

Business Incubation & Youth Entrepreneurship

Break-out session at infoDev's Global Forum on Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Florianopolis/Brazil Oct 26-30, 2009

Protocol

Participants:

- Ca. 15 participants

Panel:

- Mr. Radu Big PhD, Director CDIMM Baia Mare Maramures, Romania, Coordinator of infoDev's global working group "Youth and Incubation"
- Mr. Philip Hostert, SPARK International, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Mr. Samer Al Jabari, CEO Focus Solutions, Amman, Jordan
- Ms. Steliana Economu, Entrepreneur and Founder of Ithaca Journey, Romania; Winner of Y2i Youth 2 Innovation Contest 2009
- Mr. Alexey Leontiev PhD, Entrepreneur and Founder of Cluster Interactions Consulting, Russia
- Mr. Dean Krstevski, Entrepreneur and Founder of FinexPro, Macedonia

Moderation:

- Stefan Schandera, infoDev regional facilitator Eastern Europe and Central Asia, facilitator of infoDev's global working group "Youth and Incubation"

Outcomes:

Key questions the break-out session addressed were:

- What makes youth entrepreneurship different?
- How can business incubation/incubators support youth entrepreneurship?

Speakers (panel) discussed the following:

- Mr. Radu Big: Outcomes of the global research of infoDev's global working group "Youth and Incubation"; ppt file: *Radu BIG_Presentation_WG Youth.ppt*
- Mr. Philip Hostert: SPARK experiences with youth entrepreneurship development in the Western Balkans; ppt file: *SPARK Hostert_infoDev Conference - Brazil, Oct. 09.ppt*
- Mr. Samer Al Jabari: Experiences of youth entrepreneurship support in Jordan; pdf file: *Samer Al Jabari_SAWTOUNA.pdf*
- Ms. Economu, Mr. Leontiev, Mr. Krstevski: Motivation to become entrepreneurs, and opportunities and challenges; ppt file: *Y2i_LeontievKrstevskiEconomu.ppt*

The outcomes of the break-out session were summarized by the participants as following:

<p>Chances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people have energy, motivation, and fresh ideas - The education system is in general supportive for young people, and provides knowledge - Barriers such as age can be turned into opportunities (“being young can be an advantage, also in the perception of people” Steliana Economu) - Support systems for young entrepreneurs exist 	<p>Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiences and knowledge - Awareness of opportunities of entrepreneurship, and the risk of failure - Life objectives not yet formed - Public perception - Lack of support including public support - Legal system and bureaucracy - Access to finance - Informal issues such as social capital
<p>Solutions discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating entrepreneurship into education systems (e.g. curriculums) - Awareness among young people, and the ability to think about objectives in life - Access to finance through micro-credit programs, angel investors - Social capital and market access: Creating networks and contacts - Advocacy and awareness raising among stakeholders through events, publication of good practice and success stories - Capacity programs for local NGOs operating in this field 	<p>What can incubators/incubation do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing tools and special programs for youth entrepreneurs - Global working group: Providing global tools for youth entrepreneurship support including also good practice and success stories - Advocacy and awareness raising towards governments to generate support for both youth entrepreneurs and incubators and organizations supporting youth entrepreneurship - Supporting public awareness: “Getting the word out to the public” - Learning more about needs and good practice solutions

Objectives of infoDev's global working group "Youth and Incubation" 2010/2011:

Continuing the research

- Regional specificity on programmes designed to youth (2010)
- Particular instruments designed to young entrepreneurs (2010)

Continuing improvement of the WG Youth

- Discussions with members on specific issues (permanent)
- Improve the member's participation in activities (permanent)
- Website WG Youth – using, proposals for improving including social network sites (permanent)

Extended Y2I contest to global scale

- Improve the design of Y2I contest 2011 (first semester 2010)
- Start the promotion of Y2I contest 2011 (second semester 2010)
- Implement the Y2I contest 2011 (first & second semester 2011)

Extended experiences in training to global scale

- Dissemination of existing training tools and packages to global scale (first semester 2010)
- Design the global implementation of training tools (second semester 2010)
- Implement the extended training tools (first & second semester 2011)

Co-operation with organisations specialised to work with Youth