

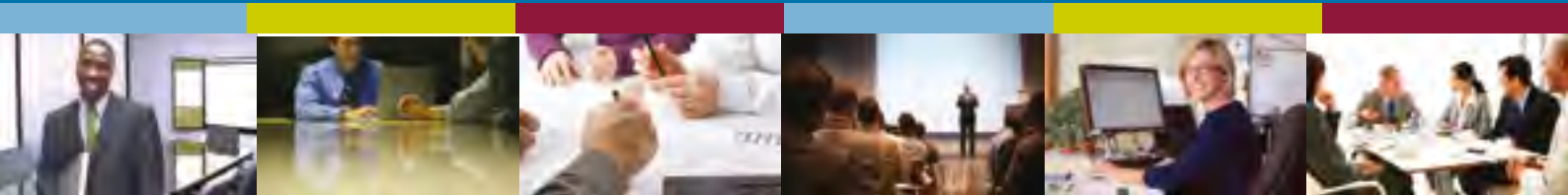


ELIE

employability: learning through
international entrepreneurship

For Business

www.elie-project.eu



Διεθνούς International
μέσω Employability
się Międzynarodowy
Uczenie Maθαίνοντας Oppiminen Entrepreneurship
Przedsiębiorczość Απασχολησιμότητα Yrittäjyys
Työllistyvyys Kansainvälisyys
Learning zatrudnialność
της



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Introduction

The ELIE (Employability - Learning through International Entrepreneurship) project aims to help individuals, including students, develop the skills needed for self-employment and to increase the mobility of individuals and SMEs enabling them to exploit opportunities overseas. It will do this by talking to immigrant entrepreneurs (entrepreneurs not born in the country in which they run their business) to find out about their experiences. The information gained in this way will be used to develop teaching and learning tools to share this information.

Mission

To enable SMEs and students across the EU to benefit from the lived-experience of successful immigrant entrepreneurs. ELIE will provide Higher Education (HE) Institutions across Europe with a new set of teaching and learning tools based upon research. These tools will reinforce the link between studies and future skills and employment needs as well as providing accessible learning opportunities for SMEs to develop their levels of entrepreneurship and creative thinking. The tools will first be used within the pilot countries and later across Europe.

The Project in Greater Depth

There are many successful entrepreneurs across the EU, living and working in countries that are not the one in which they were born. By interviewing a diverse sample of these immigrant entrepreneurs we will incorporate their lived-experience into the ELIE project. This will allow us to develop learning materials that focus on the skills and capabilities needed by graduates and SMEs in the global marketplace.

The project will run knowledge cafes with HE students, to establish what they see as the barriers to migration and entrepreneurship, and with immigrant entrepreneurs to establish the common elements of their experience.

The project is a partnership involving HE Institutions, a small business support organisation, a Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a small business in Salford, UK; Thessaloniki, Greece; Turku, Finland and Lodz, Poland. The countries from which the partners come were chosen for their differing range of experiences of immigration and entrepreneurship.

Activities

ELIE's main activities are:

- To examine the lived-experience of 200 immigrant entrepreneurs (50 in each country), to establish the key elements of success
- To find out what issues can act as barriers to success in order to develop policy recommendations that support immigrants' entrepreneurship
- To work with immigrant-led SMEs in the four partner countries on a set of teaching and learning tools that will allow students and SMEs across the EU to benefit from the lived-experience of successful immigrant entrepreneurs
- To pilot the teaching and learning tools with 60 non-immigrant SME participants and 120 students
- To establish what are the most significant barriers to cross-cultural entrepreneurship amongst HE students so that we can make policy recommendations in order to reduce such barriers
- To ensure that the teaching and learning tools provide a model that can be adopted by HE institutions by incorporating it into HE courses allowing students to learn how to better access EU wide opportunities
- To develop and maintain an online learning and support resource accessible to SMEs and students across the EU

Target Groups

- SMEs
- Students
- Policymakers
- Academics

Workplan

- Examine the lived experiences of immigrant entrepreneurs
- Develop teaching and learning tools for employability and entrepreneurship, based upon best practice that will be used to develop competencies in both students and SMEs
- Train facilitators in the use of the teaching and learning tools ready for piloting using action learning sets of students and learners in SMEs
- Pilot the teaching and learning tools with 30 students and 15 SMEs in each country
- Communicate and disseminate the outputs of the project to academics, students, SMEs and policy-makers
- Develop cross-cultural capabilities in students and SMEs across the EU
- Ensure effective and efficient implementation and achievement of outputs



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Project Partners

University of Salford, United Kingdom (Project Coordinator)
Carolyn Downs, c.downs@salford.ac.uk

Chapel Street Business Group, Salford, United Kingdom
Jon Monk, info@chapelstreet.org

Turku School of Economics, University of Turku, Finland
Elisa Akola, elisa.akola@utu.fi

Ardin Software Oy, Finland
Arcady Khotin, arcady.khotin@ardinsoftware.fi

Management Faculty, University of Lodz, Poland
T. Bartosz Kalinowski, tbkalinowski@uni.lodz.pl

South East European Research Centre, Greece
Lambros Lazuras, llazuras@seerc.org

Thessaloniki Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Greece
Georgia Molioti, molioti@ebeth.gr



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