



PROJECT RESULT 2:

E-learning toolkit for green and social entrepreneurship

Module 6

Presentation of EU policies related to entrepreneurship through animated videos

Developed by

Partner 7 – MOBAD



Module 6: Presentation of EU policies related to entrepreneurship through animated videos	
Aim of the module:	This module aims to provide learners with necessary knowledge regarding the EU policies related to entrepreneurship. The module introduces the learner to a general understanding of the policymaking process in the EU from drafting to implementation and then proceeds with a timeline of EU policies related to entrepreneurship with a sequential approach.
Learning objectives:	<p>The learning objectives of this module are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To understand the basics of policymaking in general ● To understand how policies are made in the EU ● To understand how policies are disseminated and implemented in the EU ● To understand the emergence of policies related to entrepreneurship ● To understand the development of policies related to entrepreneurship ● To understand the current entrepreneurship policy of the EU ● To understand various policies of the EU regarding entrepreneurship
Learning outcomes:	<p>By the end of this module, the learner should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To describe the basics of policymaking in general ● To recognize policymaking processes in the EU ● To recognize policy dissemination and implementation processes in the EU ● To identify early and developing entrepreneurship policies of the EU ● To recognize current entrepreneurship policies of the EU
Content:	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Even after 60 years of a common vision, barriers and constraints remain in place for entrepreneurial enterprises; these limit the mining of their full potential in the EU. Undoubtedly, the EU's economy faces significant challenges as a single market and the EU's only option for increasing its competitiveness is to promote entrepreneurship.</p> <p>The evolution of the EU entrepreneurship policy has undergone changes that mimic the standard entrepreneurial cycle of any venture: (i) conception or discovery of an idea to solve a customer's problem and initial enthusiasm; (ii) consecutive phases of developing the product or service, including troubles and adjustments of the initial idea until market launch; and (iii) the constant learning process associated with this life cycle.</p> <p>CHAPTER 1. European Policy Process in General</p> <p>1.1 Understanding Policymaking and the European Policy Process</p> <p>1.2 EU Decision-making</p> <p>1.3 Implementation of EU Policies</p> <p>Food for thought questions (3 questions)</p> <p>CHAPTER 2. Social and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Policies</p> <p>2.1 Inclusive entrepreneurship and microfinance</p> <p>2.2 Social Goals of Entrepreneurship</p> <p>2.3 Environmental Issues and Sustainability</p> <p>Food for thought questions (3 questions)</p> <p>CHAPTER 3. Financial and Economic Entrepreneurship Policies</p> <p>3.1 High Impact and Digital-based Entrepreneurship</p> <p>3.2 Agglomeration and Internationalization of Business Ventures</p> <p>3.3 Future of Entrepreneurship Policy in the EU</p> <p>Food for thought questions (3 questions)</p> <p>Case studies (2)</p> <p>Activities (1 activity)</p> <p>Further reading (list of additional material)</p> <p>Quiz (10 questions)</p> <p>References</p>
Allocated time:	90 min
Hashtag of the Module	<p>#GreenEntrepreneurship</p> <p>#SocialEntrepreneurship</p> <p>#EUEntrepreneurship</p> <p>#EUEntrepreneurshipPolicy</p> <p>#DigitalEntrepreneurship</p> <p>#Agglomeration</p> <p>#Internationalization</p> <p>#FutureOfEntrepreneurship</p>

Introduction

Even after 60 years of a common vision, barriers and constraints remain in place for entrepreneurial enterprises; these limit the mining of their full potential in the EU. Undoubtedly, the EU's economy faces significant challenges as a single market and the EU's only option for increasing its competitiveness is to promote entrepreneurship.

The evolution of the EU entrepreneurship policy has undergone changes that mimic the standard entrepreneurial cycle of any venture: (i) conception or discovery of an idea to solve a customer's problem and initial enthusiasm; (ii) consecutive phases of developing the product or service, including troubles and adjustments of the initial idea until market launch; and (iii) the constant learning process associated with this life cycle.

