



# Young Europeans Startup (YES) project

## National and local policies and measures taken on the Youth Entrepreneurship, Education and Training

There are number of national, regional and local initiatives and research taking place in the area of youth enterprise. This report was compiled in 2015, looking at the current policies and initiatives.

### Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise is the UK's leading enterprise and financial education charity. They provide young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to realise their full potential through a range of practical enterprise programmes.

They make the connection between school and the world of work, enabling young people to develop the knowledge and attitudes they need to succeed, building on 5 key skills:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving
- Creativity
- Resilience

Each year they work with over 250,000 young people aged 4-25, supported by a network of 5,000 volunteers and 3,500 businesses.

### Social Enterprise and Youth policy paper - (Produced by Social Enterprise UK for the Catalyst consortium)

#### The Catalyst consortium

Catalyst is co-ordinated by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) and is a consortium of four organisations working with the Department for Education (DfE) as the strategic partner for young people, as part of the Departments 'wider transition programme for the sector. Catalyst will work to deliver three key objectives over a two year period. It will strengthen the youth



sector market, equip the sector to work in partnership with Government and coordinate a skills development strategy for the youth sectors workforce’.

## Social Enterprise UK

Social Enterprise UK was established in 2002 as the national body for social enterprise in the UK. They conduct research; develop policy; campaign; build networks; support individual social enterprises; share knowledge and understanding, support private business to become more socially enterprising, and raise awareness of social enterprise and what it can achieve.

They are a membership organisation and their members come from across the social enterprise movement, from local grassroots organisations to multi-million pound businesses that operate across the UK. The UK social enterprise movement is recognised as a world leader and their members are united in their commitment to changing the world through business.

The cost of youth unemployment is considerable. It is estimated that the 2008 cohort of NEETs alone will cost the UK economy £22 billion in lost economic opportunities and cost the taxpayer £13 billion over their lifetimes. Research shows that being unemployed for more than 12 months under the age of 23 has a hugely negative impact on a young person future. Those who suffer long spells of unemployment in their youth suffer wage penalties of 12 -15% even into their forties. These young people will also suffer disproportionately when it comes to their physical and mental health and are more likely to suffer premature deaths.

The Government has announced a number of measures designed to address raising youth unemployment and increase social mobility. Earlier this year, the Supporting Youth Employment Strategy was launched with measures including a £60 million package of measures to increase participation on the Work Programme for young people, a bursary scheme for 16-19 year olds to replace the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), new government funding for increased numbers of apprenticeships and a review of vocational education. Further to these measures, the government recently launched another suite of measures including a £1 billion Youth Contract that aims to increase the number of apprenticeships and work experience placements available to young people.



## Youth entrepreneurship

Many young people are inspired by the idea of having a business idea and making it a reality. They're also passionate about issues affecting their communities, whether local or global, and indeed there is a long history of young people taking part in initiatives such as Youth Bank and the Youth Opportunity Fund. Setting up a social enterprise is a way to bring these aspects of young people's interests together, whilst also helping them to create their own routes to employment and contribute to local economic growth.

However, many young people are not being exposed to this alternative route to employment. The practicalities of setting up such a venture with no support can be daunting, and instead of going down the route of enterprise, increasing numbers of young people across Europe are now immigrating to growth countries rather than creating growth at home.

## Thematic Working Group on Entrepreneurship Education - Final Report November 2014

This report was intended as a contribution to the debate on policy development in entrepreneurship education. It reflects the work of the Thematic Working Group on Entrepreneurship Education, established in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination under the work programme of ET2020.

It is provided for further dissemination among policy makers at national and European level as well as social partners, civil society organisations and other stakeholders.

With this policy guidance document, the European Commission aims to support improvements in the quality and prevalence of entrepreneurship education across the EU Member States, providing direction for the next steps in the entrepreneurship education policy agenda at EU and national level. This work has been driven by the Thematic Working Group on Entrepreneurship Education (2011-2014), made up of representatives from Member States, EFTA countries, partner countries and stakeholders and drawing in expertise from across the continent.



Based on the discussions, research and conclusions from this group, it identifies policy success factors for entrepreneurship and illustrates these with examples of good practice from Europe and beyond. The aim is to identify what needs to happen next, both at EU level and in countries at different stages of development, building on previous reports by the Commission and other European organisations, in particular Towards Greater Coherence in Entrepreneurship Education in 2010.

Studies have shown that entrepreneurship education has a range of positive effects. Training on entrepreneurship has positive effects on entrepreneurial awareness and self perception of skills for start-up. In UK-Wales, activity inputs across schools, VET and higher education coordinated through a strong Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy (YES) has resulted in a steady rise in youth entrepreneurial activity (among 18-24 year olds) 3.5% in 2002 to 10.2% in 2011.