

## Webinar: Energising youth entrepreneurship in Croatia

10 September 2024

10:00 to 11:30

### About

Young Croatians are very active in early-stage entrepreneurship. Over the period 2018-22, about 12% of 18-30 year olds reported that they were working on a new business start-up. This was more than double the European Union (EU) average over this period (5%) and also above the OECD average (9%). This is consistent with the high entrepreneurial ambitions identified a recent Eurobarometer survey, which showed that nearly 60% of young people in Croatia would prefer to be self-employed over working as an employee. However, about one-in-four young Croatian entrepreneurs reported that they started their business because they could not find a job, which was 2.5 times higher than the EU average. This suggests that many young Croatian entrepreneurs are turning to entrepreneurship as a route into work.

There are currently several initiatives that seek to support young entrepreneurs, including programmes managed by the Croatian Employment Service, Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and HAMAg-Bicro agency. Youth entrepreneurship is supported by the National Programme for Youth 2020-24 (*Nacionalni program za mlade za razdoblje 2020 do 2024*) as well as European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investments. However, there is scope for strengthening available support by improving cohesion and quality of schemes, better-addressing the needs of youth entrepreneurs and enhancing access to mainstream entrepreneurship supports by young people. It is also important for policy makers and support providers to be aware of trends in the design and implementation of youth entrepreneurship support policies and programmes so that schemes are organised and delivered in the most effective and efficient manner, and that they are accessed by youth entrepreneurs.

### Why attend?

This webinar will examine two different methods for stimulating and supporting young entrepreneurs. First, a bottom-up approach from Finland will be presented and discussed, showing how students can be leveraged as entrepreneurs and support actors. Second, a long-standing business competition operated by POPRI will be presented and discussed to show how new support actions can be deployed among existing support measures.

### Registration

The event will be held on Zoom. Please register in advance using this [link](#).

## Agenda

10:00 – 10:05	Welcome Mr. Ivan Vidiš, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy, Croatia
10:05 – 10:15	International trends and new developments in youth entrepreneurship support Helen Shymanski, Junior policy analyst, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, Regions, SMEs and Cities
10:15 – 10:30	Mobilising students: How students became entrepreneurship drivers in Finland Ahmed Hadi, Co-founder of MIMIR, Finland Q&A
10:30 – 10:45	Turning ambitions into action Regina Bajc, Head of POPRI competition, Slovenia Q&A
10:45 – 10:55	Discussant: Lessons for Croatia Ms. Mirela Đuran, Directorate for SMEs, Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Croatia
10:55 – 11:20	Moderated discussion Prof. Slavica Singer, J.J. Strossmayer University in Osijek, Croatia
11:20 – 11:30	Conclusions David Halabisky, Youth entrepreneurship project co-ordinator, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, Regions, SMEs and Cities

## About the OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy

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 the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

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## About the European Union’s Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion develops and carries out the European Commission's policies on employment and social affairs, education and training. This includes, for example, support for more and better jobs through the European Employment Strategy, free movement of workers and coordination of social security schemes and supporting social inclusion by supporting efforts to combat poverty and social exclusion, reform social protection systems, assess new demographic and social developments.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion_en) | [@EU\\_Social](#) | <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/eu-skills> | [Facebook Social Europe](#)

See also information on social entrepreneurship : [https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/index_en)