Chapter 1 European Policy Process in General

Around early 1990s, there were hardly any specific entrepreneurship policy initiatives and only some general enterprise-fostering policies at the EU level which included, tangentially, SMEs and entrepreneurs.

The early era where only glimpses of attempts on developing entrepreneurship starts around early 1990s and ends with the end of the decade. The era is marked with two characteristics:

- No specific measures for entrepreneurship.
- Preliminary mentions up to the end of the period.

The emergent EU entrepreneurship policy stage, which can be traced from the late 1990s to the early 2010s, saw the initial steps of an entrepreneurship policy with a main focus on diagnosis of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and some measures of support, mainly to SMEs.

1.1 Understanding Entrepreneurship Policymaking within the European Policy Process

An understanding of EU Policy making process is crucial in understanding how decisions are made, priorities are set, and policies are determined.

The multiple dimensions of an EU comprehensive entrepreneurship policy have only recently been identified and addressed as a truly distinctive policy area, mainly through the adoption in 2013 of the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan, which sets out the initiatives to be undertaken by the Commission for the period until 2020. This explicit recognition of entrepreneurship as a distinct policy area in this key document is mirrored in its inclusion as one of the four key areas of the recently created Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, SMEs and Entrepreneurship.

1.2 EU Decision-making

It can be argued that on the European Union level a complex system of multiple actors and balance of powers has emerged. The executive agency on the European level is the European Commission, which has been mandated to implement the European treaties through initiating European legislation and overseeing its implementation. Within the European Commission exists a distribution of tasks, functions and responsibilities that requires internal coordination for comprehensive policies to emerge and be implemented. According to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, its various departments are required to work in close cooperation and in coordinated fashion in the preparation or implementation of Commission decisions. In practice, this requirement will be met by consultations carried out between the responsible department and other relevant departments "which are associated or concerned by virtue of their powers or responsibilities or the nature of the subject" before a document is submitted by the former to the Commission. The responsible department, after informing the Legal Services and financial departments as required, endeavors to frame a proposal that has the agreement of all consulted departments.

While the European Union level of decision-making has gained powers, increased supranational decision-making structures and empowered actors like the European Commission, the Court of Justice and the European Parliament, it nevertheless did not overcome its Member States. As shown, Member States remain represented through their governments in two key executive and legislative institutions on the EU level, the European Council and the Council. What is more, the transfer of competences to the EU level is based on the principle of the conferral of powers, that is: the EU must act within the limits that have been conferred upon it. Indeed, competences on the European Union level are not only exclusive competences, through which the EU has the exclusive ability to act and create European law and policies in respective areas. Shared and coordinative competences of the EU do enable Member States to act in various areas together with the EU.

EU Decision-making Process

There are 3 main institutions involved in EU decision-making:

- the European Parliament, representing EU citizens
- the Council of the European Union, representing EU governments
- the European Commission, representing the EU's overall interests

EU policies are typically decided through the ordinary legislative procedure (formerly known as the 'co-decision' procedure). This is a process where the three main institutions come to agreement on legislation (Legislation, n.d.).

Drafting EU Law

Before the Commission proposes new initiatives, it assesses the potential economic, social and environmental impact that they may have.

Review and Adoption

Once the Commission has presented its proposal, both the Parliament and the Council review it and can propose amendments. Typically, the Parliament, the Council and the Commission then meet to see if they can agree on a complete set of amendments (Legislation, n.d.).



1.3 Implementation of EU Policies

Implementation of the policies in the EU follows these stages (Planning and Implementation, n.d.):

The **budget** for the policy and the rules for its use are jointly decided by the European Council and the European Parliament on the basis of a proposal from the Commission. The Common provision regulation establishes the regulatory framework common to 8 EU funds under shared management.

The **principles** and **priorities** of cohesion policy are distilled through a process of consultation between the Commission and the EU countries. Each Member State produces a draft Partnership Agreement, which outlines the country's strategy and proposes a list of programs. In addition to this Member States also present draft programs which cover entire Member States and or regions.

