

The Oslo Agenda for Entrepreneurship Education in Europe

The aim of the "Oslo Agenda for Entrepreneurship Education" is to step up progress in promoting entrepreneurial mindsets in society, systematically and with effective actions. The Agenda is a rich menu of proposals, from which stakeholders can pick actions at the appropriate level, and adapt them to the local situation. Relevant actors are indicated for each one of the proposed actions.

The Agenda is an outcome of the Conference on "Entrepreneurship Education in Europe: Fostering Entrepreneurial Mindsets through Education and Learning" - an initiative of the European Commission jointly organised with the Norwegian government - held in Oslo on 26-27 October 2006, which followed the Communication from Commission on the same topic.

The Conference aimed to exchange experiences and good practice, and to propose ways to move forward in this area. The ideas advanced in Oslo by a broad representation of stakeholders (e.g. national, regional and local governments, business associations and entrepreneurs, promoters of programmes, school teachers, academics and students) result now in a detailed catalogue of initiatives, based on successful experiences in Europe, which could be usefully taken in the EU and in neighbouring countries.

A Framework for policy development	EU	Member States	Educational authorities	Regional / Local authorities	Schools / Universities	Intermediary organisations [1]	Businesses / Entrepreneurs
A1 Ensure political support for entrepreneurship education at the highest level. Real progress will be possible only with a strong commitment from national and regional governments and from the relevant Ministers, in the context of the implementation of the Lisbon strategy.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A2 Better integrate Entrepreneurship Education into the Lisbon monitoring process (Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs), and make the assessment of Member States' progress in this field more effective by means of applying specific indicators.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A3 Set up a European-wide framework of what is to be achieved, followed by proper evaluation of the impact of measures taken. Coordination needs to be ensured at the EU level, with the definition of broad objectives and of desired outcomes for entrepreneurship education. The above framework could be supported by the establishment of a European Observatory for Entrepreneurship Education, with national antennae.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A4 Launch national strategies for entrepreneurship education , with clear objectives covering all stages of education. Such strategies should call for the active involvement of all relevant actors (public and private), and establish a general framework while defining concrete actions. These will range from the inclusion of entrepreneurship into the national curricula to providing support to schools and teachers. The overall goal will be to ensure that young people can progress coherently in acquiring entrepreneurial competences across all stages of the education system.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A5 Create Steering Groups , both at European and at national level, where all the different stakeholders involved in entrepreneurship education can be represented (public administrations, businesses, educational establishments, students, etc.). These Groups would have among their objectives that of setting targets for entrepreneurship education, taking into account its various elements, and that of reporting on progress achieved.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A6 Promote entrepreneurship education at regional level , with a coherent programme bringing together local stakeholders and addressing the various levels of education through a range of different instruments.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A7 Facilitate the development of entrepreneurship education within the Bologna process by: encouraging the mobility of teachers (across countries and across different institutions, including in the private sector); recognising the role of educators other than teachers (practitioners, entrepreneurs, students themselves); recognising entrepreneurial career paths in undergraduate education at university.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A8 Increase coherency between European funding programmes that can be used to support entrepreneurship education projects and activities (in particular the Lifelong Learning Programme, the ESF, the ERDF). These programmes can be valuable in supporting actions taken at national and local level.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A9 Ensure coordination at European level in the evaluation of programmes and activities, in order to allow the comparability of results. The EU could bring together a group of researchers in entrepreneurship education, to help define indicators and specify typical educational processes.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

[1] Intermediary organisations are those organisations and business associations that play the role of building links between education and the business world, and/or that of running/mentoring/coaching entrepreneurship education programmes and activities.

E Building links and opening education to the outside world

E1 Encourage the creation of learning communities with the mission of fostering entrepreneurial mindsets, by building links between the public and the private sector, involving schools, academia and businesses, as well as relevant intermediary organisations. In particular, the role of those intermediary organisations dedicated to the dissemination of entrepreneurship activities within schools and universities, and to building links between education and the business world, should be better recognised.

