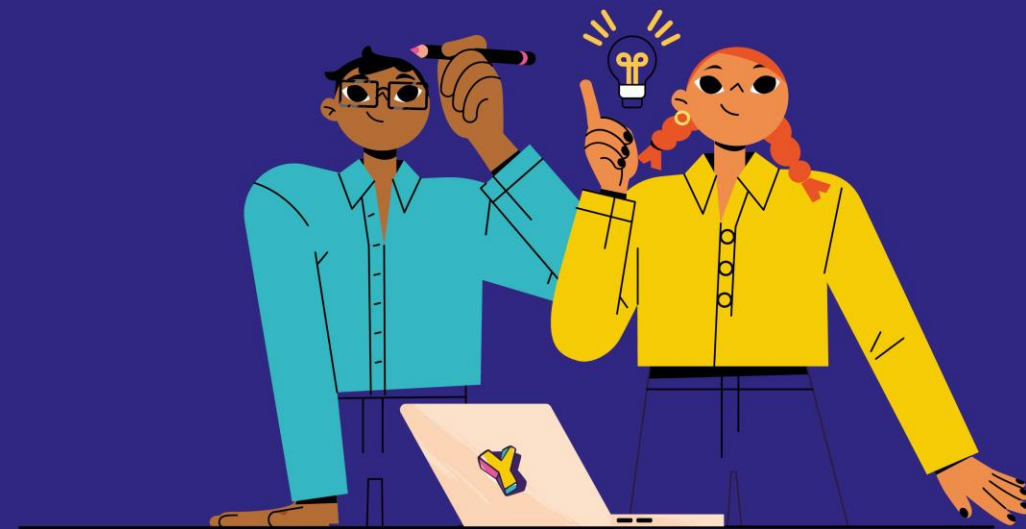




Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy



Workshop #4: Building networks for young entrepreneurs

19 September 2024

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Why are entrepreneurship networks important?

*Entrepreneurship networks play a significant role in **motivating** young people to pursue entrepreneurship and help them to **identify opportunities**, **validate ideas** and **access resources** such as customers, business partners, suppliers and advisors*



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What are entrepreneurship networks?

Entrepreneurship networks are groups of inter-connected actors

Private networks

Workplace networks

Market networks

International networks

Professional networks

Identity-based networks



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Why is network creation for young entrepreneurs a priority policy issue?

- Greater need for entrepreneurship networks than older entrepreneurs
- Less connected to the business community
- Less developed professional networks and often have little to “give back”
- Lack of assets relevant to entrepreneurship (e.g. financial, human and social capital)



