Entrepreneurship education in Spain

1 OVERVIEW

Spain has been active in implementing entrepreneurship education for a number of years. These efforts date back to the reform of the Act on Education in 2006, when provision for entrepreneurship was first introduced to the legal framework. In 2011 the Action Plan to Support Entrepreneurship by the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism reinforced the position of entrepreneurship as a subject in schools at all levels. These developments led to entrepreneurship being positioned as a compulsory subject and it is now taught in a variety of forms in primary and secondary schools, as well as in vocational education and training.

Some challenges faced by teachers however still remain. To support teachers, provide access to resources and help implementation, institutions such as the Fundació Escola Emprenedors, offer external help. They develop new methodologies and devise new materials. In addition to national initiatives, the regions have a prominent role to play and are gradually taking over this effort through initiating new projects. These types of new initiatives are offered by private companies as well as by regional authorities and educational institutions.

2 GOOD PRACTICE CASE STUDIES

Be an Entrepreneur

2.1 SUMMARY OF THE INITIATIVE

The ‘Be an Entrepreneur’ Programme is run by the “Fundació Escola Emprenedors” and is primarily aimed at students in secondary education, vocational training and universities in Catalonia, Spain. The programme’s main objective is to promote the entrepreneurial mindset of students through innovative methodologies that strengthen initiative taking, self-esteem and confidence. It consists of 13 classes of one hour each, during school hours, and it teaches beginners in entrepreneurship. Through the programme students discover their own passion and interest and develop a business plan, which is presented in public at the end of the final session.

Particularities with this programme include that the programme is delivered by active entrepreneurs and entirely in English. These are features which set the initiative apart from other programmes in the region.

2.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The main objective of the “Be an Entrepreneur” programme is “to foster the entrepreneurial mind-set of students through the use of unique and innovative methodologies”. The programme is delivered

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across secondary education, vocational training as well as universities in Catalonia, Spain. The programme offers activities in which schools can participate on a voluntary basis. The initiative promotes entrepreneurial learning through experiential learning, observation and practice.

The student course consists of 13 classes and is designed to be very practical, applying the concepts of entrepreneurship in a learning-by-doing environment. In order to ensure that students gain as much as possible from the course being run in English there is a significant emphasis on presentation skills. In addition a course manual has been developed to train the teachers who wish to run the programme.

Because the programme is delivered in English, an assessment is carried out before it starts to determine the English level of pupils. This helps tailor the programme materials and expectations to the pupils’ ability and to determine a realistic set of outcomes in each particular case.

The results of the programme can vary according to the level of education where the programme is delivered. Generally, the courses are set up for pupils to:

- Discover their passions and interests
- Encourage creativity
- Improve teamwork
- Develop the ability to speak in public and lead projects
- Facilitate decision-making and critical thinking
- Promote English and computer skills
- Allow pupils to approach businesses
- Promote solidarity
- Help pupils grow and mature, with an experience closer to the ‘real world’

### 2.3 TARGET GROUP(S)

The Foundation “Fundació Escola Emprenedors” states that, since 2007, more than 250 programmes have been delivered, including the participation of 1,500 company projects and 5,000 pupils across 60 schools. These activities have been delivered by real entrepreneurs and targeted pupils in compulsory and non-compulsory secondary education as well as vocational training education.

### 2.4 ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

“Fundació Escola Emprenedors” is a private regional foundation comprised of entrepreneurs and business professionals from different sectors. The objective of the foundation is to contribute to the personal and professional development of young people and their community, both in personal and economic terms.

Numerous entities, schools and personal donors, sponsor the programmes of the “Fundació Escola Emprenedors”. The foundation accepts donations, offers several different sponsorship arrangements, in addition to opportunities to act as mentors and speakers for individual experts. The “Be an Entrepreneur” programme is sponsored by Barcelona Activa and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona through its “professional life” initiative. Barcelona Activa has been promoting the economic growth of Barcelona and its metropolitan area since 1986 and is integrated in the Area of Economy, Enterprise and Employment, which is the executive tool of the Economic Development policies of Barcelona’s City Council.
2.5 ACHIEVEMENTS, RESULTS

The Foundation measures the quality and effectiveness of their programmes, to ensure that students, teachers and families get the most out of any training. Teacher feedback is collected as part of each course. However, because the programme is delivered within some of the compulsory entrepreneurship education activities in the Spanish educational system, the Foundation does not specifically track the students after the delivery of the programme. That is the task of the school. The Foundation however monitors the number of schools, classes and students targeted. Lately, some follow up support is starting to be provided to VET students that go through the programme, in the sense of continuous mentorship.

