theoretical background

through lectures, while other approaches are adopted to facilitate learning such as discussion, group exercises, video case studies and analysis, experiential exercises etc.

## **Intellectual Output 3. Youth Workers' Toolbox**

The aim of this output is to enhance the quality of youth work and to professionalise youth workers by improving their knowledge and competences through a specially designed toolbox.

The Toolbox will contain a comprehensive set of learning tools and checklists developed for coaching entrepreneurs and students, which will:

support individuals and teams to learn key venturing skills

provide a scalable struc-

ture for 'intrapreneurship', smart camps and workshops, to stimulate lean innovation

provide a practical guide to complement entrepreneurship lectures

support teams to progress on their own between live piloting sessions.

As an indication, the Youth Workers' Toolbox will include the following:

The entrepreneurial jour-

ney (intercultural, global and regional perspectives)

Real world scenarios and cases of start-up companies

Topic-specific learning tools (e.g., group exercises, role playing, simulation, videos) explaining the issues that entrepreneurs need to address and how to do so

Templates for giving presentations, writing a business plan, and financial planning, etc



# Intellectual Output 4. Business Idea Assessment Guide

The purpose of the Business Idea Assessment Guide is to:

Develop a framework to assess the business ideas for future youth enterprises

Test this framework in the specific case of the YEAP! Project's youth enterprises and, in the longer run, validate it

Use the assessment Guide as a monitoring tool This will help young entrepreneurs to decide if they can turn their idea into a business, empower them into believing in themselves and the feasibility of their business idea and ultimately reinforce commitment and sustainability.

<sup>4</sup> Encouraging entrepreneurship is particularly important as part of the approach needed to tackle these alarmingly high youth unemployment rates in most of the EU Member States. For many years, the development of the entrepreneurial capacity of European citizens and organisations has been one of the key EU policy goals.<sup>7</sup>

## Intellectual Output 5. Youth & Social Entrepreneurship e-tools for Business Start-up Database

This will be a database that facilitates the writing of business plans, allowing each young person to fill in their own elements and the specifics of their business projects.

More specifically, the following e-tools will be developed:

SWOT analysis e-tool. This will help young entrepreneurs to form their business ideas, as they will be able to identify their Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

Cash Flow analysis etool. This helps participants to estimate in detail the projected cash receipts and cash paid out arising from their business ideas. These tools are intended to support the first steps that are necessary before developing the Business Plan and will help young entrepreneurs to "evaluate" in realistic terms the feasibility of their business idea.



#### **COORDINATION:**



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# Kick off meeting in Thessaloniki, GREECE



The kick off meeting of the project took place on the 18th and 19th of July, 2018 at DIMI-TRA's training center in Thessaloniki., During the course of the meeting, which was coordinated by the Swedish partner and attended by the Greek, Cypriot

and UK partners which presented the discussed the next steps for outcomes of the "State of the art " which includes the good practices that are already being implemented at the partner countries and upon which the partnership will build to proceed with the project's Intellectual outputs. Furthermore, the partners

the successful implementation of the project. The next meeting of the project will take place in Nicosia Cyprus on the 16th and 17th of January. 2019.