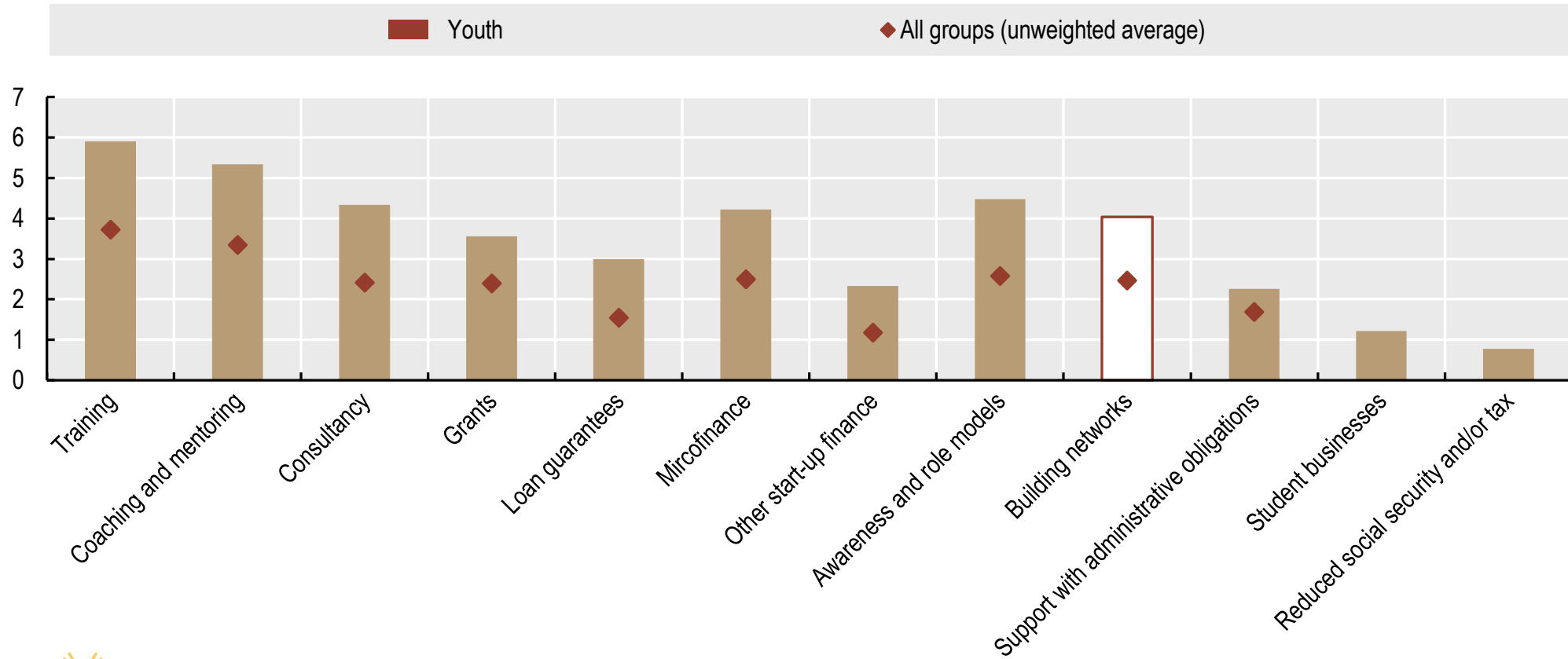
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Two-thirds of EU Member States have introduced youth-dedicated networking initiatives



Note: Each policy instrument is characterised by a 9-point scale.
Source: [Missing Entrepreneurs 2023](#)

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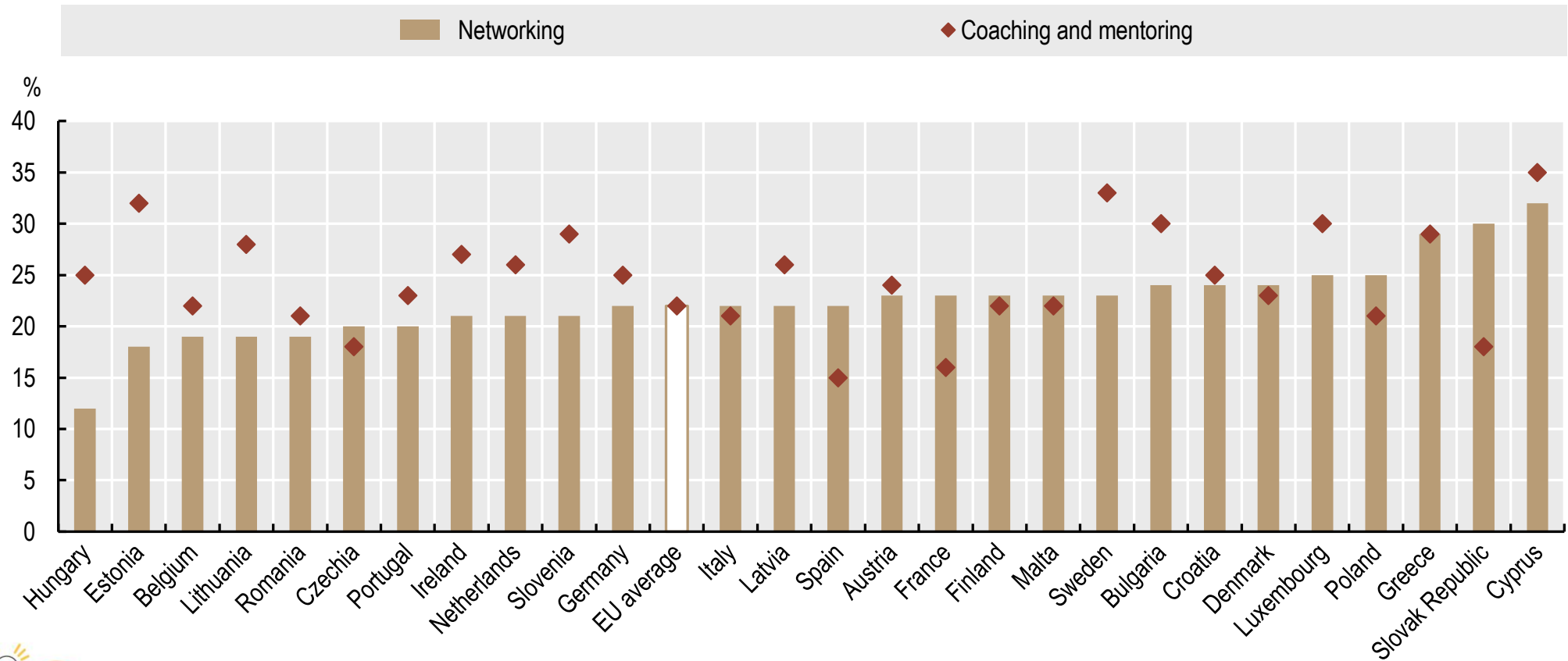


