

Development of cross-border entrepreneurship of students with special educational needs in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. (SENSationalSTEM)

Programme Priority: P1 Competitive economy

Programme Specific Objective: 1.2. More entrepreneurial youth

Sub-programme: Central Baltic

Duration: 01.04.2020 - 30.09.2022

Total funding: 799.270 EUR

ERDF funding: 646.586 EUR ERDF

Project Summary:

The project aims to help activating students with special educational needs (SEN-students) through STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) based entrepreneurship. The project focuses on training SEN students in STEM-based entrepreneurship and to support and assist them in the business idea development process through counselling and mentoring.

The main activities are: (1) Training of SEN-students. Developing a curriculum and training materials for STEM-based entrepreneurship considering SEN-students specific needs. Training of teachers to deliver trainings as a team: both STEM and entrepreneurship teachers are involved simultaneously. Training of SEN students in STEM-based entrepreneurship, including the formation of joint cross-border STEM-based possible business ideas and (2) Establishing joint cross-border student companies. The project activities also include raising awareness about STEM-based entrepreneurial possibilities, especially in the SEN context through reaching out for a wide range of stakeholders and network development (3) influence a pro-entrepreneurial attitude in the society and among youngsters.

The main results of the project will be: (1) 5 new joint SEN-student companies in the areas of STEM established and operational; 7 business ideas implemented as "business simulations" (2) 20 mentors trained to provide guidance and counselling to student enterprises.

Map of Partners

Partners

Lead Partner

Eesti Puuetega Inimeste Koda

Country: EE

www.epikoda.ee [1]

Partner budget: 240.042 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 202.835 EUR ERDF

Project Partners

Haaga-Helia ammattikorkeakoulu

Country: FI

www.haaga-helia.fi [2]

Partner budget: 315.933 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 236.949 EUR ERDF

Latvijas Cilvēku ar īpašām vajadzībām sadarbības organizācija SUSTENTO

Country: LV

<http://www.sustento.lv/?lang=lv> [3]

Partner budget: 203.871 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 173.290 EUR ERDF

Eesti Agrenska Fond

Country: EE

www.agrenska.ee [4]

Partner budget: 39.425 EUR

Amount of ERDF funding: 33.511 EUR ERDF

Results

Expected results

Achieved results

Project result in category - Joint student company

SENSationalSTEM developed a cross-border entrepreneurship programme for students with special educational needs

SENSationalSTEM project aimed at increasing entrepreneurial thinking among young people by having a specific focus on SEN (special education needs) students. The project developed and piloted a cross-border entrepreneurship programme for SEN student in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The project provided a possibility for SEN students from Finland, Estonia and Latvia to create international student teams and establish student companies which can serve as basis for future co-operation and businesses.

Totally 84 students from 15 schools from Finland, Estonia and Latvia participated in entrepreneurship pilot programme. These students created 13 business ideas. Due to covid 19 cross-border team building and bootcamps for students took place only in the very end of the project, but students were still able to work and present their joint business ideas during the events.

Development of own business ideas was a valuable experience for the participating SEN students. Student companies provided opportunities for social, cross-border/international communication and improvement of vocational skills in a business simulation environment. Students learned about their business strengths and their skills gaps. Participation in the project also provided opportunities for the development of employability skills which complement the vocational skills the participants learned during the course programme.

Project page in database

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At a glance

- combining SEN students from Finland, Estonia and Latvia
- 13 business ideas created by 84 students

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