2.6 LESSONS LEARNT

Student feedback is key to ensuring that initiatives are delivering on their intended outcomes. As clients they are also best placed to provide evidence into how an initiative should be run, and what they need and do not need.

Entrepreneurship education activities need to be flexible as they are often used alongside other more traditional approaches to learning and formal curricular. They also need to have their own distinct approach, allowing students to feel that this is a different type of working environment to the norm. Thinking and working differently help them to acquire important skills which are more difficult to attain in the formal environment.

Further information

Organisation: Fundació Escola Emprenedors
E-mail: info@escolaemprenedors.org

Further information in English:
Website: http://www.escolaemprenedors.org/entrepreneur/
Further documents: http://www.escolaemprenedors.org/documents-premsa/

3 EXAMPLES OF ON-GOING INITIATIVES ADDRESSING ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

3.1 MINIEMPRESA EDUCATIVA

Educational mini-company is an initiative of the government of Andalucía through which young people can develop small businesses and learn about the entrepreneurial culture. The programme is part of the Action Plan for the Promotion of Entrepreneurial Culture in the public education of Andalucía. Some of the learning outcomes for the programme include management skills, presentation skills and basic commercialisation of products. The programme also helps link students with businesses and provides experiential learning opportunities. The final part of the programme is a fair through which the student teams are invited to present their mini-companies and sell their products to the wider society. The programme has been implemented in eight provinces in the region. In 2014 each province developed between 30 and 60 student mini companies.
3.2 EMPRENDEJOVEN

Emprendejoven is an initiative promoted by the Andalucía Public Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports. The initiative opens up possibilities for student business projects to compete between each other through a scheme that helps them develop their innovative skills and competitiveness. As such, young people are encouraged to take a test and compete for a place at the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development (CADE) where they can learn about entrepreneurship and visit companies in the region. Around 400 Vocational Training Institutes participate in the programme.

3.3 KITCAIXA JOVEN EMPRENEDORS

The KixCaixa Young Entrepreneurs is an initiative of Fondanció la Caixa that offers a toolkit for educators in schools and youth clubs for entrepreneurship education. The toolkit comprises innovative educational material with a dynamic and creative methodology. Part of the content is digitalised and offers the opportunity for participants to compete for a challenge and win a prize of an educational trip to the Silicon Valley. Provision of technical assistance and support is part of the programme and user can use the opportunity to get advice on how to use the toolkit.

3.4 HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS SUBJECT

Fundació Escola Emprenedors launched a teacher course entitled ‘How to successfully implement Entrepreneurship and Business subject’ as a support material for teachers who work with pupils involved in the ‘Be an Entrepreneur initiative’. In ‘Be an Entrepreneur’, secondary and VET level pupils are engaged in real company development and through the programme they acquire skills for creating and leading a company, managing team(s) and finding innovative solutions and products ready for a competitive market. The teachers have a role to support and mentor their students, hence this teacher course serves as an introduction to the opportunities and challenges of the programme and prepares the teachers to serve as a support to their students in the best possible way.
### 3.5 Further Information and Contact Details on the Initiatives

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<tr>
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<th>Miniempresa educativa</th>
<th>Emprendejoven</th>
<th>KitCaixa Joven Emprenedors</th>
<th>How to successfully implement Entrepreneurship and Business subject</th>
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<td>Emprendejoven</td>
<td>KitCaixa young entrepreneurs</td>
<td>Com posar en pràctica amb èxit l’assignatura d’Emprenedoria i el Projecte Final d’Empresa</td>
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<td>Andalucía Emprende, Fundación Pública Andaluza and Regional Ministry of Education</td>
<td>Fundació LaCaixa</td>
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<td>Contact person</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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