

Entrepreneurial skills for a modern education in Albania - EntrAL

Project proposal

ERASMUS+ - Key Action 2 - Capacity Building in the field of higher education

Céline Kylänpää, Vesa Hautala & Mikko Grönlund

University of Turku, Finland (coordinator)

General objective

The general objective of the project is to increase the entrepreneurial mindset in Albanian Education Institutions (HEIs and schools) to support graduates skills matching the requirements of the working life and the modern society. For this reason the project aims at bringing an entrepreneurial mindset at the university and school levels encouraging entrepreneurial teaching methods, and nurture entrepreneurial behaviour from the students and to support the creation of students' start-up. Teachers are supported by the university structure and mechanisms (LLL, activities for staff); students get from their teachers better support and advice in term of entrepreneurship and skills related to entrepreneurial attitude, supporting their employability after graduation.

Specific objectives

1. Implementing entrepreneurship to the existing U3M-AL and TEAVET centers teacher qualification process lifelong and Third Mission according to the needs of the teachers
2. Utilising the established specialized centers of teacher training in accordance with the needs of MoES to increase entrepreneurial mindset at national level through accredited teacher training in entrepreneurship
3. Increasing the entrepreneurial mindset at institutional level through teacher training and entrepreneurship camp
4. Establishing new expertise and standard of teacher training in entrepreneurship in Albanian universities and schools through organizing seminars in Albanian universities and training visits to European universities
5. Developing a training course to teachers and a camp to students using scientific methodologies, pedagogical issues, ethics and ICT use in learning
6. Applying for credits in one training course with 2 credits and discover the equipment to support the training and course process
7. Developing digital structures (video projectors, tablets, maintenance of existing equipment, etc.) in Albanian universities that support entrepreneurial activities for teacher qualification and their lifelong learning and students abilities

Activities and Target groups

Direct target group: university teachers, university students
Targeting both U3M-AL and TEAVET Centers

Indirect: school teachers, university staff

- Surveys and studies on entrepreneurial activities for teachers and students (actual situation and needs)

Target group: teachers of HEIs, academic staff, experts from ministry of education, enrolled students, alumni students, businesses from leading sectors (energy, mining, metallurgy, agriculture and tourism), entrepreneurs, regional organisations

- Policy studies and expert advice on methods and ways to improve the entrepreneurial mindset to create new European standards

Target group: experts from ministry of education, academic staff, experts from economic organisations

- Establishing work groups through trainings, workshops, round tables in each university in order to develop human resources for instructors training courses for staff and students. The trainings are targeted to university staff and will cover three levels: basics of entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial university and start-up creation

Target group: experts from EU universities, from Albanian ministry of education, academic staff

- Organizing visits of trainings in European universities in order to know possible activities related to entrepreneurial activities, entrepreneurial mindset and entrepreneurial pedagogy in European universities.

Target group: experts from European universities and Albanian ministry of education, Albanian academic staff

- Organizing in Albanian universities staff training courses on entrepreneurship according to the current needs of university education system. These courses will be focused on these areas:
 - a. Knowing Scientific subjects' methodologies of learning
 - b. Developing Pedagogical and psychological teacher competencies in the learning process
 - c. Developing Ethic and communication skills for teachers
 - d. Developing teacher competencies of Integrating ICT in the learning Process

Target group: experts from European universities, experts from ministry of education, academic staff

- Integrating to the already established Centre of teacher qualification and University Third Mission Center the special equipment needed in the Albanian universities that will enable the development of the courses and to prepare materials and programs for them, and all the documentation included in this process. Each university has already running and equipped centers to some extent. The equipment need will be adapted based on the existing equipment and requirements to implement entrepreneurial activities. Focus will be put towards maintenance of the existing equipment

Target group: experts, academic staff

- Preparing the application for a number of teacher credits for a new course to the Ministry of education and sports

Target group: experts, academic staff

- Processing the information of courses' quality through surveys and interview.

Target group: academic staff.

- Dissemination of project results through the organization of a national conference in one of Albanian universities with stakeholders of project.

Target group: experts from ministry of education, academic staff, EU experts, managers and coordinators of the project.

