### **AGENDA**



# Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy

Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Summit 6 - 7 October 2025







### **EU-OECD Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Summit**

The Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA) has been in action now for three years and is coming to its end. Youth entrepreneurship remains a priority for both the European Union and the OECD.

The Policy Summit aims to share and discuss the policy learnings from the YEPA activities and point the way forward for youth entrepreneurship policy. It will bring together many of the participants in those activities to discuss the barriers faced by young people in entrepreneurship and "what works" in youth entrepreneurship policy and to consider what all policy actors can do in future to strengthen youth entrepreneurship in Europe.

The YEPA has been an opportunity for policy makers to better understand the barriers faced by young people in entrepreneurship and how to adapt policy to the needs of youth through a series of regular exchanges with young entrepreneurs, youth entrepreneurship networks, experts, youth entrepreneur support organisations and social entrepreneurship networks. It has held quarterly workshops and related events in addition to producing a series of thematic notes on different youth entrepreneurship policy issues and best practices. More information: <a href="https://www.yepa-hub.org">www.yepa-hub.org</a>.

The YEPA contributes to and builds on a range of other important work by the OECD and the European Commission on <u>inclusive entrepreneurship</u> and <u>social entrepreneurship</u>, including the award-winning report series <u>The Missing Entrepreneurs</u>. It was also announced as a key action in the EU Action Plan for Social Economy.

For more information, please contact Helen Larrecq (<u>Helen.Larrecq@oecd.org</u>) or the European Commission (<u>EMPL-YEPA@ec.europa.eu</u>).



### Venue

The SQUARE Brussels

Mont des Arts, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

### YEPA in action: Building the foundation

### Monday, 6 October 2025

13:30 – 14:00	Check-in and networking coffee ♀		
	Welcome to Brussels!		
14:00 – 14:15	Kickstart the Beat: Welcome to YEPA 🎜		
	Some music to energise the room and set the tone of youth empowerment and entrepreneurial spirit for the Summit.		
14:15 – 14:45	Welcome: Advancing youth entrepreneurship through policy		
	The EC and the OECD will set the scene for the two-day event and recall the importance of inclusive entrepreneurship.		
	European Commission  Commission  Roxana Mînzatu, Commissioner for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness		
	DECD Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD		
14:45 – 15:15	Interview: Young entrepreneurs on the realities of starting up		
	Some young entrepreneurs will share their personal entrepreneurial journeys - the highs, the hurdles and the lessons learned along the way. Through the conversation, we will hear how youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes impact them on the ground and what kind of support truly makes a difference in a changing world.		
	European <b>Baptiste Mandouze</b> , Policy Officer, Inclusive and social Entrepreneurship, Directorate-Commission General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion		
	Austria Adrian Davies, Founder, Meshara		
	France Elina Cohen-Peirano, CEO & Founder, Urone		
	Switzerland Mateo Debardeci, CEO and Co-Founder, DeepPsy		
15:15 – 16:00	Panel discussion: What YEPA participants are taking forward?		
	In this panel discussion, YEPA participants will share key takeaways of the Youth  Silver Hall  Entrepreneurship Policy Academy. Panellists will reflect on how the YEPA experience has influenced their approach to supporting youth entrepreneurship policy.  Halon Larrogg. Policy applies SME and Entrepreneurship Division. OFCD Centre for		
	Helen Larrecq, Policy analyst, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities		
	Cyprus Vicky Tsangaridou-Hadjipavlou, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism		
	Ireland Thomas Cooney, TU Dublin		
	United Kingdom Anita Tiessen, Youth Business International		
16:00 – 16:30	Fuelling connections: Networking coffee Q		
	Refuel and recharge while continuing the conversation!		
16:30 – 17:00	Presentation and debate: Youth entrepreneurship policy today and tomorrow		
	This session will provide an overview of current trends, policy gaps and opportunities in youth entrepreneurship. Then, it will be for the audience to raise questions.  Presentation by <b>Jonathan Potter</b> , Head of Unit, Entrepreneurship Policy and Analysis,		
	Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD  European perspective with <b>Brigitte Fellahi-Brognaux</b> , Head of Unit for Inclusive and Social Entrepreneurship, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion		

#### 17:00 – 17:45 Thematic breakout sessions: Choose your youth entrepreneurship policy lens

These smaller group discussions are meant to spark policy dialogue and inspire new ideas for future youth entrepreneurship policy action.

- Start-up and Spin-out: Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Driving High-Tech Ventures and AI (Room 201)
  - o Moderated by **Gulio Pasi** (European Commission)
  - Lead discussant Thanos Paraschos (Impactechpreneur, Angel Investor)
- Unlocking Potential: Youth Entrepreneurship Policy to Support Vulnerable Youth (NEETs) in Building Sustainable Livelihoods (Room 202)
  - Moderated by Anastasia Costantini (European Commission)
  - o Lead discussant **Teresa Pallarés-Ramos** (YouthProAktiv)
- **Social Impact**: Social Entrepreneurship Policy and the Circular Economy for Young People (**Silver Hall**)
  - Moderated by Toby Gazeley (Euclid)
  - Lead discussant Amal Chevreau (OECD)

#### 17:45 – 18:00 Panel discussion: Report back from break-out groups to plenary

Silver Hall Group rapporteurs will share key takeaways, questions and ideas from the breakout session with the plenary.