The Commission **negotiates** with the national authorities on the **final content** of the Partnership Agreement, as well as each program. Workers, employers and civil society bodies can all participate in the programming and management of the Programs.

The **programs** are **implemented** by the Member States and their regions. This means selecting, monitoring, and evaluating hundreds of thousands of projects. This work is organized by 'managing authorities' in each country and/or region.

The Commission commits the funds (to allow the countries to start spending on their programs).

The Commission pays the certified expenditure to each country.

The Commission monitors each program, alongside the country concerned.

Both the Commission and the Member States are responsible for reporting and evaluating throughout the programming period.

Food for thought

- Considering the usual policymaking processes of the EU, the evolution of the EU entrepreneurship policy has undergone changes that mimic the standard entrepreneurial cycle of any venture. In other words, EU Policymaking is by itself follows an entrepreneurial path through (i) conception or discovery of an idea to solve a customer's problem and initial enthusiasm; (ii) consecutive phases of developing the product or service, including troubles and adjustments of the initial idea until market launch; and (iii) the constant learning process associated with this life cycle. In your opinion, what has EU learned so far in terms of boosting entrepreneurship within the last decade?
- In relation to the former Food for Thought item, what do you think will trigger making further policies in entrepreneurship to restart the cycle?

Chapter 2 Social and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Policies

2.1 Inclusive entrepreneurship and microfinance

Inclusive entrepreneurship policies aim to support the creation and growth of businesses by under-represented groups (e.g., women, youth, migrants and seniors) and the unemployed. For these groups the usual barriers to entrepreneurship are often higher than average.

In view of the challenges of the green and digital transitions, Europe will need innovative solutions and all entrepreneurial talent should be encouraged.

The European Commission has a long-standing co-operation with the OECD on inclusive entrepreneurship. This co-operation has contributed to the development of the better entrepreneurship policy tool, which helps policy makers at all levels to improve their inclusive and social entrepreneurship policies.

The co-operation has also yielded several publications, including the biennial “The Missing Entrepreneurs” report (2019 and 2021) and a series of Policy Briefs covering issues such as

- incubators that support inclusive entrepreneurship
- senior entrepreneurship
- youth entrepreneurship
- sustaining self-employment
- informal entrepreneurship

Inclusive entrepreneurship is also covered by the Better Incubation project which seeks to incentivize mainstream business incubators to expand their outreach to social and inclusive entrepreneurship.

2.2 Social Goals of Entrepreneurship

What is social entrepreneurship?

Social entrepreneurship is the entrepreneurship that has as main goal to address pressing social challenges and meet social needs in an innovative way while serving the general interest and common good for the benefit of the community. In a nutshell, social entrepreneurship targets to social impact primarily rather than profit maximization in their effort to reach the most vulnerable groups and to contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth (OECD, n.d.).

Why is social entrepreneurship important?

Social entrepreneurship plays an important role in addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges while fostering inclusive growth, shared prosperity, and social inclusion. Moreover, social entrepreneurship contributes to job creation, especially at local level, as well as to democratic participation and improvement of welfare services delivery.

In order to increase the effectiveness of social entrepreneurship, and make it more prevalent, EU provides;

- In-depth country reviews
- Policy briefs
- Capacity building seminars
- Compendium of good practices

2.3 Environmental Issues and Sustainability

The European Commission launched the European Green Deal in December 2019 to reset economic growth for carbon neutrality—in line with the SDGs of the UN. It is Europe’s ‘new’ growth strategy and action to make the EU’s economy sustainable and competitive while taking the environment into consideration. In order to get this job done, the EU seeks to transform its economy by having zero net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050; being the first climate neutral continent in the world by;

- having economic prosperity largely decoupled from resource input intensity (i.e. dematerialization);
- having a negative environmental output (i.e. impact decoupling); and
- having no one and no region left behind (i.e. inclusion).

The European Union (EU) is also implementing the concept of the circular economy system, the main idea of which is to maintain the added value in products for as long as possible both to improve the quality of the environment and eliminate waste.