The project activity plan to be carried out is the following:

WP1. Need analysis on entrepreneurial activities for school teachers, university teachers and university students

D.1.1. Need analysis: universities, VET and education system

D.1.2. Towards an entrepreneurial mindset - seminar in Shkodra (5 partners/uni., 2 days visit)

D.1.3. Need analysis final report

WP2. Training the trainers of Albanian universities (DIT)

D.2.1 Preparation of the 36 hours innovation camp (UTU)

D.2.2 Innovation camp in Turku (6 partners/uni., 3 days visit)

D.2.3 Preparation of university teacher training

D.2.4 Training Workshop in Dublin (6 partners/uni., 3 days visit)

WP3. Designing of training courses and integration to the TEAVET and U3M-AL Centres (ULE)

D.3.1. Designing the entrepreneurship courses to school teachers, university teachers and university students meeting in Leon (5 partners/uni., 2 days visit)

3.1.1 objective, ILOs

3.1.2 target groups, stakeholders' involvement

3.1.3 tools/methods, assessment

D.3.2. Integration of the entrepreneurship courses to the existing TEAVET and U3M-AL Centres in Albanian universities

3.2.1 equipment purchase

3.2.2. accreditation of module for school teachers and recognition of extra curricular activities (Open Badges ?)

D.3.3 Creation of the Albanian Entrepreneurial Network (AEN)

WP4. Entrepreneurship Pilot modules to school teachers, university teachers and university students (AL)

D.4.1. Pilot course to school teachers

D.4.2. Pilot courses to university teachers

D.4.3. Pilot course to students

D.4.4 Implementation of courses

WP5. Evaluation of the project

D.5.1. Evaluation reports

D.5.2. Impact report and audit report

D.5.3. Evaluation of project activities

D.5.4. Final project report: outcomes, conclusions and recommendations

WP6. Towards an integrated entrepreneurial mindset – Dissemination (AL)

D.6.1 International conference Tirana (5 partners/uni., 2 days)

D.6.2 Publication

D.6.3 Website

WP7. Project management and committee

D.7.1. Partner Committee work plan

D.7.2. Financial management

D.7.3. Coordination of project activities

Description of WPs:

WP1. Need analysis on entrepreneurial activities for teachers and students

This first work package prepares the set-up for upcoming activities. As preparatory activities, each Albanian university will research the current situation on entrepreneurial mindset at their own institution as well as at schools, using a reporting template provided by the University of Turku, named as entrepreneurial university (D.1.1). The analysis is based on both desk work (available material and existing best practices) and interviews/group discussion with teachers, university staff and students to understand the current needs. The analysis will last for 2,5 months.

Results will then be presented in a seminar taking place in Shkodra, Albania (D.1.2). European universities will present good case practices from their university to stimulate entrepreneurialism (courses, extracurricular activities, trainings, events, projects). The Ministry of Education and Sport will present the national strategy in term of entrepreneurialism. At the end of the presentation sessions, a panel discussion will be organised to discuss the findings and orientation to take within the projects.

The report (D.1.3) will be finalised, collecting the need analysis of each Albanian university, good case practices and Albanian national strategy to open to the outcomes of the panel discussions. This final report will be used as the project strategy and results at the end of the projects will be evaluated against this report.

Timeline: October 2020 – March 2021

D.1.1 Oct. 2020 – Jan. 2021

D.1.2 End of Jan. 2021 in Shkodra, Albania

D.1.3 Feb. – March 2021

WP leader: UTU

Outcomes: analysis reports, good practices reports, AL national strategy, agenda for seminar, final report, feedback forms

WP2. Training the trainers of Albanian universities

Under this work package two entrepreneurial sets of activities are organised: the entrepreneurship camp which will later be organised by the university teachers for the students and the teacher trainings which aims at training the future trainers for university and school teachers. After the trainings, participants are better equipped to design the content of the three modules targeted to school teachers, university teachers and students.

During the 36 hours entrepreneurship camp organised at UTU, Finland (D.2.2), participants develop business ideas in multidisciplinary teams. Participants will learn more about entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial mindset; the process of developing a business idea and how to sell it, and how to convey the idea of entrepreneurship both as an individual mindset and as a career alternative to students. The participants are expected to engage and challenge themselves. The camp offers an opportunity to get familiarised with the process of developing ideas. Participants will build new networks with colleagues.

The University of Turku has developed a strategy for entrepreneurial training and entrepreneurship with the goal of reinforcing entrepreneurial attitudes, behavior, and culture across the entire university. The Entrepreneurship Camp is part of the University of Turku's "Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial behavior in university education" staff training. => 6 participants/Albanian partner university for 3 days

After the camp, participants have a better understanding of the requirements to become an entrepreneur and can advise and support their students better. It also gives them another approach on how to develop entrepreneurial skills which are useful also in teaching. Participants are also better equipped to disseminate entrepreneurial mindset at university level (WP6).

