



NEWSLETTER

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This is the March 2025 edition of the YEPA newsletter featuring news, resources and upcoming events related to youth entrepreneurship. Past newsletters can be found at yepa-hub.org.

NEWS

In February, YEPA came together in new country groups for the fifth workshop on entrepreneurship skills and mindsets for youth entrepreneurs. For more information on Workshop 5, please see the [updated summary note](#) and [presentations](#) from all three country groups. Recordings are available on the yepa-hub.org.

We would also like to thank our co-hosts **Vicky Tsangsridou-Hadjipavlou**, **André Talos**, and **Valentin Theodor Mayerhofer**, YEPA participants who presented case studies **Thomas Cooney**, **Anca Otilia Dodescu** and **Ewald Kibler** as well as guest speakers **Kristine Krivmane**, **Dana Adriana Puia Morel**, **Robert Blackburn**, **Babette Claas**, **Eleni Bletsas**, **Evangelos Sakellariou**, and **Aymeric Marmorat**.



We are happy to announce the upcoming **YEPA Workshop 6 will be on Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Design & Delivery** and will be held in **May 2025**. The 3-hour online workshop will examine how to effectively design and deliver entrepreneurship policies that are tailored to the unique needs of youth entrepreneurs. The workshop will include presentations from the OECD, insights from policy makers and experts as well as case studies on successfully implemented youth entrepreneurship policy. The workshop will also explore how to integrate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms into the design of youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes. For more information, please see the Upcoming Events section.

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 or send Helen Shymanski an email at Helen.Shymanski@oecd.org.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

In March 2025, the European Union adopted the [Union of Skills](#). The Union of Skills will support the development of human capital to strengthen EU competitiveness. It seeks to build skills for quality lives and jobs through education and training. It also supports the upskilling and reskilling of the labour force to help people adapt with evolving economies. Additionally, the Union of Skills will reinforce the Competitiveness Compass, the Clean Industrial Act, and the Preparedness Union Strategy.

The 11th Cycle of the [EU Youth Dialogue](#) has started. From January 2025 until June 2026, the trio of Poland, Denmark, and Cyprus takes over the Council's Presidency and the 11th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue. The EU Youth Dialogue is a space for sharing views, influencing policies, and ensuring that your voices are heard.

Interested in learning more about one of the programmes discussed during Workshop 5 Group III? To learn more about the international video challenge for young people by [Business@School](#) please visit this [link](#).



A new entrepreneurship training programme has been launched in Cyprus - [Elevate Bootcamp](#). Elevate Bootcamp is a 13-week accelerator, funded and supported by the Research and Innovation Foundation of Cyprus (RIF), designed to help start-ups scale, launch, secure funding, and refine their business strategy with a founder-first approach. This accelerator programme is created and led by seasoned entrepreneurs who have built, scaled, and raised capital for start-ups. Elevate Bootcamp integrates mental fitness coaching, recognising that healthy founders build successful start-ups. Start-up participants gain access to an exclusive online community with 50+ hours of recorded start-up education, access to various mentors, ability to interact with other start-ups and more. Elevate Bootcamp programme ends in a "Shark Tank-style" Demo Day which is a one-of-a-kind event that matches start-ups with key angel investors in a high-energy, half-day pitching and entertainment experience. Elevate Bootcamp's founding team is also pioneering a white-label accelerator model, allowing other programmes to leverage their community platform, recorded courses, mentors, start-ups scoring and valuation systems, and Demo Day framework to power their own accelerators.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshop 6 will be on the theme of Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Design and Delivery. A save the date will be circulated soon. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for:

- Group I - **14 May 2025** from 10:00-13:00 CEST (register [here](#))
- Group II - **13 May 2025** from 10:00-13:00 CEST (register [here](#))
- Group III - **20 May 2025** from 10:00-13:00 CEST (register [here](#))

The in-person YEPA meeting will be held in [Brussels](#) on **6-7 October 2025**. We look forward to bringing the YEPA Network together to reconnect and celebrate the work of the YEPA community over the last three years. More details about the event will be shared in the coming months. In the meantime, please mark your calendars!

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

- **Junior Enterprise Europe** held their Winter Conference 2025 in Brussels on 6-9 March. The theme of the conference was Empowering Europe from Vision to Reality. They welcomed more than 600 participants from 16 different countries to explore how to empower young entrepreneurs. The event featured excellence awards, panel discussions, international case studies, workshops and networking opportunities.
- **Junior Achievement Worldwide** has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for their contribution to economic empowerment, prosperity and peace. The organisation was first nominated in 2022.
- **Moonshot Pirates** launched a new initiative - [Shape the Future Challenge](#) - which is a 4-week ideation competition for young impact entrepreneurs focusing on the Future of Food.
- On 17 January 2025 in Rotterdam, the **Dutch New Narrative Lab** hosted the 4th DNNL unConference on the theme of Future Shapers. The conference aimed to empower under-represented innovative entrepreneurs in the Netherlands and included a range of activities such as keynote speeches, workshops, roundtable discussions and networking.
- **MIMMIR** recently launched the Deep Dive competition that seeks to foster the next generation of deep tech builders. The competition gives teams of 3 people real commercialisation challenges from existing university spin-off cases for the chance of winning cash prizes.

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](#)
| <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