



**YEPA Workshop 6**  
***Effectively Designing and Delivering Youth***  
***Entrepreneurship Policies***  
**Summary Note**

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# Effectively Designing and Delivering Youth Entrepreneurship Policies

## What is youth entrepreneurship policy?

Entrepreneurship policies and programmes can be an effective tool for supporting young people in business creation and development (OECD/European Commission, 2023a). The objective of youth entrepreneurship policy is often to help young people acquire entrepreneurship skills and experience, build networks, and improve access to financial resources so that they can boost the chances of successfully transforming their ideas into a business (OECD/European Commission, 2023a). These policies aim to alleviate market and institutional failures that negatively impact young people's ability to start and scale their own businesses. They have a broad and varied scope, ranging from support measures that are specifically targeted to youth entrepreneurs to strengthening framework conditions and fostering entrepreneurial interest among young people. The OECD International Compendium of Entrepreneurship Policies (2020) identifies three main types of youth entrepreneurship policy interventions:

- Policies that aim to improve institutional conditions for entrepreneurship, which includes initiatives for the development of an entrepreneurial culture, a favourable tax and regulatory framework for entrepreneurs and favourable competitive conditions.
- Policies that offer direct support to entrepreneurs and start-ups. These include training and education programmes, provision of information, advice, coaching and mentoring, facilitating access to finance for entrepreneurs and supporting entrepreneurs in specific activities that are conducive to growth, such as innovation, greening and internationalisation.
- Policies that take a holistic approach and support the development of entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Overall, these policies differ considerably along a number of dimensions, notably on how different governments approach policy design and delivery mechanisms. They can be part of the suite of policy actions used to help youth enter and be active in the labour market (OECD/European Commission, 2020). It is important to consider that entrepreneurship is not suitable for all youth, and that not all beneficiaries of youth entrepreneurship policy and programmes will go on to start a business. However, young people who decide not to pursue entrepreneurship or whose projects fail can still benefit from these policies and programmes as they will be able to grow their networks, build entrepreneurial mindsets and gain experience and skills that could be used to help secure employment (OECD/European Commission, 2020).

## How is youth entrepreneurship policy a strategic lever for inclusion and growth?

The rationale for youth entrepreneurship policies lies in its potential to support young people in entering and being successful in the labour market, leading to lower levels of youth unemployment and more innovation (Box 1). Youth entrepreneurship policies support young people in overcoming the additional and heightened barriers to entrepreneurship as young people often face greater obstacles to business creation compared to older age cohorts, notably greater difficulties accessing resources such as finance, professional networks and customers. Youth entrepreneurship policies seek to reduce inequalities of opportunities in entrepreneurship as well as to increase employability. This includes helping to prepare youth for the future of work, develop entrepreneurial mindsets, and learn how to work in flexible ways (OECD/European Commission, 2023a).

### Box 1. The “Y” behind youth entrepreneurship policy

**Key points by Katja Crnogaj, University of Maribor, Slovenia**

Youth entrepreneurship policy plays an important role in supporting the inclusion of young people in the labour market and empowers youth to innovate and create jobs for others. Moreover, youth entrepreneurship policy can contribute to shaping resilient, inclusive and innovative labour markets and societies by addressing structural barriers, fostering a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem, creating opportunities for all young people and reducing the risks of starting a new business. In Slovenia, youth entrepreneurship policy is integrated into broader policy targeted to youth, using a cross-sectional approach. The primary co-ordinator is the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth. However, there is no single institution responsible for youth entrepreneurship policy; rather, multiple ministries design and deliver youth entrepreneurship policy in parallel to policy action on the municipal level. While a multi-actor approach can lead to comprehensive support, it is essential to have cross-sectoral collaboration and work to align policy objectives across institutions. Effective youth entrepreneurship policy should be holistic, co-created, locally delivered, evidence-based, sustainable and contextualised to the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem. There are three key takeaways to long-term impact of quality support for youth entrepreneurs:

- Timely, targeted and high-quality support increases the long-term survival and stability of youth-led businesses.
- Policy promotes of upward social mobility for youth from disadvantaged and under-represented population groups.
- Programmes that combine multiple forms of support, particularly mentoring, experiential learning and real-world practice, are significantly more effective than traditional lecture-based approaches.



## ***Policy facilitates labour market integration of youth...***

Fostering to entrepreneurship among youth has been a priority across the European Union (EU) and OECD for several decades, as a means of improving access to the labour market. Young people continue to face difficulties in successfully integrating the labour market and entrepreneurship can provide an alternative route into the labour market alongside employment. Many of these challenges are not new as young people have struggled to enter the labour market over the last few decades. Following the economic crisis in 2008-09, youth unemployment rose sharply and remained elevated, reaching above 20% in 8 European Union Member States and 17 OECD countries in 2013 (OECD/European Commission, 2023a).

While youth unemployment did improve in the latter half of the decade, young people continue to face financial instability, housing instability and labour market vulnerability. The COVID-19 pandemic, the economic challenges related to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, and the rising prices and the cost of living have deeply impacted young people across EU and OECD countries – once again highlighting the labour market vulnerability of youth. For example, youth unemployment was around 11% for young people aged 15-29 years old in 2024; unemployment rates rose to 15% among youth aged 15-24 years old relative to only 6% among adults overall in 2024 (Eurostat, 2025). It is also important to consider youth activity rates as young people who have dropped out of the labour force are excluded from unemployment counts and rates. Between 2021 and 2024, the overall activity rate has remained around 75% compared to about 40% among youth aged 15-24 years. When considering young adults, the share of active youth is slightly higher among those aged 15 to 29 years old at about 56% in 2024 (Eurostat, 2025).

To address challenges related to labour market integration by young people, it is important to develop a strategy for supporting youth entrepreneurship, including by developing a vision for youth entrepreneurship support (Box 2). One policy approach is to embed entrepreneurship promotion and support within youth employment strategies. A key success factor in effective policy design and delivery is to ensure that public actors and other stakeholders have clearly defined and complementary roles in supporting youth entrepreneurship, which requires engaging other youth entrepreneurship support actors in the design and delivery process. This should also include clearly communicating objectives of youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes to young people, youth organisations and the broader community.

