

## EnterSchoolMind: Development of entrepreneurship in primary education - Identification of 8 key skills



According to the study of the EU in 2012 named “Building Business Mindsets (EM) & skills in the EU”, the development of an entrepreneurial mindset is a basic component of domestic development and education plays a crucial role in its improvement.

Furthermore, there is a wide consensus between the member states that specific entrepreneurial skills should be included in the wider framework of skills which could be acquired through education, whereas the cultivation of an entrepreneurial mindset should be considered an integral part of the school curriculum, not only through the conventional educational practices, but also through experiential learning activities.

The EnterSchoolMind project was created in order to fill this need through the creation of a curriculum for the training of teachers in primary education in the member states, thus integrating entrepreneurship in the curriculum of their schools. Beside the company MMC Management Center from Cyprus which is the coordinating organization of the project, the rest of the partners in the consortium are: the Cyprus Certification Company (CCC), Apostolos Varnavas Primary School (Nicosia), Rinova Ltd and 15billion from the UK, DIMITRA and the 4<sup>th</sup> Primary School of Tirnavos from Greece, the Joanneum Gesellschaft MBH university from Austria and Gruppo4 IT company from Italy.

The main goal of the project is to specify the main skills that are related to entrepreneurship and which the students will be able to develop in primary education (general entrepreneurial skills). These skills have been studied and listed by the project’s partners, whereas their corresponding training materials were developed for the enhancement of the entrepreneurial mindset of the pupils and are available for all teachers. A group of teachers from various countries was able to assess and get trained on the training material. The next goal of the project is the creation of an ISO certification scheme for the teachers that participated in the project and have been trained on the material that was developed.

Regarding the final selection of the skills that will lead to the development of an entrepreneurial mindset in schools, four distinct focus groups were implemented, each one consisting of approximately 8 participants. The focus groups took place in Cyprus, Greece, Austria and the UK. The participants included representatives of parents, teachers and education-related policy makers and other administrative bodies. Following the specification of the skills required for the development of an entrepreneurial mindset in primary education and

a comparison with the EntreComp Framework of the EU, the following skills for the cultivation of an entrepreneurial mindset for pupils were decided.

In particular, the skills which the partners agreed upon were the following:

**Creativity**, the ability for the pupils to use their experiences and imagination in order to produce a piece of art or something new in general.

**Ethical and sustainable thinking**, through which a person's behavior is controlled and affected, focusing on sustainable development that corresponds to existing needs, without putting something in risk in the future.

**Self-awareness and self-efficacy**, which has to do with the ability of a person to know their strengths and also be able to identify and analyze their mistakes, as well as to adjust their needs and resources in a manner that will result in the highest efficacy possible.

**Motivation and perseverance**, which relate to the willingness and the actions of a person in order to pursue a goal, while also being able to ignore any discouraging situations and maintain the focus towards the achievement of that goal.

**Planning and management**, or in other words the decisions that are taken beforehand related to **what** must be done, **when** and **how** should it be carried out and **who** is responsible for that.

**Coping with uncertainty**, ambiguity and risk, through which one can identify and deal with a potential danger and avoid any losses or unfortunate situations.

**Working with others**, a process that allows us to create a live network of people, where everyone receives the help, they need in order to handle their duties, resolve any conflicts that may occur and treat competition in a healthy manner.

Finally, **learning through experience**, where a person applies their already existing knowledge and experiences in order to deal with an occurring situation.

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