These provisions presuppose the improvement of EU waste management systems and legal regulation. The European Commission proposed a legislative package for amending the main Directives related to waste management.

The European Parliament and the Council adopted this document in 2018. The legislative package amends six Directives, which are the main components of the legal framework for waste management in the EU.

These are systematic changes in EU waste law regulation and include:

- the modification of the waste management system;
- the alignment of definitions; and
- the formulation of new legal definitions (for example municipal waste, backfilling) or establishment of qualitative and quantitative indicators which cover the meaning of waste hierarchy.

What does all this mean for entrepreneurs, CEOs, companies and investors running businesses within Europe or for Europe?

The ultimate goal for every business should be to become sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into business opportunities and by making the transition inclusive for all stakeholders.

Executives from many of Europe's global players promote the European Green Deal and pledged to overhaul their businesses. A number of top managers are part of the CEO Action Group for the European Green Deal, launched together with the World Economic Forum and the EU Commission, to mobilize business and contribute to the political efforts towards a sustainable environment through entrepreneurship.

Food for thought

- Every company can best assess itself and judge to what extent it can or must contribute to the achievement of the European Green Deal goals. On the one hand, companies can certainly hope that the European Green Deal will not impact their business. However, such an ignorant attitude is very likely to lead to many problems, including a possible loss of business and market share. A realistic and smart strategy with regard to the Green Deal, on the other hand, could lead to new markets and business shares. In what areas would European Green Deal goals negatively impact businesses?
- Referring to the first Food for Thought item, in what areas would European Green Deal goals positively impact businesses?
- A social entrepreneur is interested in starting a business for the greater social good and not just the pursuit of profits. Given the fact that social entrepreneurs may seek to produce environmentally-friendly products, serve an underserved community, or focus on philanthropic activities (Social Entrepreneur: Definition and Examples, 2021), how do you think should EU alter its policies to encourage social entrepreneurship while still providing ample financial motivation?

Chapter 3 Financial and Economic Entrepreneurship Policies

The starting point for the entrepreneurship policy as being implemented by the current incarnation of the European Commission is the Small Business Act (SBA) adopted in 2008,²⁹ which builds on the framework and concepts elaborated in the 2005 Community Lisbon Programme for a Modern SME Policy.³⁰ In 2010, the Commission labelled the SBA "the main instrument for promoting SMEs' competitiveness and entrepreneurship within the Single Market and beyond".³¹ The Act and the continued relevance it holds to this day for the realization of the broader entrepreneurship policy of the EU demonstrates the pivotal importance of the SME concept as an anchoring point for most initiatives for entrepreneurial reform. Even if the societal actors addressed by entrepreneurship policy reforms encompass a wider range than enterprises and entrepreneurs, and most importantly also include students and employees, most concrete initiatives taken today for reforming the entrepreneurial society in Europe involve SMEs. Considering the role of the SME notion as one of the basic anchoring points for EU policy to promote entrepreneurship, it is useful to recall the Union's definition of what a small and medium-sized enterprise entails.

3.1 High Impact and Digital-based Entrepreneurship

Digital entrepreneurship encompasses all new initiatives as well as the transformation of current businesses via the development and application of novel digital technology.

Digital firms are distinguished by an intense use of innovative digital technologies (especially social media, big data analytics, mobile and cloud solutions) to enhance company operations, innovate new business models, sharpen business intelligence, and engage consumers and stakeholders.

They create the employment and opportunity for future growth. Policymakers and scholars identify SMEs and digital firms as critical to global economies due to their contributions to wealth development, income production, output, and employment.

With limited resources, authorities must make difficult judgments regarding which policies, programs, and initiatives should be implemented to encourage High Impact and Digital-based Entrepreneurship.

Indeed,

- i) the Digital Agenda for Europe,
- ii) the Single Market Act,
- iii) the Industrial policy for the globalization era, and
- iv) the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan – provide a solid foundation in setting the scene and passing a strong

political message to achieve the goal of making the digital single market a reality (European Commission, n.d.).