### **Box 2. Presentation: Youth Business International's Youth Entrepreneurship Framework**

#### **Key points by Wanda Brandt, Youth Business International**

Youth Business International (YBI) is an international network of support organisations that are dedicated to supporting youth entrepreneurs, particularly those from under-served and disadvantaged backgrounds. YBI's support model includes designing youth entrepreneurship support and delivering this support with local experts and organisations, leading to a wide range of contextually adapted solutions to help young people start, scale and sustain their businesses, helping them to create jobs and build communities. YBI in collaboration 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. Three emerging trends emerged from the Framework:

- **Youth Employment:** Global youth unemployment remains a policy issue, with 13% of unemployment rate and one in five young people not in employment, education or training (NEET). Entrepreneurship is a key solution to youth unemployment. About one in four young people aspire to start their own business, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that addressing youth employment challenges could add up to USD 3.7 trillion (EUR 3.4 trillion) or an additional 4.4-7% to global GDP.
- **Meaningful Work:** There is a growing shift in values among young people, who are increasingly seeking purpose-driven work that is aligned with their environmental and social beliefs. Research suggests that 86% of Gen Z and 89% of Millennials prioritise purpose in their careers. Entrepreneurs under the age of 35 years old are more than twice as likely as their older counterparts to found businesses that address societal issues.
- **Green and Social Entrepreneurship:** Many young entrepreneurs are increasingly placing a greater emphasis on promoting diversity, social good and environmental responsibility. For example, more than 70% of Gen Z and Millennials are actively working to reduce their environmental impact.

The Framework explores the primary barriers to youth entrepreneurship, which include challenges related to skills and opportunities, high barriers in the business environment, difficulties in accessing finance, difficulties accessing support and a lack of quality mentoring. Overall, the key takeaways from the Framework highlight the importance of creating a more inclusive and effective entrepreneurial ecosystem for young people. It is important to link youth-led networks to more experienced ones, which helps young people from becoming isolated within a "youth-only" bubble. It is also important to foster economic opportunity, which requires addressing the unique challenge of financial freedom to start a business, which is a distinct barrier from issues around access to capital. Another key takeaway is that emphasising teamwork by nurturing diverse co-founder teams can lead to greater impact than focusing solely on individual entrepreneurs. Lastly, the Framework finds that early exposure to entrepreneurship is critical. Entrepreneurial behaviour must be developed over time, and the earlier young people engage with entrepreneurship, the more confident, open and prepared they will be to take the leap.

Source: Further information on the YBI Framework, please see visit [Youth Business International's website](#).

Entrepreneurship policy can also help young people to develop transversal skills that will help them in their career, regardless of whether they go on to start a business. Additionally, youth entrepreneurship policy can support talented youth, including graduates, with high potential business ideas to innovate and integrate into entrepreneurial networks and ecosystems. One approach to facilitate the integration of young people into the labour market through entrepreneurship is to have targeted entrepreneurship policies to young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). For example, the Young Entrepreneurs Succeed! (YES!) project aimed to improve the employment situation among unemployed youth (20-29 years old), particularly those who are not in employment or in education (NEETs) in Greece, Italy, Poland and Spain (for more information on the programme see the [OECD Youth Policy Toolkit](#) and the [YEPA Summary Note for Workshop 5 on Entrepreneurship Skills and Mindsets](#)).

***...and supports the development of entrepreneurship skills and mindsets.***

Youth entrepreneurship policy can facilitate more awareness and understanding about entrepreneurship among youth, which may increase the number of young people that are interested in pursuing it as a full-time or part-time activity during youth or later in life. These policies should aim to create a supportive institutional environment for youth entrepreneurship to thrive, including by ensuring that the regulatory environment does not discriminate or disincentivise young people in pursuing business creation. This includes introducing policy measures that are supportive of youth entrepreneurship across welfare, tax and regulatory systems as well as ensuring that bankruptcy laws do not prevent young people from having a second chance if their businesses fail.

Policy should seek to not only develop new ventures but also entrepreneurial mindsets. Entrepreneurship policy and support measures can also foster entrepreneurial thinking, creativity and innovation among young people, while also raising awareness of entrepreneurship as a viable and desirable career choice for young people to pursue. By promoting a positive image of entrepreneurship, policy can help build a culture of entrepreneurship among young people and foster the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators. For example, youth-tailored outreach campaigns can serve to inform young people and the broader society about the potential for youth entrepreneurship.

It is important to ensure that tailored entrepreneurship policies are relevant to young people and address the range of different youth profiles as they each have different, education profiles, needs, challenges and preferences. Policy also must ensure that young people can access relevant information and resource about entrepreneurship and how to start a business. There are several policy approaches to promoting entrepreneurial mindsets and fostering the development of entrepreneurship skills:

- **Promote entrepreneurship with role models** to make entrepreneurship tangible through the sharing of experiences. Role models should demonstrate a range of entrepreneurship activities, including not only innovative technology businesses but also those in other sectors and those with social objectives. It is also important to showcase some young entrepreneurs who other youth may relate better to than adults. Role models can be promoted through media and online campaigns as well as integrated into other support measures such as formal education and business competitions. This is the approach used by [Future Heroes](#) who offers role models of women in leadership and entrepreneurship to support young girls in fostering entrepreneurial mindsets, building their entrepreneurship skills and realising their potential to create impact. For more information on entrepreneurial role models for youth, please see the [YEPA Summary Note for Workshop 4 on Inspiring young entrepreneurs with role models](#).
- **Embed entrepreneurship teaching** in schools, vocational training and higher education to improve entrepreneurship skills among youth. This includes designing and implementing entrepreneurship modules or activities into various levels of education to help ensure young people are exposed to entrepreneurship and provide an opportunity to deepen their understanding about what entrepreneurship is and its role in society. For example, the Ministry of Education of Greece developed the [Skills Labs](#), which aim to develop skills and entrepreneurial awareness as part of the mandatory curriculum for all kindergarten, primary and lower-secondary schools across Greece. Moreover, entrepreneurship teaching can lead to the development of entrepreneurial skills among students and help them to cultivate positive entrepreneurial attitudes. All levels of students should have the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurship skill development. Moreover, research suggests that students who have had access and participated in entrepreneurship education are more likely to start their own business and are less likely to be unemployed (European Parliament, 2015).
- **Offer opportunities to acquire entrepreneurship skills** outside of formal education to ensure that youth and young adults who are not in school have opportunities to develop entrepreneurship skills and knowledge. Providing opportunities for young people to learn through experience (e.g. business competitions, simulations) are an effective way to develop entrepreneurship skills. Youth entrepreneurship training is also an effective approach to addressing entrepreneurship skills gaps among youth. Evidence suggests that entrepreneurship training can increase awareness and entrepreneurial efficacy among youth (Ho et al., 2018). For more information on developing entrepreneurship skills within and outside of formal education as well as examples of youth entrepreneurship support schemes, please see the [YEPA Summary Note for Workshop 5 on Entrepreneurship Skills and Mindsets](#).