#### 18:00 Day 1 Wrap-up followed by a cocktail dinner

This session offers a summary of the day's key insights followed by a moment to connect further with the YEPA community and speakers.

### The Future of Youth Entrepreneurship Policy

### **Tuesday, 7 October 2025**

08:30 - 09:00	Coffee and connections •			
		Ease into the Day 2 with a coffee and light networking to continue conversations sparked on Day 1.		
09:00 - 09:15	Morning k	Norning kick-off 🎜		
		Energise the morning with a music session featuring young talent that sets the mood for another exciting day of policy discussions and collaboration.		
09:15 - 09:30	Summary:	ry: What we heard on Day 1		
		This session will offer a concise recap of the previous day's highlights and build momentum for the day ahead.		
09:30 - 9:45	Interview: The road to starting up			
	Silver Hall	This session will reflect on the entrepreneurial journey of a young YEPA participant, from developing ideas in a student entrepreneurship network to working within a university technology transfer office, and ultimate starting a new venture. The conversation will also highlight how participating in YEPA has shaped the entrepreneurial journey, facilitated important conversations and supported the development of networks.		
	Switzerland	Joni Rakipi, Founder and Investor Connector Programme Manager, ETH Zurich		
	OECD	Shayne MacLachlan, Manager, Communications and Public Affairs, OECD CFE		
09:45 - 10:00	Presentati	Presentation: The YEPA Legacy		
	Silver Hall	This session presents the YEPA Legacy, a collectively produced short document setting down the shared goals, policy lessons and policy good practices identified by the YEPA participants. It aims to set down a future agenda for youth entrepreneurship support and engage participants in its delivery.		
	OECD	<b>Helen Larrecq,</b> Policy analyst, SME and Entrepreneurship Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities		
10:00 – 10:45	Panel discussion: The YEPA Legacy			
	Silver Hall	This panel brings together members of the YEPA Steering Committee to reflect on the YEPA experience, discuss the priorities set out in the YEPA Legacy document and explore how its policy pointers can guide the future of youth entrepreneurship policy.		
	Belgium	Marie Vial, European Microfinance Network		
	Finland	Ahmed Hadi, MIMIR		
	Malta	Jason Zammit, Malta Youth Agency		
	Spain	Sara Simón Penas, Youth Business Spain		
	European Commission	<b>Julien De Beys</b> , Policy Officer, Inclusive and social Entrepreneurship, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion		

#### 10:45 − 11:15 Fuelling connections: Networking coffee ♀

A chance to pause, recharge and keep the dialogue going.

#### 11:15 – 12:00 Breakout session: What's next? Re-imaging youth entrepreneurship policy together

Following the presentation of the YEPA Legacy document and insights from the Steering Committee, this interactive session invites all participants to reflect on the ideas, experiences and priorities that have emerged throughout the programme. Together, small discussion groups will explore how they can apply the YEPA Legacy document in their own contexts and contribute to a shared vision for inclusive, future-oriented youth entrepreneurship policy.

#### Moderated by

- Neva Nahtigal (RREUSE) and Miia Rossi-Gray (European Commission) in <u>Silver</u>
   Hall
- Helen Larrecq (OECD) and Shayne MacLachlan (OECD) in Room 201
- Margit Perko (European Commission) and Juliane Marie Neiiendam (EESC) in Room 202

### 12:00 – 12:15 Panel discussion: Report back from break-out groups to plenary

Silver Hall Group rapporteurs will share key takeaways, questions and ideas from the breakout session with the plenary.

#### 12:15 – 12:30 *Closing remarks*

OFCD

European Commission Mario Nava, Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

**Lamia Kamal-Chaoui**, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, 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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For more information on OECD work on inclusive entrepreneurship, please visit website: <a href="https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/inclusive-entrepreneurship.html">www.oecd.org/en/topics/inclusive-entrepreneurship.html</a>

If you are interested to learn more inclusive entrepreneurship, please contact: Jonathan Potter, Head of the Entrepreneurship Policy and Analysis Unit | <u>Jonathan.Potter@oecd.org</u> or Helen Larrecq, Policy Analyst | <u>Helen.Larrecq@oecd.org</u>

For more information on OECD work on social entrepreneurship, please visit website: <u>www.oecd.org/en/topics/social-economy-and-social-innovation.html</u>

If you are interested to learn more social entrepreneurship, please contact Amal Chevreau, Head of the Social Economy and Innovation Unit | <u>Amal.Chevreau@oecd.org</u>

### 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.

For more information on the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, please visit: https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/employment-social-affairs-and-inclusion\_en



