



ICT ENTREPRENEUR

“A European University-Business Alliance
aiming to foster the entrepreneurial spirit
of ICT students”

WELCOME TO THE 1ST NEWSLETTER OF ICT ENTREPRENEUR! June 2015

WHAT IS THIS PROJECT ABOUT?

The EU-funded project entitled **ICT ENTREPRENEUR** has as its main objective to develop an **innovative coherent and complete entrepreneurship programme for ICT students/graduates in order to** increase awareness at every stage on the path towards successful digital entrepreneurship.

Through an in-depth analysis of existing entrepreneurship programmes, accelerators and incubators in the EU and beyond, **ICT ENTREPRENEUR**, will **identify the existing gaps** in South EU countries and the best practices from North EU countries and will **develop a new, top-quality pre-accelerator programme** for ICT students/graduates across Europe and beyond. The entrepreneurship programme will help young people in developing their transversal skills and at the same time will provide them with a new professional path.

ICT students/graduates across Europe (BSc, MSc, PhD level) will be assisted to utilise the knowledge gained during their university years in order to develop their project findings into successful business ideas.

This initiative is in line with the European Commission 2020 Strategy and the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan.

The project is funded under the ERASMUS+ programme 2014, the key action Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices. The project implementation began in September 2014 and it will have a 3-year duration.

WHO WE ARE?

Let's meet each other!

The project team consists of partners from Cyprus, Spain, Germany, Portugal and United Kingdom.

The project is coordinated by GrantXpert Consulting, a Cypriot consulting firm.

The consortium of partners is composed by 7 European partners from 5 different European countries.

- ♦ **Three Universities** with experience in entrepreneurship education for Higher Education students: a) European University Cyprus, Cyprus; b) University of Gloucestershire (UoG), UK; c) UNIVERSIDADE DA BEIRA INTERIOR (UBI), Portugal
- ♦ **One SME** with experience in research and consulting work on entrepreneurship: GrantXpert Consulting, Cyprus
- ♦ **A liaison organisation** between Universities and business: FUNDEUN, Spain
- ♦ **A Research Centre** responsible for the Evaluation and Quality Assurance of the project : ISOB, Germany
- ♦ **A cluster of companies** which provides support and development to start-ups on a daily level: SPS, Germany

To read more about our partners' profile, please visit our website: <http://www.ictentrepreneur.com/>



OUR FIRST MEETING IN CYPRUS!



On the 10th and 11th of November 2014 the kick-off meeting for ICT ENTREPRENEUR took place in Nicosia, Cyprus. The kick-off meeting was attended by 15 participants from 7 different organisations and provided a great opportunity for all partners to meet each other and learn more about the partner organizations and their work in the topic under examination.

During the 2-day meeting, a brainstorming session took place among the partners of the project in order to find ideas about the format, the structure, the content and the number of modules of the proposed training programme. The partners presented their current state of the art and their specific national training needs. Emphasis was given to national entrepreneurship programmes implemented in each country, the involvement of ICT students in start-ups and other supportive activities organized in their countries.

The partners' meeting was very fruitful and constructive as the role of each partner and the activities needed to implement during the whole duration of the project for the development of a top quality pre-accelerator programme were defined.

HANDS UP!!! - 1ST stage of the project

The first stage of our project consists of the description of the state of the art and the training needs' analysis of ICT students/graduates. More specifically the main activities include:

The entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Initially a literature review was conducted at national, European and international level, to identify the existing entrepreneurship landscape for ICT students/graduates and the best practices utilised across different organisations and nations.

Do the ICT students/graduates have the basic entrepreneurial skills?

During the needs' analysis stage specific emphasis was given to the examination of whether ICT students/graduates have the basic entrepreneurship skills (both hard and soft) that are necessary in order to **increase their chances of success with their new ventures**.

The examination of ICT students/graduates' perceptions and viewpoints will be implemented through an online structured questionnaire which will be sent to a large number of universities and alumni groups across Europe.

Collecting the best practices with the use of a luggage!

Our main aim was to understand the best practices of existing entrepreneurship development programmes in Europe. Emphasis was given to countries with advanced entrepreneurship activity levels, in order to learn from their success stories and best practices. Thus each partner visited or contacted at least 6 organisations from its country and 2 organisations from other European Country.

The purpose of our visits was to discuss the format, content and structure of the existing entrepreneurship programmes that other European organisations are offering, the skills they are looking for when selecting from a pool of candidates and other criteria they use for the selection of participants. Furthermore, we achieved to identify their unique expertise as an organisation, the problems they are currently facing and how these can be overcome.

The visits took place between January-March 2015. The ICT ENTREPRENEUR luggage travelled to Italy, Greece, UK, Cyprus, Portugal, Germany, Spain, France, Austria and Ireland. All the collected results will be widely disseminated to the relevant stakeholders and policy makers in Europe in order to accentuate and tackle the challenges faced by company builders (accelerators, incubators, technological and science parks and hubs, entrepreneurship centres, business schools, etc).

stay tuned!

CONNECT WITH US THROUGH OUR PROJECT'S WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

If you would like to receive updated information about our project progress, interesting articles about the development of EU directives and policies on entrepreneurship issues and news about our training courses for ICT students/graduates, please:

- ♦ Visit our ICT ENTREPRENEUR website: <http://www.ictentrepreneur.com/>
- ♦ Like our ICT ENTREPRENEUR facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ictentrepreneur#!/ictentrepreneur>
- ♦ Follow our ICT ENTREPRENEUR twitter account: @ICTENTRE2015
- ♦ Connect with ICT ENTREPRENEUR LinkedIn Account

JOIN OUR NETWORK OF ICT ENTREPRENEURS!

If you:

- ♦ are an ICT student or graduate
- ♦ are a would-be-entrepreneur wishing to be involved in ICT sector
- ♦ have a great business idea on digital entrepreneurship sector
- ♦ are interested in developing your entrepreneurial skills further;
- ♦ are looking for a different professional path on ICT sector

...then ICT ENTREPRENEUR is of great interest to you!

You can visit our website and also like us on facebook to receive updated information about our training courses, news about the project progress and interesting articles on the entrepreneurship area.

For more information about ICT ENTREPRENEUR please contact the Project Coordinator:

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