- **Facilitate coaching and mentoring schemes** to improve the chances of success for (potential) young entrepreneurs. Coaches and mentors can help compensate for young people's lack of experience in the labour market as well as provide encouragement and inspiration as they pursue business creation. It also creates regular interaction between young people and mentors or coaches, allowing young people to have real-life examples of success as well as individualised support throughout the business life cycle. These types of support can also help young people find role models who can guide, inspire and support them in their professional development. However, it is important that policy measures use appropriate matching mechanisms to ensure a good fit between coachee/mentee and coach/mentor. For a more in-depth discussion on the role of coaches and mentors, please see the [YEPA Summary Note for Workshop 4 on Inspiring young entrepreneurs with role models](#).

### ***Policy plays an important role in facilitating access to finance for youth entrepreneurs...***

Difficulties around accessing finance to start a business pose a significant challenge for entrepreneurs, regardless of age, the scale or sector of operation. This challenge has continued to grow since the COVID-19 crisis as many entrepreneurs have faced liquidity challenges and financial markets have become tighter, particularly youth entrepreneurs. Policy has an important role in addressing the under-capitalisation of youth-led businesses by addressing barriers on both demand and supply-side barriers. Policy can facilitate access to various sources of entrepreneurship finance which can improve the likelihood of young people's entrepreneurial activities developing into sustainable businesses. Policy must also ensure that young people have the knowledge and understanding to use the funding appropriately and seek to improve financial literacy skills, notably in business finance, among youth. Well-designed youth entrepreneurship policy should also complement financial support with non-financial supports. These supports include entrepreneurship training, peer-learning, networking, coaching and business consultancy.

Youth entrepreneurship policy should ensure that young people can access loans, grants and microfinance, and there is a range of financial support instruments that can be utilised to address barriers to access to finance for young people. The most common forms of start-up financing offered to youth entrepreneurs are grants and income subsidies (Box 3). However, in recent years, many European Union Member States and OECD countries have increasingly used microfinance to support business creation, including among youth. Microfinance is also an important financial tool for supporting youth entrepreneurs because it is designed to address the obstacles faced in the credit market. By offering small collateral-free loans to young entrepreneurs, it helps them to build a credit history to improve their access to mainstream financial products. However, there is significant unmet demand for microfinance in many markets. Youth-tailored policies should also encourage alternate financing methods, such as guarantees, crowdfunding, peer-to-peer lending, and business angel investment. While access to venture capital and angel investment can be important for a few youth entrepreneurs, the majority of young entrepreneurs are financing their entrepreneurial activities through other sources of finance (e.g. self-funding, loans, grants, microfinance and crowdfunding). A recent Flash Eurobarometer survey showed that 36% of potential young entrepreneurs reported that their own savings would be among the top three sources of funding used, followed by banks (33%) and family and friends (21%). The same survey found that government sources of funding were less frequently identified by potential young entrepreneurs (12%) and only about 8% of respondents reported venture capital investments as an initial source of funding. For more information on different policy approaches for facilitating access to finance for young entrepreneurs, please see the [YEPA Summary Note for Workshop 1 on Access to finance for young entrepreneurs](#).

### **Box 3. Case Study: Designing a microfinance scheme in Croatia**

#### **Key points by Ivana Sesar, Croatia**

Young people in Croatia continue to face persistent barriers to accessing the labour market and securing quality employment, particularly young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs) as the rate of young NEETs has consistently increased since 2019 and remains above the EU average. Moreover, many start businesses out of necessity because they were unable to find other employment opportunities. To address these issues, the Government has prioritised policy action that will facilitate a more inclusive labour market and employment promotion, particularly focusing on greater access to young people through the Youth Guarantee. These key prioritised are supported by financial instruments within the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) in the period 2021-27.

One of the new financial instruments intended to support youth entrepreneurs is an ESF+ microloan for growth and employment, which supports newly established companies by vulnerable groups including young people between the ages of 18 and 29 years old in accessing funding. Beneficiaries can receive a microloan between EUR 1 000 and EUR 25 000 with a reduced, fixed interest rate (currently 0.5%). It is also possible to write off 30% of the loan amount under certain conditions, including being employed for a minimum of one year. Additionally, the financial support is paired with performance-based incentives for employment that aim to address critical challenges faced by young people in the labour market. Overall, the new support measure places a strong emphasis on supporting youth in Croatia and is expected to contribute to preserving existing jobs and creating new ones by encouraging investments in micro- and small-enterprises.

### ***...is key to unlocking youth-driven innovation...***

Innovation is a key motivator for many young people to seek entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship policy can be designed to support economic growth, innovation and job creation among young people by addressing obstacles preventing them from scaling up their entrepreneurial ideas and activities as well as helping them to increase their innovation rates and growth potential. Almost one-in-four young entrepreneurs report seeking to innovate as a primary goal of starting their business. Young people are also more likely to innovate relative to the overall adult population. In the period 2018-22, youth entrepreneurs were 16% more likely than adults to introduce a new product or service on average in the European Union. This was also true across OECD countries where youth entrepreneurs were nearly 8% more likely than adults to have introduced an innovation in the same period.

Policy should make business start-up support easily accessible to young people, especially those interested in creating innovative and high-growth potential businesses. Main policy approaches include incubation and acceleration services, management training and networks (OECD/European Union, 2019). For example, [InnoFounder Graduate](#) is a youth-tailored programme organised by the Danish Innovation Fund to foster innovative entrepreneurship among young graduates. The programme consists of a 12-month pre-start-up incubation and financial support through grants in addition to facilitating access to investors and other national and international entrepreneurial ecosystem actors. For more information on how policy can support young people to innovate, please see the [YEPA Summary Note for Workshop 2 on Innovative and high-growth entrepreneurship](#) as well as a more nuanced discussion on tailoring policy to specific target groups, such as young women entrepreneurs in the [YEPA Summary Note for Workshop 2 on Young women in innovative and high-growth entrepreneurship](#).