The Commission underlines the potential of smart ICT use as a facilitator of entrepreneurship, growth, and jobs in the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan. Through novel digital technologies, the Commission is committed to accelerating the creation of new business prospects and the transformation of the European business environment.

A policy framework has been designed to outline the vision and major priority areas for policy action, based on extensive conversation with stakeholders and policy analysis. The framework is divided into five pillars, each of which describes essential elements and behaviors that influence Digital Entrepreneurship. The Commission is dedicated to the deployment and implementation of this five-pillar strategy.

ENABLING DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP				
Digital knowledge base and ICT market	Digital business environment	Access to finance	Digital skills and e-leadership	Entrepreneurial culture
<i>Enhancing digital innovation, commercialization and the ICT sector</i>	<i>Strengthening digital infrastructure, the regulatory framework and improving ease of doing business</i>	<i>Facilitating access to finance and enhancing digital investments</i>	<i>Fostering e-leadership skills through education and training</i>	<i>Creating a supportive entrepreneurial culture</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and/or private sector support the creation of new companies and foster the development of existing ones that embrace digital Knowledge diffusion to enhance digital innovation is encouraged. ICT sector acts as an engine for diffusion and commercialization of new services/ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear and supportive regulatory environment makes doing digital business simple, market entry is facilitated and there is an active and dynamic supply and demand of digital technologies Access to and trust in digital markets is heightened, as a result of an improved ICT infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced access to finance is available, targeted at the creation, survival and growth of digital entrepreneurs Traditional forms of lending are complemented by innovative mechanisms targeted at enhancing digital investments Fiscal and tax frameworks are supportive and help to enable all business to embrace digital technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A supportive education system exploits the new opportunities arising from ICT development, so individuals have the skills and the knowledge to improve business efficiency and develop new business models powered by digital Entrepreneurs and business leaders are more e-competent and able to enhance growth and internationalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entrepreneurial culture is more supportive and embraces digital entrepreneurs. They are fully integrated in this context and their image and role in society are both improved and emphasized.

3.2 Agglomeration and Internationalization of Business Ventures

The shift from a 'managed' economy to an 'entrepreneurial' economy is among the most important challenges developed economies have faced over the last few decades. This challenge is closely coupled with the increasing importance of non-physical capital, such as human and intellectual capital for wealth creation (UN, 2020).

Variations in entrepreneurial activity and the spatial structure of economies could potentially be the source of different efficiencies in knowledge spillovers, and ultimately in economic growth.

Studies have shown that after controlling for the stock of knowledge and research and development expenditures, both entrepreneurial activity and agglomeration have a positive and statistically significant effect on technological change in the European Union (Acs and Varga, 2005).

Therefore, recognizing the importance of agglomeration and standing strong in an ever internationalizing market, on 28 October 2015, the European Commission presented a new Single Market Strategy to deliver a deeper and fairer Single Market that will benefit both consumers and businesses. One of the four pillars of the Single Market Strategy focuses on promoting better opportunities for businesses and consumers.

According to REDI: The Regional Entrepreneurship and Development Index of the EU, Market Agglomeration is an important component of the Opportunity Perception Pillar.

3.3 Future of Entrepreneurship Policy in the EU

In summary, three distinct foci can be identified in EU entrepreneurship policy, as it has evolved over time:

1. focus on SMEs;
2. focus on innovation through SMEs;
3. focus on high-growth SMEs (European Commission, 2013).

Entrepreneurship policy initiatives have progressed over the past decades from generic, buffering-oriented initiatives to resource mobilization and bridging-oriented ones, further towards high-growth and capability-boosting ones.

It is possible to distinguish between;

- infra-structure-building initiatives (business incubators and science parks, with mostly buffering emphasis);
- resource mobilizing initiatives with mostly buffering orientation (subsidies, grants, and so on);
- resource accessing initiatives with mostly a bridging orientation (linking with venture investors and accelerators, networking initiatives to foster inter-firm collaboration and experience exchange); and
- capability boosting initiatives (selective, targeted, firm-specific efforts to boost firm-level capacity for in-novation and growth).

