

Paving the way towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education

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Sustainable entrepreneurship is a promising approach aiming to solve complex social, environmental, and economic problems with innovative solutions. On educational level, this concept tends to merge entrepreneurship and sustainability principle on a common basis.

In a wider perspective this approach may be considered as a new educational pathway and as such requires concrete indicators for its evaluation on sustainability, productivity, and efficiency levels. Additionally, academic culture and values are important factors to be considered in both economic and social performance.

A substantial background work is necessary in order to convert this bottom-up approach into a widely adopted educational model. Many networks and projects are ongoing in Europe and worldwide on this topic, trying to optimize the educational parameters and also to adapt them to various regional and sectorial contexts. Common elements are “critical thinking”, “professional development” and “pedagogic excellence”.

In this perspective, a workshop entitled “Paving the way towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship Education” was co-organized by European Bioeconomy Network, Transition2Bio, the European Community of Practice for Bioeconomy Education, BIOSKILLS, BIObec and the European Bioeconomy University (EBU), aiming to identify how the cross-fertilization of Entrepreneurship Education (EE) and Sustainable Education (SE), with a special focus on circular and sustainable Bioeconomy, can help design educational curricula and extra-curricular activities for sustainability-minded entrepreneurs of tomorrow. The workshop facilitated the knowledge exchange among projects and initiatives and interaction among 76 experts on key “what” and “how” questions, on the necessary competences, the educational methodologies and formats, and recommendations.

The outcomes of this workshop contained valuable considerations, stimulating further discussion: An educational framework based onto a systems-thinking model; Enhancing creativity and providing motivation elements; Normative competence; Foresight thinking; Sustainability and innovation in multiple levels including the management and business perspectives; Consideration resilience and green development issues.

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