### ***...and enhancing the integration of young people into entrepreneurial networks.***

Young people are often less connected to the business community and have less developed professional networks compared to the overall adult population. This is largely due to their lack of business and work experience. Youth entrepreneurship policies should encourage networking for young entrepreneurs and create opportunities for them to strengthen and expand their entrepreneurship networks. One approach is to improve access to existing networks for young people through tailored outreach initiatives as well as adapting the format of networks to be more accessible to youth. Another common approach is to create youth-dedicated entrepreneurship networks to facilitate young people's connection to their local business communities. Policy can also support the integration of youth entrepreneurship networks in other policy interventions, such as entrepreneurship training. Moreover, it is important to foster partnerships across youth entrepreneurship support organisations and networks to expand young people's access to resources, mentorship, funding and networking opportunities. Policy also has an important role to play in supporting the creation of networks of youth entrepreneurship support organisations or umbrella networks for local, regional or national youth entrepreneurship networks. For more information on how to effectively design and implement youth entrepreneurship policy and support for network creation, please see the [YEPA Summary Note for Workshop 4 on Building networks for young entrepreneurs](#).

## **How to effectively design and deliver youth entrepreneurship policy?**

Entrepreneurship policy covers a wide range of interventions each with different objectives, particularly for policy tailored to young people (Box 4). The OECD has identified several key success factors for approaching entrepreneurship policy design effectively with the aim to support productive entrepreneurship (OECD, 2020):

- Policy interventions should seek support a wide range of entrepreneurs but focus resources on ventures with potential for growth rather than focusing exclusively on specific sectors or places. Productive entrepreneurship is not restricted to high-tech sectors and entrepreneurial hubs.
- Institutional conditions can contribute as much to supporting entrepreneurship as directly targeted programmes. These include culture, taxation, competitive conditions and the regulatory framework.
- Barriers to entrepreneurship are multifaceted and require comprehensive packages. Interventions combining several types of support are typically more effective. Linkages should be fostered between different programmes and across support organisations in the entrepreneurial ecosystems at national, regional and local level, as the support needs of firms change as they progress from idea, start-up, early-growth and scale-up.
- Policy must be adapted to context to be efficient. Transplanting policies from one country or region to another is unlikely to be successful without adaptation. This includes considering structural conditions and sensitivity to new economic developments transforming entrepreneurship and policy delivery, such as digitalisation.
- Entrepreneurship policies should be designed to minimise deadweight, displacement and distortion. Poorly designed support may create a displacement effect whereby publicly supported new firms drive out existing businesses. Deadweight is a further threat – whereby support may be provided to enterprises that do not need it or do not change their behaviour because of it. Policy support can also lead to market distortion away from supply and prices that match with consumer

preferences. Entrepreneurship policies should seek to reduce barriers to business creation without encouraging unsuited individuals to start unsustainable businesses or subsidising start-ups which do not need it.

- Many of the impacts of entrepreneurship policies tend to occur over long timelines. The time needed to influence the entrepreneurial culture, and the overall business birth rate of a place is likely to be much longer than the time to influence specific achievements among specific entrepreneurs, such as developing a new product or market. Therefore the judgements on whether policy is effective or not need to be made after allowing sufficient time for the policy to have an effect, and appropriately timed evaluations are needed.
- Monitoring and evaluation should be built into policy and programmes from the start with proportionate but adequate resources allocated. Mechanisms to incorporate results into programme revision and future policy developments should be included.

Overall, there are four key steps in designing and delivering effective youth entrepreneurship policy: 1) tailoring policy to the needs of youth, 2) selecting appropriate formats and delivery mechanisms, 3) engaging youth entrepreneurs, networks and other stakeholders in policy design and implementation, and 4) establishing ongoing monitoring and evaluation measures. Additional good practices for youth entrepreneurship policy are also identified in the OECD-EU [Better Entrepreneurship Policy Tool](#), which is an interactive tool for policy makers and other stakeholders.

#### Box 4. Insights from policymakers on designing and delivering youth entrepreneurship policy

Across the three workshops, policy makers shared various approaches to designing and implementing youth entrepreneurship policy – **Belgium-Wallonia** represented by **Frédéric Rasson** (Director of the Social Economy, SPW Economy, Employment and Research), **Bulgaria** represented by **Rumen Donev** (Expert, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy), **Croatia** represented by **Danijela Žagar** (Head Management, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development), **France** represented by **Alain Asquin** (Advisor to the Managing Director of DGESIP and National Co-ordinate of the National Plan for Entrepreneurial Spirit, Ministry of Higher Education and Research), **Italy** represented by **Giuseppe Negro** (Territorial Services Office, Ministry of Enterprises), **Malta** represented by **Nathalie Farrugia** (Chief Officer, Malta Enterprise) and **Spain** represented by **Sara Simón Penas** (Director, Youth Business Spain on behalf of **Guzmán García González-Posada**, Social Economy and Corporate Social Responsibility Technician, Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Economy).

##### Group I

Malta's approach to youth entrepreneurship policy is led by Malta Enterprise and emphasises tailored, accessible support for young entrepreneurs. Initiatives include the long-standing Start-Up Affair, which is an annual start-up festival with a strong youth focus. The festival engages entrepreneurial ecosystem actors and support actors through partnerships, including the University of Malta and the Malta College of Science, Arts and Technology. Additionally, a new national start-up framework is under development, designed to deliver clarity and speed in entrepreneurship support services. Malta also provides personalised guidance for young people, supporting them with ideation as well as throughout the start-up process. At the European level, the European Commission highlighted key policy instruments such as the Youth Guarantee, the Erasmus+ programme for young entrepreneurs, the European Skills Agenda, and additional initiatives connected to the Social Economy Action Plan as well as the green and digital transitions.

Panellists explored how they approach designing policies and programme. For example, European policy design is informed by data from tools such as the OECD-EU Missing Entrepreneurs report series, inclusive entrepreneurship country notes, the Flash Eurobarometer survey, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor alongside academic research and stakeholder consultation. Malta highlighted the importance of consulting stakeholders throughout the design and delivery process. Both Malta and the European Commission expressed shared objectives – to promote youth employment and entrepreneurial mindsets, improve access to finance, and foster inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems that address social exclusion and long-term structural challenges.