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Young people report networks are an impactful support



Flash Eurobarometer #513 (2023)

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What are governments doing?

Improve access to existing networks for young people

Dedicate/tailor outreach methods

Adjust entry criteria

Maintain accessible fees

Ensure relevance

Inclusive format (e.g. online networks)

Dedicated networks for young entrepreneurs

Public networks

Funding for existing networks

Public-private partnerships

Build networks in parallel to other entrepreneurship support programmes

Training

Mentoring and coaching

Incubation

Innovation hubs

Entrepreneurship centres

Networks of support organisations

Access to well-connected ecosystem of support

Support across all business stages

Advocacy for young entrepreneurs' needs



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Thank you!

Any questions?



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Questions for discussion

- Are different types of networks more effective than others?
- How can young entrepreneurs take “ownership” of networks?
- How can governments build knowledge sharing networks for support organisations?



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Youth Business International (YBI)

Victoria Edwards, Head of Membership



Introducing Youth Business International



The *only* organisation dedicated to youth entrepreneurship globally.

We *lead a global network* of 64 enterprise support organisations in *47 countries*.

Together we develop and scale the most *effective* support for young entrepreneurs.

Enabling our *global network* of members to deliver the best localised solutions.

Our strategy 2022-2025

Our goal is to create **one million jobs** through supporting the **start-up** and growth of **250,000 youth-led businesses**



We will accelerate more impact for more young people



We want youth entrepreneurship to be recognised as a force for good



We will build a growing, dynamic and inclusive Network of ESOs



We want to be the leading voice for youth entrepreneurship

Our members



- Enterprise support organisations (ESOs) that support youth-led businesses within their programmes
- Committed to a responsible business agenda, including either social, green or inclusive entrepreneurship
- Provide services including skills training, mentoring, access to finance support, and other business development services

Our global network is built around connection, collaboration and content

Connection

YBI continually drives connection as the essential foundation to support effective collaboration.



Collaboration

YBI places priority on collaboration with our members and other experts to solve complex problems.



Content

YBI is committed to providing the global standard in inclusive economic programmes.



How we connect and collaborate

Member Learning Exchange Scheme

Peer to peer learning, connection and collaborations through 'study visits' between YBI members.

Bootcamp

A week of learning from experts and collaborating with peers for 30 young entrepreneurs from around the world.

Communities of Practice

Regional or programmatic multi-day workshops and networking for YBI members to co-create solutions to common challenges.

Global Summit

Three days of workshops, panel discussions and networking for young entrepreneurs, business leaders, and entrepreneurship practitioners from the YBI network and beyond.

Together we create solutions to deliver better outcomes for young entrepreneurs



Social and Green
Entrepreneurship Toolkit



Sustainability Toolkit



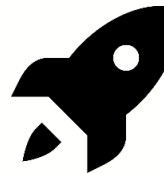
Inclusivity Toolkit



Financial Health Model



Growth and
Performance Skills
Training



High Flyers Guidelines

Partnering with YBI

Direct support to YBI programmes and initiatives

- Funding and financial support
- Capacity building and training
- Access to Finance

Collaborating with YBI to create an enabling environment

- Policy development and advocacy
- Research and data sharing

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