

E-ZINE EDITION 3 MAY 2018

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS



TIME FLIES!

There are just over 4 months left in the I-STEP project. Since our last newsletter in December the focus of the project has been on testing and implementing the I-STEP materials with VET teachers and students.

The testing and implementation phase has been kicked-off with the I-STEP training week at the end of January in which students and teachers from The Netherlands, The United Kingdom, Lithuania and Ireland gathered in Birmingham to work on international entrepreneurship topics. This training week also provided partners with the opportunity to meet for the second last time to discuss the final steps of the project.

In a few weeks we will organise the concluding I-STEP conference in Kaunas, Lithuania to celebrate the final I-STEP outcomes.

Read all about it in this newsletter!



International student groups in Birmingham during I-STEP training week

Students from Ireland, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom and Lithuania took part in a week long training programme on international entrepreneurship in Birmingham, UK. Hosted by the UK partner, Bridging to the Future, the students pilot tested the I-STEP materials and platform. During the week, partners organised several workshops to work on the different I-STEP modules.

Melanie Doherty, Year 1 Accounting student, about the activity from module 1 International Opportunities: 'I really enjoyed this activity, it was very fun and creative. We brought together what seemed like two impossible businesses and proposed how they would work together, showing that anything can work if you are open minded and have a great strategy.'



The aim of this week was to help further test the materials that have been developed thus far in a practical training setting. A key element of the week in Birmingham was the formation of international business teams whereby one student from each country came together to work on a business idea, which culminated in a "Dragons' Den" style pitch to find the best idea.

Marie-jetske Lettinga, project manager at partner organisation Business Development Friesland: 'It was great to see how well the students from different countries worked together this week.'

The winning team will come to the final project conference in Lithuania to share their experiences and present their business idea to the audience. Curious about their business idea? Join us at the conference and find out!





What?

Enchance international entrepreneurial skills and attitudes of teachers and students in VET.

How?

By creating an international dimension to entrepreneurship programmes and strengthening the local and (EU business) network.

Why?

Internationalisation makes people smarter, more creative and more entrepreneurial. Existing entrepreneurship programmes in VET have no clear and high quality international dimension.

Testing, testing, testing

Past few months the I-STEP partners Noorderpoort (NL), Letterkenny Institute of Technology (IE), Bridging to the Future (UK) and Kaunas construction and services training center (LT) have been very busy planning and implementing the testing workshops with their teachers and students. Per country there have been involved 2 teachers and 30 students to test the materials with. The results of this pilot test will be analysed and then the I-STEP materials will be improved and finalised. At the end of the project, the final results will be published on the I-STEP platform.





Join the community!

Are you a student with a business idea? Or a teacher who wants to add an international dimension to your entrepreneurship courses? Do you want to test out a business idea in a supportive international community? Do you want to create your own startup? And actually, do you want your startup to reach international markets?

Join our online I-STEP community!

Through the I-STEP Platform (The International Entrepreneurship Platform and Community) you can connect, learn and share your experiences with other students, teachers, aspiring entrepreneurs and successful startups.

Download the <u>flyer</u> for more information and visit our platform through: <u>i-step.community</u>

Don't miss the final I-STEP event!



Are you a student, teacher or entrepreneur, interested in international entrepreneurship? On the 24th of May we will organise the final I-STEP international conference in Kaunas, Lithuania to celebrate the final outcomes of our I-STEP project.

Download the <u>flyer</u> for more information and join us on the 24th of May!



I-STEP PARTERS





BRIDGING TO THE FUTURE









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