Apart from the infrastructural initiatives, most entrepreneurship policy initiatives remain firm-centric and operate in a 'supply-push' mode, with the focus being on facilitating a given firm at a time, with the objective being to facilitate firm-level outcomes.

In spite of the increasing importance of the entrepreneurial ecosystem phenomenon, there have been few entrepreneurship policy initiatives specifically addressing the functioning of entrepreneurial ecosystems.

To be sure, there have been infrastructural policies that have wider than firm-level impacts (e.g., new business incubators, science parks, accelerators). There have also been networking initiatives that seek to solicit networking among entrepreneurial firms (e.g., the EU EuroStars initiative that facilitated R&D collaborations between European SMEs).

Also, the high-growth oriented initiatives would constitute an important ingredient of entrepreneurial ecosystems. That said, a true ecosystem approach is still missing in EU entrepreneurship policy portfolio. Therefore, the future trend in entrepreneurial policies seems to be towards entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Food for thought

- Unlike in innovation ecosystems, where you can usually find a platform owner at the center of the ecosystem, in entrepreneurial ecosystems no one is really in charge. No one actually 'owns' the primary and secondary ecosystem services – and therefore, no one necessarily feels responsibility for guaranteeing the effective functioning of the ecosystem. Instead, all ecosystem stakeholders pursue their own goals in their interactions with others. Under such a challenge, what distinctive challenges do you think would entrepreneurial ecosystems pose for developing entrepreneurship policy?
- What are the challenges of a centralized decision-making system for the future of EU policy making in the field of entrepreneurship?
- One of the discussions in the field of EU's entrepreneurship policies is whether quality should be the new focus as opposed to growth. With all the overall policies surrounding growth of SMEs through entrepreneurship policies, what do you think would constitute the best course of action when it comes to increasing quality of entrepreneurship?

Case studies

Title of the case study 1: Development of the Socially Responsible Public Procurement (SRPP) Policy by the EU Commission

Description of the case study: Socially responsible public procurement (SRPP) is about setting an example and influencing the marketplace. By promoting SRPP, public authorities can give companies real incentives to develop socially responsible management. By purchasing wisely, public authorities can promote employment opportunities, decent work, social inclusion, accessibility, design for all, ethical trade, and seek to achieve wider compliance with social standards. For some products, works and services, the impact can be particularly significant, as public purchasers command a large share of the market (e.g. in construction, business services, IT and so on). In general, public authorities are major consumers in Europe, spending some 17% of the EU's gross domestic product (a sum equivalent to half the GDP of Germany). Therefore, by using their purchasing power to opt for goods and services that also deliver good social outcomes, they can make a major contribution to sustainable development (European Commission, 2020).¹

The legal basis for public procurement in the European Union is provided by Directives 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC (the 'Procurement Directives'), which offer scope for taking account of social considerations, provided in particular they are linked to the subject-matter of the contract and are proportionate to its requirements and as long as the principles of value for money and equal access for all EU suppliers are observed.

Key takeaways: Socially responsible public procurement (SRPP) policy has been developed over the years by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) caselaw, by a European Commission Communication in 2001 and by a study published by the Commission in 2003 on diversity and equality in public procurement. This case shows that policy making on entrepreneurship

¹ A series of Good Practices can be found here:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/69fc6007-a970-11ea-bb7a-01aa75ed71a1>

related issues follow a rational decision making process where a problem is first defined, then alternatives are discussed and finally a decision is made.

Title of the case study 2: Overview of EU Policy for SMEs and its Evolution

Description of the case study: Key external obstacles for SMEs (lack of skilled workers, difficulties in accessing finance reducing investment in training and R&D, and a lack of appropriate regulatory framework coupled with low quality government) can significantly impact regions. SMEs represent the majority of people employed as well as of value added in the EU economy. Challenges that limit their capacity to grow and compete can therefore negatively affect the capacity of the regional economies to develop. In turn, limits to regional economic development can further affect the capacity of SMEs to grow and compete creating a vicious circle affecting the entire regional business and economic environment.