E2 Encourage the involvement of private partners in education for entrepreneurship, through funding or contributions in kind. This involvement should be seen by firms as a long-term investment, and as an aspect of their **corporate social responsibility**.

E3 Businesses should consider donating at least a tiny part of the working time of staff to participation in activities within schools and universities. In fact, mentoring and coaching from people with business experience are a basic element in all entrepreneurship training.

E4 Develop or support research on how employers can be better engaged in school/university education. The business community needs incentives to more fully engage with educational institutions. Opportunities for mutual benefit can work, but are often not recognised as verifiable and appropriate staff activities.

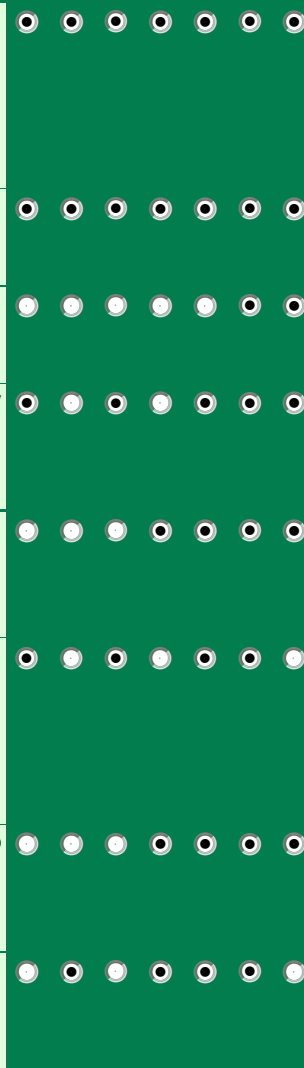
E5 Help develop the pedagogical abilities of entrepreneurs and business people, in order to make their participation to activities in the classroom more effective. This task could be usefully performed by those non-profit organisations dedicated to linking schools and businesses, and by business organisations.

E6 Conceive, develop and promote a label for "entrepreneurial schools" and "entrepreneurial universities", to be used by educational institutions on a voluntary basis. Broad criteria could be defined at European and/or national level, which should be in any case adapted to the local environments and education systems. This initiative could be implemented at national level by intermediary organisations with in-depth experience in entrepreneurship education, through cooperation with educational authorities and with schools/universities.

E7 Give young people the opportunity to develop their enterprising skills by helping them to create their own "summer job", and earn money by using their own ideas and initiatives. These activities can be promoted through cooperation between schools, non-profit organisations, businesses, local authorities.

E8 Build Entrepreneurship Centres at a local level, with the missions of assisting schools and teachers, developing links between educational establishments and enterprises, facilitating the participation of entrepreneurs and business people in programmes at school and university, promoting raising awareness initiatives in the local community.

EU
Member States
Educational
Regional / Local
Schools / Universities
Intermediary
Businesses

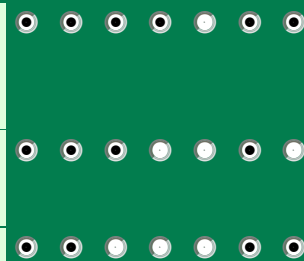


F Communication activities

F1 Launch awareness campaigns at European and national level, ensuring that entrepreneurship is understood in its broader sense (not just about running a business). Broad initiatives could bring together and coordinate different actions to take place at national and local level (e.g., entrepreneurship days, or a European Year of Entrepreneurship).

F2 Celebrate entrepreneurship education activities and programmes that work well, by organising awards and competitions.

F3 Establish awards, at European and/or at national level, **to acknowledge enterprises** that distinguish themselves more in dedicating funds and working time of their staff to teaching, mentoring and more generally to participation in activities within schools and higher education.



Further information about the Conference on "Entrepreneurship Education in Europe: Fostering Entrepreneurial Mindsets through Education and Learning" (Oslo, 26-27 October 2006), and about the good practice examples on which this Agenda is based, can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/training_education/oslo.htm

The Agenda presents ideas tabled in Oslo by relevant stakeholders from 33 countries. These ideas do not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission

