



Catalonia working with Europe

Supporting the active participation of Catalan institutions and citizens in European cooperation

#CATALONIA WORKING WITH EUROPE COMMENT#

A EUROPEAN PROGRAM FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING

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Entrepreneurial learning is at the top of the European challenges 2014-20 and beyond, based on the widened definition of entrepreneurship promoted by the Commission in various policy documents. Pervasive entrepreneurship is a key economic and social factor in 21st century Europe and to turn threats into opportunities at both macro and micro levels.

Entrepreneurial learning is transversal *par excellence*. It covers all societal sectors and includes all players from education and public authorities to NGO's and private enterprises - from pre-school to senior associations. It is not (just) about establishing a business, it is about mentality.

Therefore it is not (just) about supporting start-ups or the sustainability of young SME's.

It is about developing new mind-sets far beyond the mind-sets produced along some hundred years of industrial paradigms.

It is a way of learning and a way of managing change.

Therefore entrepreneurial learning is listed among the most important 21st century learning missions, alongside technology fluency and learning to learn.

It's not about content, topics or themes; it's a learning strategy that includes learning through creating something that was not there.

Entrepreneurial learning is characterized by such things as:

- Learning through taking initiative and risk
- Learning through creating new products, services or activities and bringing about change
- Learning through working with the community and creating new cross-sector partnerships and initiatives
- Learning through real-life cases and creating interaction between education, economy and social life
- Learning through creating community based or virtual eco-systems of collaboration, addressing major societal challenges

The problem is that we do not have a European program for developing and exploring such entrepreneurial learning.

As a learning oriented activity such experimentation could take place within the Erasmus+ program replacing the Transversal Action in the Lifelong Learning Program - or, alternatively a new cross-sectoral program could be established.

At the moment such entrepreneurial learning initiatives must be linked to a specific educational sector, even if submitted as an application addressing more than one sector.

This is not a satisfactory solution for genuine entrepreneurial initiatives, in which the focal point might precisely be an eco-system of entrepreneurial learning, submitted by a chamber of commerce, a municipality, an NGO or a private company and not addressing a specific education sector, but including several types and levels of educations.

So, basically we do not know where to go with entrepreneurial learning initiatives, like we do not know where to go with learning community initiatives.

It seems that we have not yet overcome organising such initiatives by boxing them along the old paradigms: research here, education there, and support for entrepreneurial start-ups over there...

But the idea is to tear down those Berlin walls, right?