



idea.

Interactive toolset supporting
Development of Educators of Adults'
skills in Boosting Entrepreneurship
among NEETs.
Project number: 2019-1-EL01-KA204-
063049

Newsletter n°1

The Project

IDEA project : "Interactive toolset supporting Development of Educators of Adults' skills in Boosting Entrepreneurship among NEETs" is a 2-year project funded by Erasmus+ Programme, which aims to provide adapted training, promoting an Interactive toolset for Educators of young adult people which will support the development of their skills needed for boosting entrepreneurship among NEETs.

The goal of IDEA is to extend and develop competencies of educators of adults in the area of entrepreneurial skills (in non-formal settings) through providing them with guidance and motivation strategies and equipping with an innovative solution: a toolset that allows Educators for assessing the skills of NEETs, propose them customized learning path and provide adapted training connecting young adults and real-life entrepreneurship.

The coordinator of the project is KEA IM Syrou (Greece) and partner organisations are: CWEP - Centrum Wspierania Edukacji i Przedsiębiorczości (Poland), Markeut Skills Sociedad Limitada (Spain), CESIE (Italy), Kainotomia & Sia EE (Greece), Centrum Kształcenia Edukator Sp. z o.o. (Poland), Centre for Education (Spain) and Diciannove Società Cooperativa (Italy).



IDEAerasmusproject



<https://idea.erasmus.site>



The kick-off meeting of the project was held on 8th and 9th November 2019 in Larissa, Greece.

Project activities in the current pandemic situation

Despite various obstacles, the IDEA project is moving forward. We all know that COVID can make life difficult, as we have experienced personally over the past months. However, we are full of hope that soon everything will return to normal, and for now we are glad that it is better!

Despite the difficulties, step by step, we are implementing the project objectives. In order to reorganize our work and undertake specific solutions and division of tasks among partners, we organized a virtual meeting. We have also summarized our previous activities under IO1 "Mobile report about entrepreneurship teaching and entrepreneurial skills demand according to businesses" and we are already at the final stage. All Partners have done the research, implementing the adopted methodology and we will soon be able to share our conclusions in the final report, which will form the basis for further activities.

We also started the first stage of the second result (IO2) "Interactive toolset supporting Development of Educators of Adults' skills in Boosting Entrepreneurship among NEETs". More information about this will be available soon!



May 5th 2020

IDEA Project virtual meeting to identify all relevant technical details, concerns, uncertainties and project delays due to the coronavirus crisis.

NEETs as social category

NEETs are people who are not in employment, education nor training (NEET): therefore, a NEET can be either unemployed or inactive and not involved in education nor training. For young adults, the largest percentage of NEETs is among those aged 20–34, as almost one in six (16.5 %) of this subpopulation were neither in employment nor in education and training; this corresponded to approximately 15 million young people in the EU. (Source: Eurostat)

A relatively high proportion of young people in the EU are neither in employment nor in education or training and policymakers are increasingly concerned by the economic and social consequences of their disengagement. There is a wide range of factors that may contribute to young people being NEETs, among which: having a low or intermediate level of educational attainment; living in a household with a low level of income; coming from a family where a parent experienced unemployment; being raised by a single parent; living in a rural area; being born in a country outside the EU; or having a disability. Young people who spend a considerable period of time as NEETs are often affected by a range of social conditions, such as poverty and social exclusion, insecurity, crime, or health problems.

Although policymakers have sought to address particular groups of young people such as unemployed youth, early leavers from education and training, or young people whose qualifications do not meet labour market needs, there is still a high number of young people in the EU who are neither in employment nor in education or training: NEETs.

With a record number of NEETs following the financial and economic crisis, and an expected increase of this number due to the economical crisis related to COVID-19, there are concerns among policymakers that a whole generation of young people in the EU could remain out of the labour market for years to come. The implications of this are two-fold: on a personal level, these individuals are more likely to become disenfranchised and to suffer from poverty and social exclusion, while at a macro-economic level they represent a considerable loss in terms of unused productive capacity and a considerable cost in terms of welfare payments.

The persistently high share of young people who are neither in employment nor in education or training in the EU may mean that employers recruiting in EU labour markets have a wide choice of potential candidates. Some employers criticise the lack of basic skills (poor levels of numeracy and literacy) with which some young people leave the education system, as well as their under-developed life skills (communication and presentational skills, ability to work in a team, problem-solving skills), or their lack of work experience and knowledge in relation to their chosen profession.

The Interactive toolset supporting Development of Educators of Adults' skills in Boosting Entrepreneurship among NEETs (IDEA) will help NEETs indirectly with a better training provided in entrepreneurial skills, and will also provide this training directly to NEETs, boosting informal skills needed for developing business ideas, as well as formal skills needed in the business world. These abilities will not only help to create new businesses but will also increase their overall employability and access to the labour market.

Author: Centre for Education



Challenges of the entrepreneurial training

Both questionnaire and focus group interviews results pointed out the big gap between what is being taught from the educators of adults and what are the actual demands of the modern entrepreneurial and business field. It is recommended that this gap should be bridged in order for the education providers to meet the needs of the already established entrepreneurs as well as those willing to enter the entrepreneurial sector. Our partnership will play its part by producing high quality outputs that will allow both NEETs themselves and adult educators, to assess the skills of NEETs, propose them customized learning paths and provide them with adapted training and in effect connect young adults and real-life entrepreneurs of small and micro businesses. The real challenge is to adjust the training program to match today's complex labour market demands of entrepreneurial skills. The focus should be given to the provision of specific information on **HOW** -how the teaching should be organized e.g. didactic notes- and **WHAT** should be taught based on the actual training needs.

Partnership

