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Conference Report *IMPACT Conference. Experiences of promoting youth entrepreneurship – the 37th Local Youth Policies Annual Conference, Barcelona, 24th and 25th October 2019*

On 24th and 25th October, 2019 at Espai Francesca Bonnemaison – Palau Alòs in Barcelona, the *Experiences of promoting youth entrepreneurship IMPACT* conference combined with the *37th Local Youth Policies Annual Conference* and brought together a group of over 200 experts, practitioners and innovators from research, policy, media and the arts interested in promoting entrepreneurship among young people.

Diputació de Barcelona hosted 244 students from the Institut el Vern de Lliçà de Vall, Institut Matadepera, Institut Martí Dot de Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Institut de Tona and Vilamajor Institute on 24th October. The *37th Local Youth Policies Annual Conference* was held on 25th October with the participation of 209 professional trainers, academics and educators who reflected on the concept of entrepreneurship and life skills in the future.

The event launched the IMPACT platform and introduced the IMPACT tool, one of the outputs of the IMPACT project - *Impact of entrepreneurship programs on young entrepreneurs' skills acquisition*. The tool is based on [EntreComp – The Entrepreneurship Competence Framework](#), published in 2016 by the European Commission. EntreComp defines entrepreneurship as ‘a transversal competence, which applies to all spheres of life: from nurturing personal development, to actively participating in society, to (re)entering the job market as an employee or as a self-employed person, and also to starting up ventures (cultural, social or commercial)’. The result of the project is an interactive test with 55 items for self-assessment of the following competences proposed by EntreComp: Initiative, Motivation and Spotting opportunities.

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Partners of five different nationalities worked on project development, namely Asociación Jóvenes Solidarios (Spain), Akademia Humanistyczno-Ekonomiczna w Łodzi (Poland), Câmara Municipal de Estarreja (Portugal), Bridging to the Future (United Kingdom) and Oficina del Pla Jove de la Diputació de Barcelona (Catalonia). The research related to project development was also supported by Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona.

During the conference the participants (both young people and adult trainers, academics) had the opportunity to participate in several workshops related to entrepreneurship: *Promoting youth entrepreneurship from the point of view of... the economy of the common good, sustainability of the projects, creativity, business simulation, competences for life.*

The workshops were accompanied by plenary sessions. Jaume Funes, psychologist and educator, in his presentation *Self-esteem, the cornerstone for the construction of personal autonomy* highlighted affective dimensions related to well-being, autonomy and responsibility.

Eva Navarro Campanera from Universitat de Barcelona, in her presentation *Art You OK? Art in the process of learning*, discussed the tool *fem tec!* to cultivate self-esteem. It aims at promoting self-esteem through artistic processes as tools for self-observation and the promotion of self-awareness. She also discussed the design and structure of a new guide for working with emotions.

In his presentation *What do we mean by life skills?* Eduard Vallory, Director of Escola Nova 21 and President of Centre Unesco de Catalunya, focused on the dynamics of demand for different skills over the last few years. He discussed *2022 Skills Outlook of World Economic Forum*, pointing out that analytical thinking and innovation, active learning and learning strategies, creativity, originality and initiative will be replacing, among others, such skills as manual dexterity, endurance and precision, memory, spatial, auditory and verbal abilities, management of financial and material resources. A lot of emphasis was also put on sustainability and sustainable development. The guidelines should set directions to new ways of training and methodologies, as well as new courses and curricula development.

Elin McCallum, Head of Bantani Education, presented the *EntreComp entrepreneurship concept*. Elin was one of the consultants involved in the process of EntreComp's development. She discussed the skills which, according to her research, were being neglected in the process of learning, such as sustainable thinking, self-awareness and self-efficacy, motivation and perseverance, mobilising resources, financial and economic literacy and mobilising others. All these should be included in curricula and training programmes, as well as in monitoring/measuring tools.

The presentations were summed up in the round table: *Support in times of uncertainty. How do we guide young people towards an unknown future?* during which all speakers discussed the direction of entrepreneurial skills training.

The conference was a unique opportunity to juxtapose academic research with practical solutions regarding training/teaching/learning. It also provided many in-

sights for further research regarding entrepreneurial skills, developing and measuring them.

The Impact tool for measuring entrepreneurial skills can be found at www.impact-test.eu.

More information about the conference can be found at <https://www.diba.cat/en/web/joventut/-/37a-jornada-de-politiques-locales-de-joventut-joves-i-competencies-per-a-la-vida-avui-que-podem-aportar-des-dels-sl-1>.