

Promoting entrepreneurship in secondary schools

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 LUXEMBOURG

Timeline



ID number 28371

Background

The school's mission is to prepare learners for a society marked by constant and rapid change and an increasingly competitive and interregional labour market. Knowing how to draw up a career plan, mastering its implementation, taking initiatives and cooperating have become essential skills.

Objectives

Encourage the emergence of secondary schools that not only foster links with the economic and social world, but also lead learners to develop cross-curricular skills that enable them to engage with the future through entrepreneurial challenges.

Description

The Jonk Entrepreneuren Luxembourg asbl (created in 2005) brings together representatives from the school and business worlds, to perpetuate and boost the 'entrepreneurial spirit' movement in Luxembourg's education system. It has two major objectives: explaining to and teaching young people throughout their school curriculum that self-employment is an alternative to hired employment, and giving a taste for entrepreneurship, innovation, creation and leadership.

They implement several projects in secondary schools, including technical secondary schools. Implemented projects, include: My first enterprise, The Mini companies project, Practice enterprises, and Entrepreneurial school award.

In My first enterprise, a group of three to four students, with a starting capital of EUR 40, establish for a period of 10 weeks a small business that consists of buying and selling small products, a service or a small production activity. The goal is to teach them the first steps of business management.

In the Mini companies project, learners from secondary schools are responsible for a mini company for one year. They are required to make decisions and take responsibility for the

companies while teachers act as coaches. The project takes place outside the curriculum and differs from other school related activities. The project is a break with the traditional image of the academic courses. External assistance to the school is provided through a pool of entrepreneurs-advisers or coaches who visit the mini companies on several occasions to coach the students before and on important dates (product selection, constituent general meeting).

Practice enterprises is a course based on the simulation of a company's life that promotes the entrepreneurial spirit and skills. The Jonk Entrepreneuren, as the national central office for practice enterprises (CLEE), offers access to a network of more than 7 500 practice enterprises from more than 45 countries. This course is included in the programme of the Technician diploma in Administration and Commerce.

To make entrepreneurial education initiatives visible, Jonk Entrepreneuren Luxembourg also organises an annual national competition, the Entrepreneurial school awards (TES-Awards), to encourage, and rewards schools that develop entrepreneurial initiatives for learners and teachers.

In 2016, the project on Promotion of entrepreneurship in secondary education was launched. It promoted entrepreneurship profiles in secondary schools, including VET schools. Learners were invited to address challenges taking place at school or in a company. The education and economics ministries supported the project and were represented in the steering committees of each participating school.

Agreements signed between schools and the Ministry of National Education, Children and Youth also promote entrepreneurship. Four such agreements have been signed: with the *École privée Marie Consolatrice* school, *Lycée Ermesinde*, *Lycée technique de Lallange*, and *Lycée technique École de Commerce et de Gestion*. The agreements established 'entrepreneur-schools' (*école entrepreneuriale*). Becoming an entrepreneur-school means a duty for the school to promote initiative spirit and entrepreneurship and cultivate the sense of creativity and originality in young people. Entrepreneur-schools have access to a network of companies that enable coming closer to the professional world.

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Approved/Agreed

On 12 July 2019, a law amendment to the act establishing the pilot secondary school introduced new 'entrepreneurial units'. During these units, learners are initiated to economic, social, and environmental practices in the frame of a practical case of goods or services production. The units initiate learners in economic, social and environmental practices in a production context to provide an entrepreneurial education.

According to the law, some of the areas addressed include: setting up, maintaining, and developing production of goods or services, designing, implementing, and developing of distribution or marketing, promoting sustainability of production and distribution, researching means of environment-friendly and healthy production and distribution. In addition, it means involving learners in all activities of the enterprise, valuing competences of corresponding trades and professions, including those of professional level, promoting the use of new technologies, and supporting learners at documenting their activities in the company. Occasional reception of learners of other enterprises is organised.

2020 Implementation

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, the Entrepreneurial school awards 2020 by the Jonk Entrepreneuren Luxembourg took place in May 2020. Three secondary schools applied for the awards and the Technical Agricultural secondary school won the prize 'This school is close to the labour market'.

A digital version for the 13th edition of the Practice enterprises fair took place in December 2020. The fair allowed learners to meet online and create business alliances on the new web platform. Here students and other visitors could connect and visit the booths of the practice companies. Everyone could thus exchange with the learners employed by these fictive companies and carry out virtual commercial transactions. At the end of the fair, Jonk Entrepreneuren Luxembourg awarded the following prizes, the selection having been made by a jury from the economic and educational world: Best business practice, Best video and marketing campaign, and Best dossier and catalogue.

In 2020, the original Entrepreneurial Schools project was redesigned and resulted in the "Sustainable Entrepreneurial Schools" project which is an initiative of the Department for Coordination of Educational and Technological Research and Innovation (SCRIPT) in collaboration with the General Directorate for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of the Ministry of the Economy. The online platform, launched in March 2021, brings together secondary schools committed to the Sustainable entrepreneurial competence programme and external economic partners. It gathers documentation on the projects and progress of schools in the field of sustainable entrepreneurship. It also offers the possibility for project partners to promote sustainable entrepreneurial competence among secondary school learners through workshops, mini-courses, conferences, competitions, visits and challenges. The platform is not about entrepreneurial activities per se, such as making profits in companies, but rather a tool to encourage learners to find their way in a world that is constantly changing and in which sustainable and creative thinking is increasingly important.

2021 Implementation

Since 2021, secondary schools can apply for three labels in the context of the Sustainable entrepreneurial schools project: Start-up; Entrepreneurial progression; Entrepreneurial culture.

In September 2021, the first 12 secondary schools received their labels during the first Sustainable entrepreneurial school day.

2022 Implementation

In September 2022, SCRIPT organised the second edition of the Sustainable Entrepreneurial School day during which the project partners and secondary school representatives met. The 16 partner secondary schools received their label while secondary schools that were not part of the project, learned more about it.

2023 Implementation

In October 2023, the third national 'Sustainable Entrepreneurial School' took place in a new form. In addition to the exchange between the project partners and secondary school representative, for the first time, external partners of the project set small challenges in a rally during which learners from secondary schools were able to demonstrate their sustainable entrepreneurial competences. The 17 partner secondary schools were awarded their label for their efforts in the school year 2022/2023 as part of the 'Sustainable Entrepreneurial Schools' project.

2024 Implementation

The fourth national 'Sustainable Entrepreneurial School' day took place in October 2024.

In 2023/24, 550 learners aged 15-19 years, have participated in the Mini companies ('Mini-enterprise') programme in secondary schools, including VET.15 of the 95 mini-enterprises that were created by the learners were selected to participate in the final award competition.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Children and Youth
- Department for Coordination of Educational and Technological Research and Innovation (SCRIPT)
- Ministry of Economy

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)

Education professionals

School leaders

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Developing and updating learning resources and materials
Acquiring key competences

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Youthstart - promotion of entrepreneurship](#)

[Law amendment 2019](#)

[Entrepreneurial school awards](#)

[ReferNet News on entrepreneurial schools](#)

[Jonk entrepreneurs](#)

[Practice enterprises](#)

[The Sustainable entrepreneurial schools project](#)

[Trade fair for practice enterprises 2020](#)

[Entrepreneurial school](#)

[Entrepreneurial school day](#)

[Second Entrepreneurial school day](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Promoting apprenticeships

The Chamber of Commerce launched several initiatives to promote apprenticeship. In 2016, the Winwin promotion campaign was introduced, aiming to encourage companies to offer more training places for apprenticeship and uses apprentices and training companies as testimonials.

 LUXEMBOURG

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28371>