##### Group II

Belgium (Wallonia) discussed many different initiatives that have focused on supporting youth entrepreneurs, particularly within the social economy. One of the primary policies is the Alternativ'ES strategy. The pilot programme Génération Entreprendre (Entrepreneurial Generation) by WE and the incubator iES! has reached more than 4 000 young people through activities offered in high schools and universities. These include enterprise simulations and innovation camps. These support programmes aim to foster real-world application allowing students to develop practical solutions to real challenges. The initiative also includes measures to support teachings, including training on how to promote social entrepreneurship among younger generations. Wallonia is also working the European Commission and other countries (Croatia, France, Greece, Portugal) to design and deliver a new regional strategy for the social economy. This approach highlights the mutual benefits for youth entrepreneurs and young social entrepreneurs.



Bulgaria outlined the implementation of a major initiative – Promoting Entrepreneurship in Northern Bulgaria”, which targets under-served regions and population groups. Financial support includes grants up to EUR 25 600 (BGN 50 000) for new businesses led by unemployed and/or inactive people between the ages of 16 and 65 years old. Additionally, entrepreneurship support centres are being established to offer consulting, capacity-building support, and entrepreneurship training (i.e. business plan development support). Moreover, the support measures also offer incentives for start-up financing, social security support and covering external consulting costs if needed. In 2024, 130 people started businesses or became self-employed with state-backed support among whom 124 signed a contract for the payment of additional monthly amounts for paid social security contributions. Other support measures that young people can benefit from include a network of regional centres, particularly for the social economy. These programmes are funded through the national budget and the Unemployment Fund, ensuring comprehensive and sustained support for (potential) young entrepreneurs.

Spain shared that while there is no national strategy for youth entrepreneurship, regional initiatives align with overarching frameworks, including Spain Entrepreneurial Nation and the Social Economy Strategy 2023-27. The main objectives have been to reduce youth unemployment, promote entrepreneurship through education and training, and strengthen links between training institutions and business. Challenges include fragmented efforts, lack of comprehensive support throughout the entrepreneurial journey, shallow training that focuses on ideation and pre-incubation, limited access to finance, and a lack of methodological diversity in support (e.g. hands-on learning). A policy that has been successful is the Youth Guarantee Plus Plan and multi-stakeholder involvement, particularly with marginalised population groups. Spain has proposed a national policy framework with long-term vision and stable, consistent resources, legal recognition of support organisations, and integrated programmes that combine training, mentoring and financing. Overall, one of the key messages from Spain was that training entrepreneurial skills is not sufficient to effectively support young people in pursuing entrepreneurship. Rather, youth need a complete, supportive ecosystem where public policy helps to bridge the entrepreneurial intention of youth with action.

### **Group III**

France’s national policy aims to develop students’ entrepreneurial competencies through project-based learning and places a strong emphasis on addressing social, economic and environmental challenges. One successful policy that has been designed and delivered is a dedicated legal status for student entrepreneurs. This status provides young people with formal recognition like the status given to high-level athletes. Youth student entrepreneurs are supported throughout France through a network of innovative support hubs – PEPITE – which include 32 hubs and 77 operational, support teams. Since its implementation, there has been significant growth with more than 6 700 youth student entrepreneurs benefitting from the programme annually. There has also been a notable increase in young women’s participation from 20% to 36%. However, there is still room for improvement with additional policy actions in place to foster more women’s involvement in entrepreneurship more broadly. Croatia shared its multi-level strategy that focuses on early-stage entrepreneurial education and ecosystem building, ranging from co-operatives in primary schools and entrepreneurship training programmes in secondary schools to student-dedicated incubators at the university level. These policy actions are backed by the European Regional Development Fund until 2027. Italy emphasised the importance of fostering entrepreneurship and innovation through tech transfers. Policy support for these objectives include the creation of 13 specialised centres that guide students through the entrepreneurial journey, particularly in the technological and scientific fields.

All three countries highlighted the importance of reducing barriers for young people and shifting social perceptions, especially the fear of failure and the perceived risks of entrepreneurship. Panellists highlighted common challenges including fragmented data and limited evaluation tools. France, for example, has introduced skills assessments at the beginning and end of support programmes and has implemented other monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress and impact of implemented policy measures. Croatia and Italy stressed the need for more structured monitoring and evaluation, particularly data collection. Despite different approaches, panellists shared policy objectives that aimed to achieved similar results – equipping young people with the skills and knowledge needed to start a business, designing and delivering support to young people, and fostering entrepreneurial spirit by shifting societal views of entrepreneurship to show entrepreneurship as a viable and meaningful career path.

### ***Tailoring policy to the needs of youth***

One of the most important considerations for designing policy is the extent to which it should be tailored to the needs of a specific group. Evaluation evidence consistently highlights the benefits of using a tailored approach. However, policy makers must weigh the potential benefits of a tailored approach against a wide range of factors as well as consider the increased costs of designing and delivering support.

When designing youth entrepreneurship policy, the first step is to determine the need for government intervention. Policy makers should also consider similar support offers that are provided by private or non-government actors and whether the new youth entrepreneurship policy would fill a gap or duplicate existing supports (Box 5). *Ex ante* evaluation is a useful tool to assess the need for action and whether the new policy will be coherent with current policy objectives and other entrepreneurship support.

## Box 5. Youth entrepreneurship policy design and delivery

### Key points by Leonie Baldacchino, Malta

Despite youth being among the best served under-represented population groups in the labour market, take-up rates for entrepreneurship programmes have been decreasing and often remain low across different initiatives. This is possible due to a mismatch of offerings and the needs of young people, duplication of entrepreneurship support schemes or an oversaturation of support. To address issues in take-up rates, it is important to start with effectively designing youth entrepreneurship policy, beginning by understanding who young people are today, their needs and finding various approaches to bridge the generation gap. Streamlining youth entrepreneurship initiatives can help to minimise duplication, reduce inefficiencies in existing support schemes and address mismatches between offerings and young people's interests and needs.