During the teacher training (D.2.4), participants will be able to see the relevance of Entrepreneurship in their own subject in general and the opportunities of Entrepreneurship in teaching. They will understand the key concepts of entrepreneurial learning and entrepreneurial teaching methods. They will experience a range of teaching techniques and pedagogies and understand the culture change to entrepreneurial university. The training will be divided into sessions with the following topics: what makes an entrepreneur, how to stimulate entrepreneurial behaviour, entrepreneurial teaching, managing the cultural change at universities. The methods used vary from facilitated group discussions, video clips, debate, interactive lectures, simulation exercises, external presenter. The training will last for 3 days and will be conducted at the Technological University Dublin => 6 participants per Albanian partner university

All project partners are attending the trainings.

Timeline: March 2021 – Nov. 2021

D.2.1 March – June 2021

D.2.2 June 2021 in Turku, Finland (3 days)

D.2.3 May – Nov. 2021

D.2.4 Nov. 2021 in Dublin, Ireland (3 days)

WP leader: DIT

Outcomes: programme for entrepreneurship camp, content of teacher training, feedback forms

WP3. Designing of training courses and integration to the TEAVET and U3M-AL Centres

Under this work package Albanian partners with the support of the team from the University of Leon are planning the content of the entrepreneurship courses to school and university teachers and to university students to be integrated into the existing LLL Center from TEAVET project and U3M-AL Center. The meeting in Leon, Spain (D.3.1) will act as a monitoring visit where Albanian partners can case by case get support to define the course content and get useful insight from the other European partners.

In a first phase the content of the entrepreneurship courses to teachers and students will be defined (D.3.1). Three Albanian universities will be in charge in designing the content of the modules, consulting other Albanian partners. These three universities are: University of Vlora, and **XXX**.

The course to teachers will focus on the content from the teacher training in Dublin and have similar content, adapted to the Albanian context and needs. The course to students will be focusing on the content of the entrepreneurship camp and include entrepreneurial methods to familiarise students with entrepreneurship and start-ups. A joint handbook of the study modules will be developed (including core content, learning objectives and outcomes, competences, delivery methods, materials, assessment methods and recognition of learning).

After the courses' content are defined, the equipment necessary to organise these courses will be purchased, taking into account the equipment already available at the centers. Only complementary equipment will be bought, such as video projectors, white screens, TV screens, iPads, mics and sound system, etc. The equipment will be purchased during autumn 2021. The co-coordinator will assist the coordinator for monitoring the equipment purchase and will take care of the onsite visits to verify that the equipment is conform with the requirements of the European Commission.

The network of entrepreneurship will be created to identify and select the teacher training courses that contribute in relevant level in the new competencies of teaching in high standard. The network guarantees the homogeneity expected by MoES in order to accomplish with a comprehensive VET system for teacher training. The partner Albanian universities will constitute an Albanian Network of entrepreneurship with the interest to be extended to other Albanian universities and to be sustained in the future with the support of MoES.

Timeline: June 2021 – Oct. 2023

D.3.1 June 2021 – Oct. 2022

D.3.2 Feb 2022 – Oct. 2023

D.3.3 Feb 2022 – Oct. 2023

WP leader: ULE

Outcomes: course description, certificate of integration to the LLL centers, ECTS registration, list of equipment

WP4. Entrepreneurship Pilot modules to school teachers, university teachers and university students

During this phase the courses to teachers and students will be implemented under a pilot phase at the three leading Albanian universities (in XXX). Organisers will collect participants' feedback in order to improve and adjust the courses. The three courses (one to school teachers, one to university teachers and one to university students) will be organised once at the three Albanian universities.

The pilot courses are partly based on already existing innovation and entrepreneurship courses in the partnering universities. Partners will review the existing courses and pinpoint the ones suitable to be incorporated to the new modules. They will be implemented at each Albanian partner institution after the course has been marketed and participants have been recruited. The pilot courses (modules) will be organised once at each Albanian partner university.

All Albanian partners will meet at one of the partner university with the coordinator to evaluate the outcomes of the pilot courses and bring recommendations for the implementation phase (D.4.4). During the

implementation phase, the three courses will be implemented at all Albanian partner universities, considering the feedback and analysis of the pilot phase.

