

## Entrepreneurship education in Bulgaria

**Main objective** The primary objective related to entrepreneurship education is 'Promoting education and training aligned to the needs of the economy and changes in the labour market'. This is related to building partnerships between business and all sectors of education, training and research, in order to develop better labour market skills as well as promote innovation and enterprise. It suggests that this can be achieved through a focus on curricula at all levels, as well as through career guidance policy and practice at all levels; it also suggests the introduction of a learning outcomes validation system.

**Concrete actions** There is an Action Plan for the implementation of the strategy. The EE related actions include:

- expanding the network of training companies;
- providing the conditions for motivating pedagogical staff to improve their skills by organising training courses for the development of competences in priority areas;
- training teachers in the development of entrepreneurial competencies;
- updating curricula and programmes involving business representatives in higher education (this action is also relevant to VET).

**Ministries and stakeholders involved** The main partners of the Ministry of Education and Science in implementing the National Strategy for Lifelong Learning are the Ministry for the Economy and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The main NGO partner is Junior Achievement Bulgaria.

**Monitoring framework** There is no specially designed monitoring framework. Strategy implementation is monitored through an annual report, which contains the level of implementation of the set of indicators included in the Action Plan. An electronic platform is built for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the strategy. Indicators are also included in learning outcomes in curriculum.

### In the curriculum

Building skills for initiative and entrepreneurship is one of the key competences in the Bulgarian education system, and features as a recommendation is developed through all compulsory subjects in school education.

Elements of entrepreneurship education are generally integrated into all subjects at an early stage.

At primary school, the 'Home Techniques and Economics' subject includes core content on organisation and economics.

At specialized and vocational schools, in subject 'Technology – Entrepreneurship and Business', the implementation covers both theory and practice (through online simulation games and student minenterprises), with support from business and parents. This is based on programmes from Junior Achievement Bulgaria.

At secondary schools the subjects 'World and Personality' subject includes core content on citizens and the economy, while in 'Geography and Economics', elements of entrepreneurship education are included in all its core content areas.

**Learning outcomes** Learning outcomes are included at all levels of curricula. 'Home Technology and Economics' includes: understanding of economic indicators – expenditure, cost price, pricing and revenue; knowledge of the use of money and other incentives in a familiar manufacturing activity; knowledge of some basic differences between money and the capital needed to carry out an activity; knowledge of the budget needed for the implementation of an activity; knowledge of establishing an organisation as a requirement for performing manufacturing activities and public utility services; ability to compare, reproduce, analyse old and new ways of working in some crafts such as baking, bricklaying, upholstery, millinery, footwear, hairdressing and jewellery.

In 'Geography and Economics', the theme 'Economy of Bulgaria' is an embedded activity where students study market research and business location.

The students work with legal documents such as the Law on Economic Development and the Law on Regional Development. In the 'World and Personality' subject, a separate area called 'Citizens and the Economy' is included as core content. The learning process in this subject includes the development of student projects.

**Teacher education and support** There is institutional autonomy concerning the integration of entrepreneurship education into ITE curricula. The Ministry of Education and Science strive to provide the teacher training to support development of entrepreneurial skills in students through a national programme 'Qualification'. These courses aim to change work approaches in schools, strengthen practical activities and introduce the design principle of work in EE. They target primary and general secondary teachers. The Bulgarian central authorities have also developed materials which are provided only to teachers participating in activities on entrepreneurship education and publishes a list of approved textbooks (including on EE) on their web site .