While designing policy, policy makers must keep in mind that youth are a vastly heterogeneous and intersectional group of potential entrepreneurs. Youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes should include both a basic component that can be administered to various cohorts in addition to offering more personalised elements to address unique needs of young people and the different challenges they face. Both elements are needed and often it is important to start with building basic business skills, including financial and digital literacy before offering individualised entrepreneurial support. The packaging of comprehensive support measures is an important step of designing youth entrepreneurship policy.

Policy has evolved beyond a narrow focus of hard business skills and financial instruments to also include soft skills and broader forms of support. A next step in supporting youth entrepreneurs is to consider personal well-being, which remains a low priority despite research highlighting it as a major challenge faced by young people today. Future policy can be designed to include wellbeing measures and values from the outset.

### ***Selecting appropriate formats and delivery mechanisms***

Once the need for a new policy is confirmed, it is important to assess the available options for offering support. This includes considering who should be supported by the policy (i.e. specific target groups such as students, young people in higher education, NEETs, young adults). Other important considerations for policy makers include the size of the target group, the scale of demand, the availability of resources and potential formats and delivery mechanisms.

Setting objectives for the policy is another crucial step in the design phase. Objectives can be to increase entrepreneurial motivation, increase the number of young people who start businesses, increase the survival rates of youth-led businesses or improve scale-up potential of youth-led businesses. For example, many youth entrepreneurship policies aim to foster innovation, which could result in targeted policies for higher education graduates, who may have greater potential to go on to create innovative, high-growth businesses. Alternatively, youth entrepreneurship policy can also aim to improve labour market attachment by offering unemployment another option for being active in the labour market. Each policy is important and needed, but the design of the policies would be different. However, it is important that policy does not “pick winners” because it is very difficult to predict the sustainability and the impact that any youth-led start-up or business will have.

The implementation of youth entrepreneurship policy is as important as the design phase when considering policy effectiveness. Policy makers must consider the way that the entrepreneurship support is delivered, including potential formats (e.g. stand-alone vs. integrated, in-person vs. online, one-to-one vs. one-to-many). Governments currently use a range of different youth entrepreneurship policy instruments that can be broadly categorised into two groups: financial support and non-financial support. However, it is also common for governments to provide both financial and non-financial supports together in integrated support packages. The design choice to offer integrated packages has many benefits as the multiple supports reinforce each other and better address the multitude of barriers that young entrepreneurs face (OECD/European Commission, 2023a).

There has been a general shift to more interactive formats that provide hands-on, experimental learning (e.g. role playing, simulation, games, short-term business start-ups) compared to the traditional classroom teaching style (OECD/European Commission, 2023b). By taking more experimental approaches, youth entrepreneurship policy can be more attractive to participants and offer realistic entrepreneurial experiences, notably for young people who often have limited experience in the business world. The format of the support can vary in effectiveness for different target groups, so it is important to consider the needs and preferences of young people when designing support.

### ***Engaging youth entrepreneurs, networks and other stakeholders in policy design and implementation***

One of the key success factors for policy delivery is involving youth entrepreneurs, networks and other stakeholders in the design and delivery of youth entrepreneurship policy. This is an effective way to ensure that the support will be appropriate for young entrepreneurs. It helps to build trust among the community and can lead to higher take-up rates among the target group. Policy makers have various approaches to engaging non-public actors in the design phase, notably collecting feedback on proposed actions through a consultation process. Another way is to involve young entrepreneurs in the management and delivery of schemes. For example, young entrepreneurs can be represented among those who are delivering the policy (e.g. the trainers or

advisors) as they have firsthand knowledge and experience that someone who is not a young entrepreneurs would not have. Policies that engage with young people or other actors in the youth entrepreneurship area show that governments are serious about engaging with the target groups, addressing their unique needs and providing a mechanism through which needs and concerns can be addressed.

Effective delivery of youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes often relies on building new supports into existing structures and engaging existing support actors who have experience working with young people and delivering support. By leveraging existing ecosystem support actors, including non-public actors, the outreach of the programme can be expanded and facilitate greater uptake. It also helps young entrepreneurs to build linkages with the greater business community. A commonly used policy delivery method is to implement youth entrepreneurship policy in partnership with a delivery agency, youth entrepreneurship organisation or another partner who has a strong history of working closely with young entrepreneurs (Box 6). This approach helps to ensure that the policy is relevant (i.e. well-tailored to address the needs of youth entrepreneurs) and the delivery format is appropriate (i.e. well adapted to young people). Policy makers should provide the delivery partner with adequate resources to ensure effective policy implementation. By investing resources in non-core activities, policy makers can help to ensure successful implementation. This includes investing in awareness raising activities among youth entrepreneurs as well as other entrepreneurial ecosystem actors who could engage in the support. This is especially important for youth as they may not be aware of support or where to look for available support. Successful implementation also relies on allocating sufficient resources to administrative tasks, particularly for support that involves screening and/or funding as it can create a burden on applicants as well as programme staff which can lead to low take-up or difficulties in delivering the programme (OECD, 2020). It is also important to provide training and capacity-building opportunities to delivery staff to ensure that support is effectively rolled out to young people. This is particularly important when support involves the use of new tools or platforms that staff may not have experience working with.

#### **Box 6. Engaging the start-up ecosystem in policy action, Fernando Jardim (351 Portuguese Start-Up Association, Portugal)**

[351 Portuguese Start-Up Association](#) is an inclusive entrepreneurship community in Portugal, comprised of entrepreneurs, start-ups, enterprises, investors and other entrepreneurial ecosystem actors. In 2024, there were more than 2 300 members offering over 160 initiatives and events. This includes projects focused on community building, enabling the entrepreneurial ecosystem, capacity-building activities, and entrepreneurship support for ideation, creation and scale-up.

The association plays an active role in shaping entrepreneurship policy, including for young entrepreneurs, from the ground up. The association engages directly with public institutions to drive grassroot innovations and push for policy action, which highlights how policy makers can build linkages with existing support actors and leverage their connections within the greater entrepreneurial ecosystem when designing and delivering policy. A recent successful initiative was the Portugal Tech Weekends, which occurred between October 2024 and April 2025. In total, there were more than 300 events in 20 different cities across five different regions. Moreover, the Association has also helped to develop 50 initiatives in Portugal since its creation in 2019. The association was recognised for its impact in supporting the development of entrepreneurship in Portugal with the European Enterprise Promotion Award for Promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship in 2024.

