



NEWSLETTER

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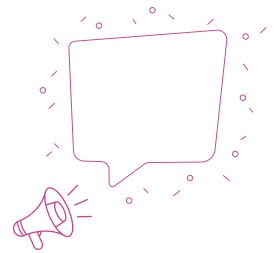
This is the October 2024 edition of the YEPA newsletter featuring news, resources and upcoming events related to youth entrepreneurship. Past newsletters can be found at yepa-hub.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Country Groups!

For Workshop 5 and 6, the country groups will be as follows:

- **Group I:** Austria, Czech Republic, ENSIE, Estonia, Euclid Network, European Microfinance Network, Greece, JA Europe, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Slovenia, Social Economy Europe and Sweden
- **Group II:** Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, JEUNE, Junior Enterprise Europe, Luxembourg, Microfinance Centre, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, and Youth Start International
- **Group III:** Cooperatives Europe, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, European Training Foundation, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, OECD Youthwise, RREUSE, Switzerland, YES for Europe and Youth Business International



We are happy to announce the upcoming **YEPA Workshop 5 will be on Skills & Mindsets** and will be held in **early 2025**. We invite you to share your input to help shape the sub-themes and topics that we will cover in the next workshop. Please take a few minutes to **complete a brief survey** and share your thoughts on the most relevant topics you would like to see covered. If you are interested in having a role in the workshop, we kindly ask you to share your idea with us in the survey.

UPCOMING EVENTS

As mentioned during Workshop 4, there is an upcoming workshop on **women entrepreneurs in global supply chains**. This hybrid workshop will bring together women entrepreneurs, programme managers and policy makers to discuss measures and initiatives that have strong potential for increasing the participation of women entrepreneurs in global supply chains. The event will be held on **6 November** from **14:00 - 18:00 CET**. For more information on the event and registration process, please visit the event [webpage](#).

YEPA Side-Event: Youth Entrepreneurship Summit in Austria on **13-14 November 2024** is a two-day youth entrepreneurship summit hosted by the **Platform for Entrepreneurship of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour & Economy** and the **Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research** in Vienna. The summit aims to raise awareness of the challenges faced by young people interested in entrepreneurship, particularly in their gain the needed entrepreneurship knowledge and skills to transition into the labour market through entrepreneurship. Please note that travel and accommodation for this event will not be covered. For more information, please visit the event page on the YEPA Hub.



RECAP OF WORKSHOP 4

In September, YEPA came together for the fourth workshop with each country group selecting their own topic. Group 1 focused on the importance of building networks for young entrepreneurs, while Group 2 discussed how role models can inspire young people to pursue entrepreneurship as a career. Lastly, Group 3 explored how AI and rapid technology innovations are shaping a new era of youth entrepreneurship. For more information on Workshop 4, please see the brief summaries and workshop materials below.



[Summary Note](#)
[Recording](#)

Inspiring young entrepreneurs with role models | 11 September 2024

Workshop for Group 2 was hosted by **JA Estonia – Kersti Loor** (Estonia) and explored how role models can be effectively used to inspire young entrepreneurs. The workshop featured presentations by the OECD and **Professor Ulla Hytti** (University of Turku, Finland) that underlined the importance of role models for building entrepreneurial motivations and intentions among young people. The workshop also included an interview with young entrepreneur **Jascha Mähler** (WILDPLASTICS, Germany) as well as a panel discussion featuring **Maria Palk** (JA Alumni Estonia, Estonia), **Lucie Kempff** (SheEOs, France), **Aina Špaca** (Future Heroes, Latvia) and **George Krachtopoulos** (Greece). The group discussions focused on how to identify and leverage entrepreneurial role models for young people, particularly those interested in entrepreneurship, and were supported by lead discussants **Kersti Loor** and **Carin Holmquist** (Sweden).

