



YEPP IRC Entrepreneurship Education for Young People with Fewer Opportunities

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interested,
feel free
to contact us !**

Youth Unemployment in Europe

Many young people in the European Union are unable to find employment. This situation has become particularly acute since the onset of the financial crisis in 2008. EU figures suggest that around one in five young people under 25 years in the EU were unemployed in 2014. Some 14 million young people (15 to 29 year olds) were not in education, employment or training (NEET) across the EU in 2013. Young people with a low education level, immigration background, generational unemployment and/or living in remote areas are most likely to be at risk of inactivity or unemployment. The economic cost of not integrating these young people is estimated at 153bn (1.21% of GDP) a year in the EU. This is not the only cost. The social and political cost of alienation and mistrust in public institutions is equally high as unemployment leads to disengagement from social life and politics. To overcome this problem, greater co-operation between all stakeholders is needed to develop new solutions and support structures for young people. Another potential way of integrating young people into the labour market is to foster youth entrepreneurship.

YEPP IRC: Empowerment through Entrepreneurship

YEPP International Resource Centre (YEPP IRC) is committed to combatting youth unemployment in marginalised local

communities in Europe. It chooses to do so in cooperation with local actors through an Entrepreneurship Education Programme which is part of a comprehensive community-based approach. YEPP IRC provides local and transnational workshops and training for young people with fewer opportunities to strengthen their entrepreneurial and employability skills. Young people learn how to develop their own entrepreneurial idea, how to work on their social business model and how to turn their ideas into successful projects and businesses. These workshops give a kick to young people's entrepreneurial projects and boost their creativity as they are based on interactive learning tools. Our training programme is open for youth workers who wish to learn about tools that support youth entrepreneurship, as well as about ways to promote entrepreneurship in local communities and cooperate with other stakeholders. We also offer coaching and systematic support after the workshops.

The Benefits of Entrepreneurship Education

- Stronger self-confidence, self-reliance and a higher level of happiness
- A more pro-active attitude towards people's own life choices
- Better awareness of existing economic opportunities and trends including local resources
- Increasing innovation and spirit of creativity
- Young entrepreneurs become a role model for other young people



YEPP IRC Entrepreneurship

- Signals to a community that entrepreneurship may be a way to break out of social exclusion
- Key to making a conscious life choice about employment, self-employment or further education

Our Expertise

We conceptualise local and international workshops which meet the needs of young people with fewer opportunities and youth workers in disadvantaged communities. Since 2012, we have organised several trainings on entrepreneurship in Berlin called "Working solutions for young people". The experiences gained at the workshop inspired some concrete youth initiatives, such as a community-event management organisation in Gornja Tuzla, Bosnia & Herzegovina, a tourist website in Loano, Italy, and a local shop in Kecerovce-Olšava, Slovakia. Since 2015, we have been working on implementing the European Union Erasmus+ project "Build Your Future" to create a comprehensive entrepreneurship education course and an online learning platform for young people with fewer opportunities, promoting entrepreneurship at a local level.

We define entrepreneurship as a way to empower young people to create sustainable business models that are based on the cooperation of local actors, are socially responsible and connect local needs with community resources. Socially responsible entrepreneurship can contribute to creating a more positive image of entrepreneurs in society, benefit the communities in which they operate and encourage more young people to choose self-employment as an attractive career option.

YEPP IRC has a cooperation agreement with Stiftung Entrepreneurship (Germany), founded by Prof. Dr. Günter Faltn, organiser of the annual Entrepreneurship Summit in Berlin and author of the book "Brain vs. Capital: Entrepreneurship for Everyone - Lean, Smart, Simple".

"YEPP" Approach and Methodology for Social Inclusion

The YEPP International Resource Centre (YEPP IRC) builds on the expertise of the Youth Empowerment Partnership Programme (YEPP) which was implemented in Europe in 2001-2011 and transformed into YEPP IRC in 2012 which continues to be part of International Academy Berlin for Innovative Pedagogy, Psychology and Economics (INA) gGmbH. The "YEPP" approach and methodology for social inclusion of disadvantaged groups has been developed and implemented in more than 70 communities across Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ireland, Italy, Finland, Germany, Poland and Slovakia. It has the following principles which are embedded in the concept for entrepreneurship education:

- Promoting participation of young people with fewer opportunities in decision-making processes
- Building cross-sectoral and international partnerships of NGOs, residents, local municipalities and young people
- Giving voice to young people through media training and advocacy activities
- Facilitating international exchange of experiences and best practices in the YEPP Community Network
- Utilising community resources – developing locally oriented conscious business solutions

Contact us

YEPP
International Resource Centre
Institute for Community Education
International Academy Berlin (INA) gGmbH
Nassauische Strasse 5, D-10717 Berlin
T +49 30 2574 1725
info@yepirc.org

www.yepp-community.org