#### **Establishing ongoing monitoring and evaluation measures**

Evaluation is the foundation of evidence-based policy and is a critical component of effective policy design and delivery (OECD/European Commission, 2023a). The OECD Framework for Evaluation of SME and Entrepreneurship Policies and Programmes (2023) uses the definition of evaluation as it was defined by Papaconstantinou and Polt (1997):

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*Evaluation refers to a process that seeks to determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of an activity in terms of its objectives, including the analysis of the implementation and administrative management of such activity.*

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Evaluation should not be a one-off activity rather it should be continuous and integrated into various policy stages, including the design phase, implementation phase and post-delivery phase (i.e. when determining if the policy/programme has been effective and when programmes with similar objectives have already been implemented are under consideration in the future).

To determine a policy or programme's success, it is crucial that relevant targets and objectives with measurable outcomes are defined during the design phase. This allows the policy's impact to be measured against its objectives helping to determine if it has been successful (Box 7). Monitoring and evaluation also help to identify potential areas for improvement as well as issues that have arisen during the implementation phase. These insights contribute to the continuous improvement in the design and delivery of

not only the current policies and programmes but also future youth entrepreneurship policies. Policy and programme evaluations can also demonstrate the effective use of public funds to taxpayers.

## Box 7. Evaluating youth entrepreneurship programmes

### Key points by Petra Edina Reszkető, Hungary

Evaluation plays a critical role in the design and delivery of youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes. It serves to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes. First, it ensures accountability by proving funds were used as planned. This is usually done through the monitoring of inputs, outputs, outcomes and the performance of the target group. Second, it assesses whether the approach used is adequate and effective. This is often achieved by using frameworks such as intervention logic (i.e. Theory of Change), meaning the impact is calculated as the difference in outcomes of participants and a control group using administrative data or survey data on participants. Third, evaluation helps to identify opportunities for improvement by testing different variations of an intervention (e.g. A/B Testing) and applying causal impact evaluation methods. Lastly, it can be used to estimate the potential long-term and wider social impact of the policy or programme, including the social return on investment. This helps to build the case for continued or scaled policy action.

While there are many evaluation approaches, the presentation focused on one specifically – the Randomised Control Trial (RCT). RCTs are considered the golden standard of evaluation and the most reliable method of evaluation. However, they are among the costliest. The randomisation ensures that the composition of the intervention (beneficiaries) and the control group is the same, which is achieved through random selection of beneficiaries as well as through quasi-experimental and/or statistical methods. There are challenges associated with RCTs, including difficulties in finding a suitable control group due to the design of the policy/programme, ethical concerns concerning randomisation (i.e. who benefits from the policy/programme), monetary and time costs associated with data collection and evaluation measures, and the lack of analytical capacity.

Policy evaluation relies on the accurate selection of metrics to measure the multiple policy objectives. For example, youth entrepreneurship policy often aims to increase motivation towards entrepreneurship among young people at the same time as facilitating entrepreneurship skills acquisition by young people. Other objectives may include supporting business creation among youth or improving performance of youth-led businesses. All these objectives could be a goal for a particular youth entrepreneurship policy and require a policy assessment that consists of different metrics to understand the impact and effectiveness of the policy intervention for all its goals. Some examples of common youth entrepreneurship policy objectives and corresponding evaluation metrics are provided in the [Table 1](#).

**Table 2. Examples of youth entrepreneurship policy objectives and evaluations**

Policy Objectives	Potential Evaluation Metrics	Example of evaluation	Overall impact
To improve business creation and survival	Businesses created, firm survival	Yes I Start Up (YISU) and SELFIEmployment (Italy)	Mixed
		Flat rate for young self-employed workers (Spain)	Mixed
To develop entrepreneurial motivations among youth	Entrepreneurial intention, perceived desirability and feasibility of entrepreneurship, business knowledge, acquisition of soft skills	The Prince's Trust – Business Programme (United Kingdom)	Mixed
To create strongly performing businesses	Income earned, turnover profits, productivity, number of jobs created	<i>CréaJeunes</i> (France)	Mixed
		Doing Business - <i>Fare impresa</i> (Italy)	Mixed
To improve labour market activity	Employment secured, quality of job obtained, income in new job	<i>Jóvenes Rurales Emprendedores</i> - Young Rural Entrepreneurs (Colombia)	Positive

Note: *Positive* when the findings are either exclusively positive or there is a strong balance of positive outcomes. *Mixed* when findings are strongly balanced between positive, negative and/or no significant effect.

Source: (OECD/European Commission, 2023a)



It is important that policy objectives are not broad or vague such as “make the country more entrepreneurial”, as this allows objectives to be interpreted in different ways and makes it difficult to define specific metrics in which to measure the objective (OECD, 2023). Clear and measurable objectives should be defined prior to the policy being announced. This provides a basis on being able to determine the policies effectiveness after its implementation. Furthermore, the evaluation process should also be integrated into the delivery phase through collecting and reviewing monitoring data over the course of the policy’s implementation. These data include the characteristics of individuals benefiting from the policies, which can also include feedback from participants as well as from those engaged in the delivery process. While monitoring information can help to ensure that a policy or programme is being delivered to the intended recipients in an efficient manner, these data are important for the impact evaluation of the policy as they help to establish control and treatment groups (see [Box 88](#)) for more discussion on the importance of establishing counterfactuals).

### Box 8. Six Steps to Heaven

The Six Steps to Heaven is an OECD evaluation guidance tool that categorises SME and entrepreneurship policy evaluations into six step levels based on their degree of sophistication and rigour. Steps I-III are categorised as “monitoring”, while Steps IV-VI are categorised as “evaluation”:

- **Step I:** Take up of a programme
- **Step II:** Recipients opinions
- **Step III:** Recipients’ views of the difference made by the assistance (i.e. the entrepreneurship policy support)
- **Step IV:** Comparison of the performance of “assisted” with “typical” firms or entrepreneurs (i.e. average firms or entrepreneurs that did not receive support)
- **Step V:** Comparison with “matched” firms or entrepreneurs (i.e. firms or entrepreneurs that match with those that did receive support on observable characteristics such as sector, age, employment size etc.)
- **Step VI:** Taking account of selection bias through statistical procedures or use of Randomised Control Trials (RCTs)

Evaluations (Step IV-VI) provide more robust impact estimates as participants and non-participants are compared in order to obtain “counterfactuals”. Counterfactuals are crucial in evaluations as they allow us to estimate unbiased causal effects. As it is not always possible to conduct evaluations in experimental settings where individuals are randomly assigned into treatment and control groups, statistical procedures could be adopted to produce counterfactuals, such as difference-in-differences (DiD) approach, propensity score matching (PSM) and regression discontinuity design (RDD).

