



AGENDA



**YEPA Workshop 1**  
**Access to finance for young entrepreneurs**  
**19 June 2023**



# Access to finance for young entrepreneurs

## YEPA Online Workshop Series | 19 June 2023

### About the OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA)

The OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA) is a peer-learning network that seeks to strengthen youth entrepreneurship policies in the European Union (EU). This new initiative aims to strengthen youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes by raising knowledge about the barriers faced by young people in entrepreneurship and facilitating exchanges between policy makers, experts and young entrepreneurs on “what works” in youth entrepreneurship policy. This new initiative builds on an existing collaboration on [inclusive entrepreneurship](#) and [social entrepreneurship](#) undertaken by the European Commission and the OECD, which includes the award-winning report series [The Missing Entrepreneurs](#).

### About Workshop #1: Access to finance for young entrepreneurs

This workshop is the first workshop in a series of six thematic workshops that will occur over the next three years as part of the YEPA initiative. The 3-hour online workshop will cover the theme of access to finance for young entrepreneurs, including discussions on various tools and mechanisms available to support youth entrepreneurs in accessing funding for their businesses. The discussion will pick up on microfinance, innovation grants, financial literacy among other priority areas to highlight the challenges that young people face when accessing finance and identify potential solutions. The workshop will include a series of presentations by the OECD, YEPA participants and experts. There will also be time to raise questions, debate key issues and share your knowledge and expertise, notably during an interactive breakout session. The workshops vary slightly across the different country groups as co-hosts have identified different priority areas and case studies for the workshops.

### How participants can prepare for the workshop

Participants are expected to prepare for the workshop by:

- Review the discussion note
- Prepare something to share from their country (e.g. a new development, a good practice example)
- Prepare a question on something that they want to learn

For more information, please contact [Helen.Shyanski@oecd.org](mailto:Helen.Shyanski@oecd.org) or [EMPL-YEPA@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-YEPA@ec.europa.eu).

[www.yepa-hub.org](http://www.yepa-hub.org)

# Agenda for Workshop #1: Access to finance for young entrepreneurs | Group A

## Workshop host: MicroStart (Belgium)

<b>14:00 – 14:10</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
European Commission	<b>Ruth Paserman</b> , Director for Funds, Programming and Implementation, DG EMPL
OECD	<b>Céline Kauffmann</b> , Head of Entrepreneurship, SME and Tourism Division, OECD CFE
Belgium	<b>David Taquin</b> , MicroStart
<b>14:10 – 14:15</b>	<b>Pre-workshop participant check-in</b>
OECD	<b>Helen Shymanski</b> , Policy analyst, Entrepreneurship, SME and Tourism Division, OECD CFE
<b>14:15 – 14:25</b>	<b>Presentations of issue note</b>
OECD	<b>David Halabisky</b> , Youth entrepreneurship co-ordinator, Entrepreneurship, SME and Tourism Division, OECD CFE
<b>14:25 – 14:40</b>	<b>Presentation by host country: challenges and solutions</b>
Belgium	<b>David Taquin</b> , MicroStart
<b>14:40 – 15:00</b>	<b>Case study: Funding young entrepreneurs</b>
Belgium	<b>Patrick Somerhausen</b> and <b>Madeleine David</b> , Funds for Good
<b>15:00 – 15:15</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>15:15 – 15:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>15:30 – 16:15</b>	<b>Policy hackathon: Implementing a new microfinance regulation</b>
	Participants will be divided into break-out groups to discuss the following scenario:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Participants will act as consultants for a government wanting to implement a new microfinance regulation. Their task is to design a new regulation drawing on the workshop's presentations and group's experience.</li></ul>
	Groups to be moderated by: <b>Julien De Beys</b> (DG EMPL), <b>David Halabisky</b> (OECD CFE), <b>Mathilde Prilleux</b> (DG EMPL) and <b>Helen Shymanski</b> (OECD CFE)
<b>16:15 – 16:35</b>	<b>Report back and discussion</b>
	Each group will pitch their solution in 2 minutes to the "Minister" who will provide feedback on the proposals.
	Moderated by <b>David Halabisky</b> , OECD CFE
	Feedback by <b>David Taquin</b> , MicroStart
<b>16:35 – 16:45</b>	<b>Take-away lessons</b>
OECD	<b>David Halabisky</b> , OECD CFE
<b>16:50 – 17:00</b>	<b>Conclusion, flash feedback and next steps</b>
OECD	<b>Helen Shymanski</b> , OECD CFE