New era of youth entrepreneurship: AI and rapid technology innovations | 12 September 2024

Workshop for Group 3 was hosted by **Cyprus – Hess Adnani**. The workshop discussed the impact of AI and rapid technology innovations on entrepreneurship, particularly youth entrepreneurs. The workshop featured presentations by the OECD and **Hess Adnani** (Unity Growth & Start-Up Grind Cyprus, Cyprus) that highlighted key issues to consider as AI and other technologies become more prevalent, leading to a new era of digital and AI-driven entrepreneurship. The workshop also included a panel discussion featuring young AI entrepreneurs: **Filip Wauters** (Outro AI and Jay, Belgium), **Elliot Evertsson Norrevik** (Roster AI, Sweden) and **Joana Pinto** (Clynx Health, Portugal) who shared their experiences starting and scaling AI-based start-ups. **Emma Kiraly** (JA Europe) and **Raquel Santos** (Build Up Labs, Portugal) also presented case studies of entrepreneurship support programmes that are currently addressing AI skills gaps and helping entrepreneurs to implement AI innovations into their businesses.



[Summary Note](#)
[Recording](#)



Summary Note Recording

Workshop for Group 1 was hosted by **Youth Business International – Anita Tiessen**. The workshop discussed how effective networks can be built for young entrepreneurs as well as how existing entrepreneurial networks can become more inclusive and accessible to young entrepreneurs. The workshop featured a presentation by the OECD on the role of entrepreneurial networks on the development and growth of youth entrepreneurs and a case study presentation on how Youth Business International leverages their network to support young entrepreneurs by **Victoria Edwards** (Youth Business International). The workshop also included an interview with **Eva Claas** who is a leader in the Young Founders Network (Germany) as well as a panel discussion featuring **Franziska Metzbaur** (Jugend Gründet, Germany), **Sara Simon Penas** (Youth Business Spain, Spain) and **Simone Schirru** (RREUSE, Belgium). The group discussions explored different networking opportunities (e.g. integrated into existing support schemes, youth-dedicated entrepreneurship networks, mainstream entrepreneurship and professional networks) and how to bolster inclusion and accessibility of young people. Lead discussants **Ruben Brave** (the Netherlands) and **Kerstin Heuer** (Germany) supported the discussions in the breakout groups.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

- **Ewald Kibler** and his research team received the Entrepreneurship Research of the Year award from the Boardman Business Management Research Group for a study that investigates the need for age-inclusive entrepreneurial environments, particularly for late-career entrepreneurship.
- **Youth Business International** hosted their Global Youth Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, from 8-10 October. The Summit gathered YBI members and youth entrepreneurship experts from over 50 countries with the aim to shape the future of youth entrepreneurship, focusing on responsible entrepreneurship, innovative youth-led businesses and diverse entrepreneurship support for young entrepreneurs.
- **YEPA participants from Sweden** have created the Entrepreneurship Working Group, which hosted a webinar on 18 September. The webinar focused on fostering entrepreneurship, addressing skills gaps and supporting lifelong learning.
- YEPA participants were involved in the hosting of the Mediterranean Youth Building Inclusive Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Forum was held on 16-18 September in Helsinki, Finland, with many other YEPA participants in attendance. The Forum was co-organised by the **European Commission** on behalf of the Union for the Mediterranean Co-Presidency with the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat and **MIMIR**. It has also been prepared in close co-operation with **Aaltoes**, the **European Training Foundation**, the Mediterranean Network of New Chance, the Young Professionals Network and the Anna Lindh Foundation.
- On 10 September, the first YEPA side-event was held in collaboration with the **Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy** and the Croatian Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Many thanks for the YEPA participants who attended the event, particularly YEPA participants **Slavica Singer, Ahmed Hadi** and **Regina Bajc** who presented case studies.

If you have any upcoming activities related to youth entrepreneurship that you believe would be relevant and beneficial to the Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy, please contact Helen Shymanski (OECD).

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 | [@EU_Social](#)
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See also information on social entrepreneurship : https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/index_en