Innovation of teaching

Achieving this is possible only with radical innovation of teaching, by supporting practical experience, for example projects with real enterprises or with local community or mini-enterprises managed by students; orienting the educational and training systems to a new type of learning able to promote the development of divergent and lateral thinking.

Involving young people

Every project or initiative that promotes entrepreneurship must involve young people, by using fluid systems of organization, with less bureaucracy, and by offering them the possibility to be protagonists and by considering them as resource bringers and not only as beneficiaries of policies made by others.

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Lateral thinking is a way to solve logical problems with indirect perspectives, that is it observes the problem from different views. Instead of a direct solution (rational or “vertical” thinking) that uses sequential logic, solving the problem moving from obvious considerations, lateral thinking distances itself from this, looking for alternative points of view (from which the term “lateral” comes from).

(E. De Bono, Lateral thinking, 2007)

Entrepreneurship education

A study into Entrepreneurship education is being undertaken by Isfol, the public research institute supervised by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies that provides technical assistance on vocational education and training, labour and social policies.

The study is aimed at young people and take into consideration the scope of school and vocational training, which is the necessary start point so as to build a new job culture.

Why do we need to improve entrepreneurship education?

Entrepreneurship education is a key competence that the European Union supports: it’s the seventh of the eight key competences, those which all individuals need - says the European Union - for personal fulfilment and development, social inclusion and employment.

“Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship refers to an individual's ability to turn ideas into action. It includes creativity, innovation and risk-taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives. This supports individuals, not only in their everyday lives at home and in society, but also in the workplace in being aware of the context of their work and being able to seize opportunities, and is a foundation for more specific skills and knowledge needed by those establishing or contributing to social or commercial activity commerciale”.

Necessary conditions to allow for the initiatives in promoting youth entrepreneurial to succeed

To help young people know how they can adapt themselves to a global labour market, it's essential that, beginning from school, they are aware of how to develop pro-activity, that is to turn ideas into action, to encourage risk-taking and creativity and innovation. It deals with the training of an entrepreneurial culture and mindset, a foundation for more specific skills and knowledge, a key competence essential for all individuals in their everyday lives, at home, in society, and in the workplace, even for those who don’t want to open an enterprise. The study come up with some useful indicators for the development of policies for young people for entrepreneurial education.

But, what are the necessary conditions to allow for the initiatives in promoting youth entrepreneurial to succeed?

Coordination

First of all it’s essential to get a coordination of all the national initiatives using a flexible organism that supervises the efficient use of economic resources, that serve as a link between different levels, from the European and national levels to the local ones, and between different institutions, opened to the participation of nonprofit and entrepreneurial organizations.

Institutional platform

The connection between initiatives can be facilitated by the setting of an institutional platform for the dissemination of teaching methods, as well as for educational tools made and used by different schools or associations.

Supporting teachers and educators

In the recent european document “Entrepreneurship 2020 action plan. Reigniting the entrepreneurial spirit in Europe” (9.1.2013), the European Commission invited the Member States to ensure that the key competence "entrepreneurship" is embedded into curricula across primary, secondary, vocational, higher and adult education before the end of 2015. Therefore teachers will be able to dedicate more time to these goals, which up to this point have been limited to extracurricular time. It will be possible to involve all the students, and not only those who are already motivated. To reach these goals It’s important to plan ways to support teachers and educators, offering them specific training and fostering the collaboration of local networking, associations and entrepreneurial organizations, through opportunities of study visits offered by European Union programs.

Territorial cooperation

Offering the opportunity to young people to have at least one practical entrepreneurial experience before leaving compulsory education is another European Union recommendation. It would ensure incentivizing territorial cooperation, that would involve schools, enterprises, young entrepreneurial associations and senior manager-entrepreneurs as witnesses on projects, as well as nonprofit organizations. Furthermore, combining educational requirements with workplace experience can help close the gap and give further awareness of changes in work practices.