

## "YEEF" project description

7 partner schools in 7 different European countries want to cooperate in order to foster students' understanding of business issues on a European scale and teach them what skills are necessary to become a successful European entrepreneur: initiative and entrepreneurial competence, creativity, teamworking abilities, communicative and social skills.

Together we will share experiences, achieve common activities through different types of mobilities and exchange best practice examples in order to improve the quality of entrepreneurship education.

In the first year students will analyze the economic situation in their countries. They will learn how businesses are founded and what it takes to become an entrepreneur by studying successful young companies and meeting and interviewing entrepreneurs in their own countries. In a European project meeting (Young European Entrepreneurs' Week I) they will compare and discuss their results to learn about differences and similarities in the other countries.

In the second year, teams of students from each partner school will work together, following a given set of rules, to develop European business ideas of their own, and present them in a European project meeting (Young European Entrepreneurs' Week II) in front of an expert jury, thus offering all partners an opportunity to compare and learn from each other.

This project will allow various subjects (foreign languages, geography, economics, social sciences, civics, mathematics, etc.) to work together, improving students' knowledge and comparing the teaching of these subjects as well as different approaches to the topic of entrepreneurship education.

At the end of the project all results will be published in the "Young European Entrepreneur's Guide" (both paper and online versions).

## Motivation for project

European students of today must be prepared for a world that is constantly changing and developing, especially in times of economic crisis. Entrepreneurial skills should be taught to every European student, incorporated in various subjects.

An understanding of entrepreneurship issues will help students to understand the economic structure of the European Union and will make them less likely to be influenced by simplistic political slogans and radical ideas. Introducing students to entrepreneurship develops their initiative and helps them to be more self-confident and creative in whatever they will undertake in the future and to act in a dynamic but socially responsible way. Entrepreneurship is a skill that is useful in everyday life and is one of the key competences for our common European future.

Our project addresses upper secondary students with an active interest in entrepreneurship and business in a European context and teachers who want to improve the teaching of these issues at their schools by sharing best practice examples, cooperating in international project groups and developing teaching materials for this purpose.

This project will provide an opportunity for various subjects (foreign languages, geography, economics, social sciences and civics, mathematics, etc.) and related school instances like career counselling, to work together, improving students' knowledge and comparing the teaching of these subjects as well as different approaches to the topic of business and entrepreneurship skills and education in different parts of Europe, as represented by our participating partner schools.

We believe that the teaching of Entrepreneurship and Business should always involve an international context since we all live in a common European market and are mutually dependent on each other. Mobilities for teachers and students will lead to a better understanding of different European cultures, economic situations and lifestyles.

Direct contact with the business world, with companies and successful entrepreneurs will complement the theoretical approach that is practised in some partner schools and will provide additional motivation and interesting insights for all participants. Students will be actively involved, establish contacts with the business world and acquire practical knowledge that will help them to be better prepared for their future working life.

Students will find additional motivation and creativity by working together with partners from other schools, comparing what they have learned in their own schools in year 1 and getting feedback from experts on their own business ideas in year 2.

Our project will create an entrepreneurial spirit in students and teachers and will consequently spark interest in this issue first in the communities of participating schools and then in a wider context in the local school environments.

## Objectives, Subjects and Approach

### Objectives:

1. Teaching an understanding of how modern businesses are founded and what it takes to be successful in a European economic context by looking at practical examples.
2. Identifying and studying the skills and abilities that are necessary to be successful in business.
3. Developing methods to intensify entrepreneurship education and improve skills like teamworking, communication skills, interviewing techniques, market research, presentation skills, preparing for competition, etc. and
4. disseminating these methods as best practice examples to participating schools.
5. Motivating students to develop creativity and innovative spirit by developing their own business ideas and comparing them with others

### Subjects/problems:

General Secondary Schools up to now mostly do not offer entrepreneurship education as such, but still teach many skills that young entrepreneurs need, such as foreign languages, social studies, geography, civics, economics, mathematics, statistics, etc. We would like to compare schools in this

respect and find how this important aspect of education can be improved, as Europe needs young entrepreneurs.

#### Approach:

We would like to lead students to understand how businesses function and what it takes to be successful in business, first in a national context by taking a close view at young businesses and entrepreneurs, then comparing their findings to those of project partners in other countries ("Young European Entrepreneurs' Week I"). Based on this, students will then develop their own European business ideas according to given guidelines and present these in a final European project meeting ("Young European Entrepreneurs' Week II"), where they will be compared and given feedback by a jury of experts (year 2).

During the project we will use a communication by e-mail and subsequently build up a project documentation website in the framework of [www.theresiaaunum.ac.at](http://www.theresiaaunum.ac.at) as a tool for disseminating and sharing information. All project results will be published on this website.

#### Added Value:

All schools have a long tradition in European projects. We all work actively on our European dimension with a special emphasis on teaching European values. We see the basis of our international cooperation in the focus on teaching foreign languages and practising them in European projects.

In this new Comenius project we want to intensify our European cooperation dealing with a topic that is of great interest to students, parents and staff: teaching entrepreneurial skills in General Secondary Schools

We believe that entrepreneurship is a necessary personal skill that can help young people in the personal development, for their future employment and for an active European citizenship.

The European Union with its common market provides business opportunities for all its members. In order to make the best possible use of these opportunities, it is important for schools to create in their students an awareness and open minds for these opportunities. European students should have a positive attitude towards entrepreneurship and business and a basic knowledge of the economic situation of the countries of the European union and of the factors that are necessary to produce and maintain its success.

We want our students to have the opportunity to use their knowledge (entrepreneurship, economics, computer skills, foreign languages, social science) in practice, working and cooperating in international teams.

From this viewpoint European cooperation is really necessary.