

Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Europe:

Creating Sustainable Employment and Growth



Tuesday 24th September 2015

Hotel NH Brussels Carrefour de
l'Europe



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Overview

Finding a sustainable way of creating jobs and growth represents a priority in today's European economic eco-system, given the extended period of crisis. According to the European Commission, 85% of the new jobs created during the last five years are due to small and medium sized businesses. What's more, they represent 99% of EU enterprises and therefore play a pivotal role in the transition towards growth, competitiveness and development. A significant role in this process is played by entrepreneurs, as they are the ones behind these businesses.

Becoming a successful entrepreneur and having a prosperous business entails acquiring the right skills, either through formal education or informal learning. In this regard, there is a need to foster an entrepreneurial spirit at an early stage by introducing access to these skills in the school curriculum as well as by helping educators become facilitators of entrepreneurial aptitudes.

Specific groups such as young people, women and migrants should particularly be encouraged in their entrepreneurial journey. Youth unemployment currently rates at 23.2% and fostering young entrepreneurs could help reduce this figure as well as ensure sustainable growth. Furthermore, women are considered as one of the biggest sources of potential growth and new jobs in the European Union. They represent 52% of the population of Europe but only account for 34.4% of those self-employed in Europe. Last but not least, migrants also represent an important pool of potential entrepreneurs as they are often more likely to start businesses compared to natives. However, migrants must frequently face numerous difficulties such as legal, structural and cultural barriers which significantly diminish their chances of success.

Another budding creator of jobs and innovations is represented by web businesses, as they account for 30% of new start-ups at the moment. Digital Start-ups and tech-entrepreneurs have a substantial potential to increase economic growth. In this sense, measures should be taken to help entrepreneurs develop their start-ups and have access to the latest digital products and services.

This International Symposium aims to examine current entrepreneurship practices across Europe. It sets out to monitor the impact of partnership working, exchange best practice at local, national and international levels and ensure that current measures are both inclusive and transposable on a supranational level. The symposium also seeks to integrate European knowledge in order to help shape sustainable EU-wide inclusive entrepreneurship strategies.

The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate with local and regional practitioners and policymakers at EU level.

The development of small and medium enterprises (SME) has a crucial role to play in creating growth and job opportunities. By supporting an enabling environment to invest, by providing business development services at regional level and by addressing some of the obstacles to SME development such as access to finance, the EU is contributing to economic recovery, in particular in the regions most affected by the need to integrate internally displaced persons."

- Johannes Hahn,
European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Commissioner
April 2015

Venue and Accommodation

Hotel NH Brussels Carrefour de l'Europe,
Rue Marche aux Herbes, 110
B-1000
Brussels



Why Attend?

- ✓ **Explore EU initiatives and developments to promote entrepreneurship in Europe**
- ✓ **Discuss and support solutions to introduce entrepreneurship into Education Systems**
- ✓ **Explore the potential of women and migrant entrepreneurship**
- ✓ **Assess entrepreneurship practices and stimulate partnership working at all levels**

✓ Who Should Attend?

- Small Business Federations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Social Funds
- Gender Equality Councils
- Local Authorities
- Training Managers
- Recruitment Advisers
- Organisational Development Professionals
- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners
- Equal Opportunity Ombudsman
- Women's Associations
- Women's Enterprise Agencies
- Institutes for Occupational Health
- Child Care Service Agencies
- Associations for Education and Development of Women
- Institutes for Training and Employment
- Institutes for Social Inclusion of Women
- Women's Centres
- Anti-Discrimination Agencies
- Research Centres for Gender Equalities
- Academics and Universities
- National Agencies on Gender Equality
- Women's Networks
- Trade Unions
- Employers' Associations
- Equal Opportunity Agencies
- Women's Lobbyist Groups
- Women's Councils
- Women's NGOs Networks
- International and Regional Organisations
- National Ministries and Institutes
- Confederations of Women's Organisations
- Joint Committees on Women
- National Coordinators on Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities
- Social Exclusion Officers
- Judges and Lawyers
- Human Rights Groups
- Disability Forums and Associations
- Confederations of Independent Unions

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
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- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
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- 10:10** **The Current Landscape for Entrepreneurship at EU Level**
- Following Up on the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan
 - Assessing the Importance of Entrepreneurs and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
 - Future Recommendations for Policy Action
-
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
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- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
-
- 11:30** **Working towards Successful Entrepreneurship: Promoting Access to the Right Skills-set at an Early Stage**
- Incorporating Entrepreneurship into Education Systems
 - Exploring the Role of Educators: Presenting the Perspective Project
 - Enhancing Entrepreneurial Skills through Informal Learning
 - Increasing the Attractiveness of Entrepreneurship among Young People
-
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
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- 12:30** Networking Lunch
-
- 13:30** **Realising the Potential of Minority Groups: Women and Migrant Entrepreneurs**
- Empowering Female Entrepreneurs: Tackling Ingrained Gender Bias
 - Successful Women in Business: The Importance of Role Models
 - Combating Preconceptions about Migrant Entrepreneurs
 - Future Recommendations
-
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
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- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
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- 14:50** **Endorsing Web Entrepreneurship in Europe: Current Developments and Ways Forward**
- Fostering an Entrepreneurial Culture to Attract Digital Start-ups in Europe
 - Providing Tailored Support Measures for Web Businesses
 - Supporting Tech- entrepreneurs: Current Projects
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- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
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- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
-
- 16:00** Networking Reception
-
- 16:30** Close
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** Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice*

Event Details

- Date:** Tuesday 24th September 2015
- Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm
- Venue:** Hotel NH Brussels Carrefour de l'Europe



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