During the implementation phase the Albanian institutions with the coordinator and other EU partners will meet to reflect on the experience and bring recommendations for implementation. By the end of the project each Albanian partner organisation has three effective running modules to teachers and students in entrepreneurship. During this same phase the recognition of the course to school teachers will start and will be added to the offering of the LLL Centers at each Albanian partner university. The amount of ECTS will be defined and agreed upon. For the students, the recognition of the course/camp will be discussed and recognised either as ECTS or Open Badges – online recognition of extracurricular skills through virtual badges.

Timeline: June 2021 – Oct. 2023

D.4.1 Feb – Dec. 2022

D.4.2 Feb – Dec. 2022

D.4.3 Feb – Dec. 2022

D.4.4 Dec. 2022 – Oct. 2023

WP leader: University of Vlora, Albania

Outcomes: course description, pilot course teaching material, study module teaching material, certificates

WP5. Evaluation of the project

The main objective of the quality assurance and activities is to ensure both the quality of the project execution and the final output: entrepreneurship study modules for teachers and students.

Quality assurance through control plan for tracking down the executed activities. Each WP leader is in charge of preparing and updating the plan during the lifetime of the project, and to analyse the feedback from the activities organised under his/her WP. Templates are provided by the coordinator and WP leaders to evaluate best the outcomes of the activities for evaluation and improvement.

Gantt chart is one tool utilised to monitor the progress and scheduling of the development activities.

Monitoring activities are undertaken and recorded through monitoring reports including information such as achieved objectives, milestones, outputs, occurred risks or problems.

Timeline: Jan. 2021 – Oct. 2023

D.5.1. Oct. 2020

D.5.2. Sep. 2021

D.5.3. Jan. 2021

D.5.4. Apr. 2023

WP leader: UTU

WP6. Towards an integrated entrepreneurial mindset – Dissemination

Within this WP project results will be disseminated to the target group and stakeholders through publications (D.6.2) and a project website in English and Albanese (D.6.3). Expected results from the project: best practice review on

entrepreneurship in Spain, Ireland and Finland, best practice review of on-going activities at Albanian partner universities, Albanian national strategy on entrepreneurship education, Entrepreneurship camp resources and content including learning and teaching materials, teaching and learning materials, handbook on study modules in entrepreneurship to teacher and students, reports of the results from the pilot courses in all Albanian partner universities, Albanian network of entrepreneurial activities and final project evaluation report (D.5.4). The WP leader is responsible for keep track of relevant dissemination and communication measures, Facebook accounts and supporting country-specific dissemination and communication measures and information and networking events.

A closing seminar (D.6.1) will be organised at the University of Tirana for 2 days to present the project outcomes but also entrepreneurial paths which have emerged during the project lifetime. Finally the seminar will engage discussions on the entrepreneurial cultural change in Europe and in the Balkans. The second day will be for the project consortium to evaluate the project results and sustainability.

Timeline: Oct. 2020 – Oct. 2023

D.6.1 Sept. 2023

D.6.2 Sep. 2022 – Oct. 2023

D.6.3 Oct. 2020 – Oct. 2023

WP leader: University of Vlora

WP7. Project management and committee

Management system such as Grant agreement, Partner agreement, project guide, strategy and sustainability plan, Guidelines for Administrative and Financial management and reporting. Internal progress reporting every other month. Internet based content management system: Google Drive as the platform for sharing and storing project related documentation. All partners have unlimited access to the project documents (material, Minutes, etc.)

Project mailing list for internal communication using Google Groups to send out coordination / WP instructions and general comments on the project's progress. The coordinator (UTU) is responsible for the main communication and all partners respond promptly to emails. WP leaders communicate directly on WP issues to the partners. Skype meetings and face-to-face meetings.

D.7.1. Partner Committee work plan

D.7.2. Financial management

D.7.3. Coordination of project activities

Timeline: Oct. 2020 – Oct. 2023

D.7.1. Jan 2021 – Oct. 2023

D.7.2. Oct. 2020 – Oct. 2023

D.7.3. Oct. 2020 – Oct. 2023

WP leader: UTU

General information

Duration

3 years: October 2020 – October 2023

Budget: 725.773 euros

Consortium

University of Turku - coordinator

University of Leon

Technological University of Dublin

Ministry of Education and Sports

University of Vlora – co-coordinator

Sports University of Tirana ("Vojo Kushi")

Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës

University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani"

University "Eqrem Çabej" Gjirokastër

University of Korça

University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

University College "Pavaresia Vlore"