

Entrepreneurship education in Estonia

DEVELOPING A SENSE OF INITIATIVE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSETS

The Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, in collaboration with the Education and Youth Board, launched the Edu ja Tegu (Success and Action) programme from 2016 to 2023. The initiative aimed to foster an entrepreneurial spirit among students and teachers, integrating initiative and entrepreneurial and career competencies into education.

By 2023, 84% of general education schools had implemented entrepreneurship education in Estonia.

ESTONIAN APPROACH:

- + Entrepreneurship as a mindset: Broad view to develop initiative and entrepreneurship beyond skills.
- + Early start: Begins with 5-year-olds, fostering lifelong skills.
- + Integrated approach: Bridges government, universities, business, and educational programmes.

Success and Action programme

6 KEY ACTIVITIES:

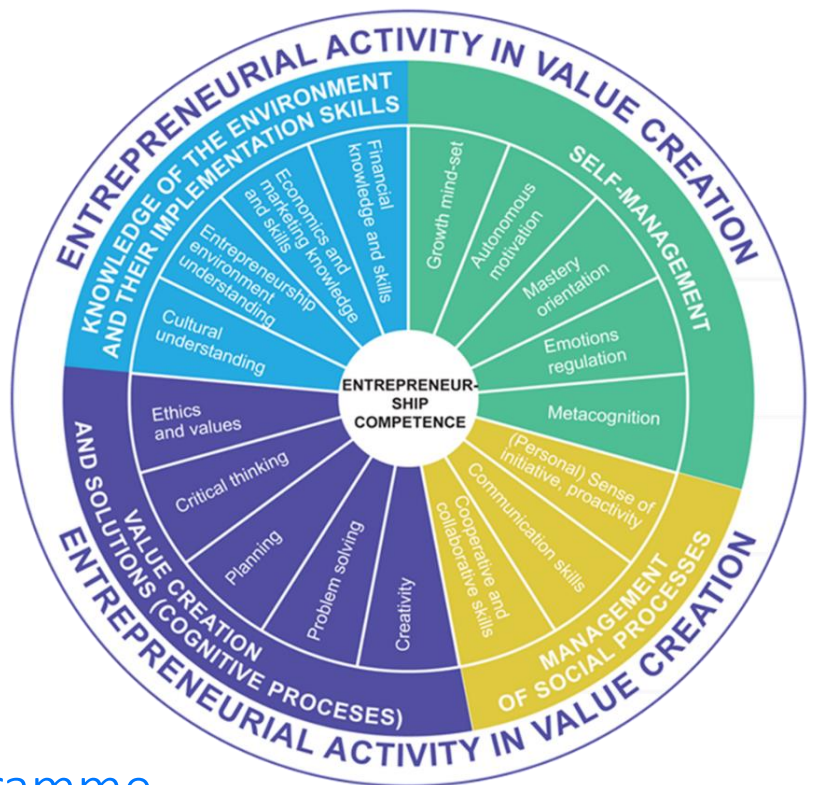
1. Creation of entrepreneurship competencies model and pedagogical materials, teaching tools and modules.
2. Training programmes for teachers at all levels of education as well as inviting business mentors and entrepreneurs to participate actively in entrepreneurship education.
3. Design and implementation of entrepreneurship courses at all levels of education.
4. Support for the launch of student business start-ups: business incubator Starter for school students.
5. Capturing success stories and rewarding best practices.
6. Programme monitoring and research studies.

Study materials of the programme include tools and guidelines for students to set personal learning goals, with advice for teachers on optimizing education planning.

Local entrepreneurs were actively involved in developing the curricula. The programme has supported 46 projects where schools and enterprises work together to deliver entrepreneurship education, through practical application activities.

Entrepreneurship competence model

The competence model designed for this project outlines key competences endorsed by stakeholders from both the education and business sectors. It serves as a broad framework for fostering entrepreneurial skills and mindsets in students, which are crucial for launching businesses or achieving career success.



Teacher training programme

The project introduced in-depth master classes for teachers, which always took place in local enterprises over a six-month period, focussing on the entrepreneurship process, teamwork, and self-reflection. The key features of the programme:

- + Co-created with entrepreneurs, providing practical business insights.
- + Conducted in real business environments for immersive learning.
- + Teachers commit to teaching entrepreneurship, supported by the project team for a year to lead in their schools effectively.
- + A follow-up three-month leadership and mentoring course is available for further development.

Training was conducted in varied settings like banks and companies, where managers explained their business models, providing practical examples for teachers. This initiative aimed to integrate entrepreneurship education into schools, showing significant benefits for both sectors.

Teachers, required to teach entrepreneurship post-training, received ongoing support for a year to lead effectively. They also had access to a three-month advanced course on leadership and mentoring, committing to guide a new teacher thereafter, ensuring a sustainable teaching cycle.

Why do we need entrepreneurship education? We are developing young people with the skills of the future to create innovation and new smart jobs. We believe that if we give them entrepreneurial tools, they will be able to succeed in any future role, whether as an employee or entrepreneur or as an active citizen.