First, there are profound differences between and within Member States in the capacity of regions to innovate. Second, the innovative capacity of a region has a profound implication on its capacity to compete. Finally, less capacity to compete implies greater exposure to risks of globalization and technological change.

To address the obstacles limiting SME growth described above, the EU started to focus policy on targeting and supporting SMEs, issuing several strategic documents such as the Lisbon Treaty (2007), An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalization Era (2010), A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery (2012), Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan (2012), and Start-up and Scale-up Initiative (2016), and many more documents such as these.

Key takeaways: An analysis of EU policies shows that there is significant room for improvement in EU support for SMEs, especially to tackle the three key challenges they currently face. EU can do more for SMEs through both centralized and de-centralized policies by supporting local authorities. Time will show how the programs in 2021-2027 focusing on SME support, such as Horizon Europe and InvestEU will fare as compared to their predecessor policies and programs.

Activities

Activity 1 / Good Practices Research	
Format: (face to face, online, hybrid)	Online
Learning objectives	To be able to search for good practices online, to see what has been done before in a specific area of interest.
Material/equipment needed	Internet Access, Computer
Description of the activity	For exploring inspiring and tested policy solutions identified through projects in the EU, the participant is supposed to go to https://www.interregeurope.eu/policy-solutions and search for specific problems and see whether a policy solution has already been offered in that area.
Debriefing questions	Have you found what you were looking for? Was the solution to your satisfaction? What would you have done differently?
Allocated time	30 mins
How can this activity be adapted in a different format?	N/A
Notes for the trainer/facilitator	Provide specific topics to be searched by the participants instead of having them come up with their own.

Further reading

Resource name	Type	Link
EU Decision-making process	Websit e	https://european-union.europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/decision-making-process_en
Supporting entrepreneurship	Websit e	https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/supporting-entrepreneurship_en
Smart specialization, entrepreneurship and SMEs: issues and challenges for a results-oriented EU regional policy	Paper	https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11187-016-9707-z
EU support for social entrepreneurs [Policy Podcast]	Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2B9JegqPHSk
EU Policy and Implementation	Video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GPLHuh3NKc
Public Policies for Fostering Entrepreneurship: A European Perspective	Book	João Leitão, Rui Baptista · 2009
The Missing Entrepreneurs Policies for Inclusive	Book	OECD, The European Commission · 2013

Quiz

Q1. Social entrepreneurs always seek non-profit business ventures solely focusing on efforts to produce environmentally-friendly products, serve an underserved community, or focus on philanthropic activities.

- a) True b) **False**

Q2. Standard entrepreneurial cycle of any venture includes the phase of mimicking others and doing exactly as they do to avoid mistakes.

- a) True b) **False**

Q3. EU policies on entrepreneurship has its concrete roots starting from the late 1990s to the early 2010s.

- a) **True** b) False

Q4. EU policies are decided solely based on the decisions of the Commission without considering national interests as EU overall interest has higher status.

- a) True b) **False**

Q5. When policies are made, definitions should matter because as the term implies, definition can be subjective and different in different cultures, thus policies can be interpreted by local definitions of the terms used.

- a) True b) **False**

Q6. European Green Deal is mainly about forestry policies and aims to save trees from being cut down.

- a) True b) **False**

Q7. Digital entrepreneurship is especially important in today's world with the advancement of mobile technologies and particularly the place of social media in people's lives.

- a) **True** b) False

Q8. As in the past and as shown through documented policies so far, EU entrepreneurship policies will continue to converge around promoting SMEs' competitiveness and entrepreneurship.

- a) **True** b) False

Q9. Unlike in innovation ecosystems, where you can usually find a platform owner at the center of the ecosystem, in entrepreneurial ecosystems no one is really in charge.

- a) **True** b) False

Q10. Networking and agglomeration are not necessary for entrepreneurial firms to function as each firm has its own sphere of business.

- a) True b) **False**

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