

Entrepreneurship education in Poland¹

1 OVERVIEW

In 2013, Poland adopted a new national strategic and policy document entitled Lifelong Learning Perspective that explicitly includes entrepreneurship education and skills. Entrepreneurship education is included in compulsory subjects at all levels of school education. At primary level, entrepreneurial competences are developed in the subjects "History and Society" and "Mathematics" and at secondary schools in the subjects "Civic education", "Geography", "Mathematics", "History and Society" and "IT". Furthermore, there is a separate compulsory subject at upper secondary level called "Introduction to Entrepreneurship" and another optional subject "Economics in Practice". There is on-going curricular reform in Poland and in 2016 an agenda will be launched which includes shaping and developing attitudes and competences for entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship education in Poland is promoted using a range of initiatives that target different student groups and teachers. Some of the examples focusing on students include "To be enterprising - learning by doing" and the "Young Enterprising" programme. Additional initiatives target teachers, for example the "Competencies yes, stereotypes no". The desired learning outcomes of entrepreneurship education help develop, include attitudes and skills necessary for functioning in the modern world, such as self-awareness, critical thinking, problem-solving and the ability to communicate within a team.

2 GOOD PRACTICE CASE STUDIES

To be enterprising - learning by doing

2.1 SUMMARY OF THE INITIATIVE

The initiative "To be enterprising - learning by doing" (Być przedsiębiorczym – nauka przez działanie) was developed as part of a project by the University of Economy in Vienna and the University of Economics in Wrocław, co-financed through the European Social Funds. The project was conducted in two phases. The first phase included an analysis of entrepreneurship education in Poland, the recruitment of 30 participating schools and the development of an innovative curriculum for entrepreneurship education. The second phase included the delivery of the curriculum in the 30 participating schools, the development of an online platform, training for teachers and heads of schools and presentations at scientific conferences. In 2013 a follow up initiative was started in cooperation with the University of Rzeszów, involving additional schools. This lasts until mid 2015.

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The content of this document, including the case studies and the descriptions of the initiatives reflect the information available as of August 2015.

2.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The objective of the project was to formulate and reinforce the entrepreneurial attitudes of students in secondary schools by:

- Shaping their attitudes and characteristics, such as creativity, self-assessment, openness, assertiveness, and self-improvement
- Developing their planning and organisational skills, for example the ability to organise their own work as well as the acquisition, collection and arrangement of data and information
- Developing their communication, teamwork, team building and negotiation skills

The long-term aim was to increase the overall interest of the participating students in the economy and entrepreneurship.

2.3 ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

The initiative was developed by the University of Economy in Vienna and the University of Economics in Wrocław. The target group for this initiative is schools and teachers as an integral part of creating new curricula.

2.4 ACHIEVEMENTS, RESULTS

The initiative included a curriculum analysis of the 30 participating schools, the development of new curricula, the development of new, innovative and technology-based tools for entrepreneurship education and teacher training. The project was run through an Internet platform. The online platform included a number of teaching and learning materials to be used in entrepreneurship education at secondary schools. The materials also included simulation games, e-books, presentations and materials for school projects. The website contained a 'self-learning' section with video tutorials on the use of the application and its resources for working with students.

2.5 LESSONS LEARNT

The project provided recommendations for the development of entrepreneurship education at secondary schools, including carrying out lessons in a laboratory design, dividing classes in smaller groups, working through projects and extracurricular activities.

3 EXAMPLES OF ON-GOING INITIATIVES ADDRESSING ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

3.1 YOUNG ENTERPRISING

Young Enterprising is an education programme with practical and innovative aspects that are based on real-life activities. It aims to teach students how to plan work and manage, deal with family finances, make informed consumer choices, use scarce resources, approach risks, present results of their work and use knowledge of STEM disciplines in the real life. Students' work in teams on various projects, which helps them develop a wide variety of skills and competences, like project planning, work coordination and developing their own ideas. Both students and teachers from secondary schools can participate. Students and teachers use resources provided by Centre for Citizenship Education and participate in webinars and share ideas in online forums. So far, more than 700 teachers and 1,800 student teams from all across Poland have participated in the programme. *Enterprising Young* is co-financed by the Polish National Bank.

3.2 'COMPETENCIES YES, STEREOTYPES NO'

"Competencies yes, stereotypes no" is a Polish initiative implemented by the Association of Technical Schools in Mikołów, funded by the European Social Fund. The programme aims at improving the competencies of VET teachers through a programme that consists of four modules. The first module focuses on developing language skills (English, German), on developing knowledge of mathematics, physics, entrepreneurship, ICT and other subjects. The second module aims at improving psycho-pedagogical skills. The third module provides vocational guidance and the fourth module is a platform for apprenticeships. Modules and sessions are set for small groups allowing plenty of time for teachers' development. Between 2010 and 2012, more than 90 teachers received training through this programme.

3.3 MY BUSINESS IN MY MUNICIPALITY

My Business in My Municipality is an educational programme for secondary schools. It aims to develop entrepreneurship and communication skills using e-learning methods and workshops for teachers and students, based on techniques like simulation games. The programme is made up of six 5-month cycles. It takes place in five Polish regions located in the south of the country. The activities include traditional style training for two teachers and two students from each school. The training lasts for 12 hours and the implementation of the e-learning is usually done for groups of 25-30 students using the website and available resources. The final event for the initiative is a 'Business Day' organised in schools that take part. This event offers the possibility for students to present their work and learning outcomes. In total, 600 teachers and 600 students have participated in the project.

3.4 BOSS ENTREPRENEURSHIP FESTIVAL

The BOSS Entrepreneurship Festival is an annual event organised across the whole of Poland. It focuses on a series of workshops, speeches and meetings in relation to business and interpersonal development skills. The aim is to stimulate an entrepreneurial spirit among younger generations and inspire young people to think differently. Many representatives of business are involved in the meetings and in the workshops where they share their experiences and opinions. Approximately 5,000 students and business representatives attend each Festival.

3.5 FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS ON THE INITIATIVES

Title of initiative in English	Young Enterprising	'Competencies yes, stereotypes no'	My Business in My Municipality	BOSS Entrepreneurship Festival
Title of the initiative in the local language	Młodzi przedsiębiorczy	Kompetencje TAK, Stereotypy NIE	Moja Firma w Mojej Gminie	Festiwal Boss
Type of initiative	Programme for young entrepreneurs	Programme for teachers	Educational courses for pupils Programme for teachers	Programme for young entrepreneurs
Launch date of the initiative	2009	2010		
Name of implementing body	Centre for Citizenship Education	Association of Technical Schools in Mikołów		Business Centre Club
Level of education	Secondary	VET	Secondary, VET	Secondary, VET
Target group	Pupils, Teachers	Teachers	Pupils, Teachers	Pupils
Link to further information	http://www.ceo.org.pl/pl/mlodzi-przedsiębiorczy/news/opis-programu	http://zst.edu.pl/pdf/ktsn/KTSNII.pdf	http://www.zse.gorlice.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=375&Itemid=8	http://trojmiasto.festiwalboss.pl/
Language in which further information is available	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish
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