Source: Further information on the guidance and techniques is provided in the [OECD Framework for the Evaluation of SME and Entrepreneurship Policies and Programmes 2023](#).

One example of a Step VI evaluation of a youth entrepreneurship programme is the evaluation of the Young Rural Entrepreneurs programme (*Jóvenes Rurales Emprendedores*) in Colombia ([Box 89](#)). The evaluation found several positive outcomes related to entrepreneurship, including for both entrepreneurship and employment outcomes. The business training programme was offered by the National Training Service (*Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje*, SENA) with the aim to address unemployment and under-employment among low-income youth (16-25 years old), notably by strengthening their entrepreneurship capacity.

### Box 9. Evaluation of the Young Rural Entrepreneurs (*Jóvenes Rurales Emprendedores*), Colombia

#### Performance metrics

- Labour market variables (i.e. income, employability, working hours, perceived quality of work)
- Entrepreneurial capacity (i.e. willingness to start a business, access to financing, hiring of personnel, business knowledge)
- Management capacity and associativity

#### Data sources and sample size

The evaluation used survey data (pre- and post-test) with the baseline survey being administered once the programme started but before 35% of the programme has been completed. The follow-up survey was administered about 9 months later. The sample size was 1 016 people (468 in intervention group and 548 in control group). Slightly over half of those surveyed were women (52%). The control group consisted of individuals who met the requirements to access the programme but did not apply.

#### Key findings

The results of the evaluation show that participation significantly contributed to probability of being employed, hourly labour income, steps taken to start a business, probability of hiring personnel, access to business customers, business knowledge, social network, relationship with workers, suppliers and partners. However, the evaluation did not find significant effects related to participation on employment quality, access to financing, use of accounting and relationship with clients.

Source: For more information on this programme evaluation as well as the effectiveness of youth entrepreneurship policies and findings from recent evaluations of youth entrepreneurship policies, please see [The Missing Entrepreneurs 2023](#).

While evaluations of youth entrepreneurship policies show that there are no guarantees for success, key lessons can be drawn. Training schemes appear to have a greater impact on entrepreneurial attitudes than on business creation. Evaluation evidence suggest financial support is a critical element of youth entrepreneurship policy and that the success of the policy hinges on the type of instruments used to deliver the support scheme. While loans and social security relief appear to be effective for boosting business creation, these types of financial support do not seem to increase firm survival. The use of repayable financial instruments seems to be more effective than grants for improving business creation as these types of policies appear to provide the right incentives for young entrepreneurs to succeed. Evidence also suggests that entrepreneurship training schemes appear to have a greater impact on entrepreneurial attitudes than on business creation when delivered alone. However, when entrepreneurship training and/or coaching is offered in an integrated package with financing, evidence suggests that young entrepreneurs are most likely to create a sustainable business creation as well as stronger employment outcomes when youth-led start-ups are not successful.

## Questions for discussion

- What are the different policy approaches being used to support young people in pursuing entrepreneurship?
- What are common policy challenges and/or failures that should be avoided when designing and delivering new youth entrepreneurship policy?
- What are key success factors for youth entrepreneurship policy?
- What are good principles and examples of youth entrepreneurship policy?

## Key takeaway messages

- Entrepreneurship policy covers a wide range of interventions each with different objectives, particularly for policy tailored to young people. Policy should seek support a wide range of youth entrepreneurs but focus resources on entrepreneurial activities with potential for growth rather than focusing exclusively on specific sectors or places as productive entrepreneurship is not restricted to high-tech sectors and entrepreneurial hubs.
- Policy interventions that combine several types of support are typically more effective as barriers to entrepreneurship are often multi-faceted and require comprehensive packages. Policy makers should work to foster linkages between different programmes and across support organisations in the entrepreneurial ecosystems at national, regional and local level, as the support needed by youth entrepreneurs changes as they progress from idea, start-up, early-growth and scale-up.
- Policy should be adapted to context to be efficient, including considering structural conditions and sensitivity to new economic developments transforming entrepreneurship and policy delivery, such as digitalisation.
- Monitoring and evaluation should be built into policy and programmes from the start with proportionate but adequate resources allocated. Mechanisms to incorporate results into programme revision and future policy developments should be included. It is important to remember that many of the impacts of entrepreneurship policies tend to occur over long timelines. Therefore, the potential impacts of the policy and the judgements on whether policy is effective or not need to be made after allowing sufficient time for the policy to have an effect.
- Effective delivery of youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes often relies on building new supports into existing structures and engaging existing support actors who have experience working with young people and delivering support. By leveraging existing ecosystem support actors, including non-public actors, the outreach of the programme can be expanded and facilitate greater uptake. It also helps young entrepreneurs to build linkages with the greater business community.
- Policy makers should provide the delivery partner with adequate resources to ensure effective policy implementation. By investing resources in non-core activities, policy makers can help to ensure successful implementation. This includes investing in awareness raising activities among youth entrepreneurs as well as other entrepreneurial ecosystem actors who could engage in the support. This is especially important for youth as they may not be aware of support or where to look for available support.
- Evaluation should not be a one-off activity rather it should be continuous and integrated into various policy stages, including the design phase, implementation phase and post-delivery phase. Clear and measurable objectives should be defined prior to the policy being announced. It is important that policy objectives are not broad or vague, allowing them to be interpreted in different ways and makes it difficult to define specific metrics in which to measure them.

## Further reading

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## About the OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy

The OECD-EU Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy (YEPA) is a peer-learning network that seeks to strengthen youth entrepreneurship policies in the European Union (EU). This new initiative aims to strengthen youth entrepreneurship policies and programmes by raising knowledge about the barriers faced by young people in entrepreneurship and facilitating exchanges between policy makers, experts and young entrepreneurs on “what works” in youth entrepreneurship policy. This new initiative builds on an existing collaboration on inclusive entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship undertaken by the European Commission and the OECD, which includes the award-winning report series *The Missing Entrepreneurs*.

## 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](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](https://social-economy-gateway.ec.europa.eu/index_en)