



NEWSLETTER

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This is the July 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

Workshop 6: Designing and Delivering Youth Entrepreneurship Policy

The final workshop in the YEPA series brought participants together for a dynamic session focused on how to effectively create and implement youth entrepreneurship policy. The workshop featured interventions by YEPA participants on the “Y” behind continued and renewed support for youth entrepreneurs, including in-depth case studies on existing policies and programmes, discussions on the various approaches to supporting young entrepreneurs across EU and OECD countries, and presentations on key aspects of designing and evaluating policies. Key themes included tailoring policies to the context and to the needs of young people as well as embedding monitoring and evaluation into policy design and delivery. The workshop concluded with a forward-looking discussion on the legacy of the collective work of YEPA over the last three years. Thank you to all who joined us! We would like to extend a special thanks to the three country co-hosts:

- **Belgium** (Wallonia) represented by **Werner Pirnay** and **Frédéric Rasson**, SPW Economy, Employment and Research (Group II)
- **Croatia** represented by **Danijela Žagar** of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and **Ivana Sesar** of Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy (Group III)
- **Malta** represented by **Jason Zammit**, Senior Manager of Research, Strategy and Youth Policy Implementation, Malta Youth Agency (Group I)

And, a big thanks to all the fantastic speakers who brought diverse perspectives and rich insights to the conversation **Alain Asquin**, **Leonie Baldacchino**, **Wanda Brandt**, **Katja Crnogaj**, **Rumen Donev**, **Nathalie Farrugia**, **Fernando Jardim**, **Giuseppe Negro**, **Sara Simón Penas** on behalf of **Guzmán García González-Posada**, and **Petra Reszkető**.

For more information on Workshop 6, please see the **updated summary note** and **presentations** from all three country groups. **Recordings** are available on the yepahub.org.



[Group I](#)



[Group II](#)



[Group III](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crafting the YEPA Legacy

We are excited to announce the development of **The YEPA Agenda**, which will be a legacy document of the collective reflection on the insights, achievements and impact of the YEPA over the last three years. The document will serve as both a record of YEPA's work as well as a tool for continuity, advocacy and future action, particularly through the identification of policy pointers. The crafting of the YEPA legacy will be guided by a **YEPA Steering Committee** before a draft document is shared with all YEPA participants will have an opportunity to share feedback before it's release at the Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Summit in Brussels on 6-7 October. Stay tuned for more details!

YBI and GEN Youth Entrepreneurship Trends and Policy Framework

Youth Business International (YBI) with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) developed a framework for youth entrepreneurship, which builds on the policy guide by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The **Framework** highlights the challenges and barriers into youth entrepreneurship and presents suggestions for practical support and the policy changes needed to unlock the potential of youth entrepreneurs. It also features case studies of successful youth-focused policy initiatives. YBI and their member Habitat in Türkiye have also recently released the policy paper - "**De-risking Youth Entrepreneurship and Unlocking the Missing Middle - Solutions to Drive Youth-led Economic Growth**", which explores access to finance for youth entrepreneurs as their businesses evolve and their financial needs shift, notably those who have outgrown microfinance yet still lack access to traditional banking institutions. The paper explores key strategies for de-risking youth entrepreneurship and enabling young business owners to scale sustainably.

New National Report in Inclusive Entrepreneurship in the Netherlands

We're pleased to share the release of a new national report from the **Dutch New Narrative Lab (DNNL)** - "**A New Narrative: Bottom-Up Approaches to Inclusive Entrepreneurship in the Netherlands**". The report is based on more than 350 in-depth interviews and insights gathered from four national Unconferences involving entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and academics. It identifies systemic barriers and practical, scalable strategies to improve access to finance and support structures for under-represented entrepreneurs. **Ruben Brave** of DNNL also recently penned the essay "**Hope to Heritage**" which explores many themes touched upon in YEPA, including how inclusive entrepreneurship can create opportunities for young people and how targeted policy can address persistent barriers to business creation by young people and others who are disadvantaged or under-represented in the labour market. The essay also highlights the importance of accessible and relatable role models for young people and supporting the development of digital literacy and critical thinking among youth in the new digital era. Additional reports are available at www.dnnl.org.

Young Entrepreneur Venture Camp, August 17-24, Cambridge, UK

Cambridge Week brings together experienced Cambridge mentors, experts and innovators with startups, entrepreneurial students and researchers from Europe. Through a series of mentoring sessions, lectures, workshops, visits to innovation centres and by working on their own business proposals, delegates will learn, network, absorb and apply the qualities of a thriving innovation ecosystem to their own ventures with a focus on people, the planet, and place. The week encourages delegates to embrace the unique Cambridge city culture and history of fostering innovation and to expand the mindset of entrepreneur. There are a few spaces still available and an application. Please contact info@connectlatvia.lv for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us in **Brussels** on **October 6-7** for the **Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Summit** which will bring together participants from across the YEPA community and beyond. The Summit will provide a space to reflect on the barriers young people face in starting and growing businesses, explore “what works” in youth entrepreneurship policy, and consider how all policy actors - policymakers and governments, youth entrepreneurs, youth entrepreneurship networks, support organisations, experts and researchers, and social entrepreneurship actors - can work together to strengthen youth entrepreneurship policy across EU and OECD countries. This in-person gathering will feature high-level dialogue, interactive sessions, and the launch of The YEPA Agenda, a forward-looking document that captures key insights and policy pointers from the YEPA.

Travel and accommodation is being organised by the European Commission, and their **travel team will be in touch with registered participants directly in the coming weeks.**



If you have not yet registered, please do so using this link:

<https://mcibrussels.swoogo.com/YEPA2025/register>



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

We are proud to introduce the **YEPA Steering Committee** who will help to shape the development of **The YEPA Agenda**, a forward-looking policy document capturing key insights and priorities for future youth entrepreneurship policy.

The Steering Committee will play an important role in shaping the YEPA legacy by **distilling lessons learned** over the course of the **18 online workshops** and **YEPA side-events** and **proposing policy pointers**. Members of the YEPA Steering Committee include:

- **Wanda Brandt**, Communications Manager, Youth Business International
- **Elina Cohen-Peirano**, CEO & Founder of Urone
- **Toby Gazeley**, Policy Lead, Euclid Network
- **Ahmed Hadi**, Co-founder of MIMIR
- **Carin Holmquist**, Professor Emerita, Department of Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology (House of Innovation), Stockholm School of Economics
- **Johannes Lindner**, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (Austria)
- **Lucia Raffaele**, Partnerships Manager, Junior Enterprise Europe
- **Petra Reszkető**, Managing and Executive Partner, Principal and Senior Researcher, Budapest Institute
- **Sara Simón Penas**, Director General, Youth Business Spain
- **Slavica Singer**, Professor Emeritus and UNESCO Chair in Entrepreneurship Education, J.J. Strossmayer University in Osijek
- **Vicky Tsangaridou-Hadjipavlou**, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (Cyprus)
- **Marie Vial**, Advocacy Officer, European Microfinance Network
- **Danijela Žagar**, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (Croatia)
- **Jason Zammit**, Senior Manager of Research, Strategy and Youth Policy Implementation, Malta Youth Agency

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