

STATEMENTS



Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts
of the Republic of Croatia



European
Commission



ALBANIA

Ministry of Education and Science, Mr Halit Shamata, Deputy Minister:

"Signing the Charter for Entrepreneurial Learning is both a responsibility and a challenge where the collaboration among our countries is particularly important for the development of entrepreneurship in the region and beyond."

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, Mr Mirko Šarović, Minister:

"By taking part at the Entrepreneurship Education Regional Summit and by signing the Charter for Entrepreneurial Learning, we have reconfirmed our commitment to structured regional cooperation in the field of entrepreneurial learning led by South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (SEECEL) being an important policy broker in the region. In

order to become globally recognized as the region with high potential in changing the perspective from economic crisis to opportunities, we firmly stand behind of areas of action and the principles of the Charter which will help in promoting the entrepreneurship as a key competence in order for our economies to grow and to be incorporated into the European vision."

CROATIA

Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Mr Gordan Maras, Minister:

"Croatia is fully supporting structured regional cooperation in the field of entrepreneurial learning which is proven to be an excellent example of how together we can help to strengthen the competitiveness of our economies, to foster smart, inclusive and sustainable growth and development and to further work towards meeting the EU 2020 objectives."

KOSOVO*

Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ms Mimoza Kusari Lila, Deputy Prime Minister/Minister:

"This agreement is another important step on our way to making entrepreneurship the cornerstone of our long-term economic welfare not only for Kosovo* but also for the region as a whole."

MACEDONIA**

Ministry of Economy, Mr Valon Saraqini, Minister:

"I am convinced that our serious dedication to the implementation of the principles and recommendations of the Small Business Act for Europe and Charter for Entrepreneurial Learning will be of exceptional significance for our sustainable and knowledge based economic development, and the continuous realization of the planned activities will contribute for new successful examples in the big European family, where we belong."

Ministry of Education and Science, Mr Pance Krale, Minister:

"SEECEL's work is of a great importance and highly recognized throughout region and we in Macedonia are fully supporting the principles of the Charter which will help us in development of the lifelong entrepreneurial learning."

MONTENEGRO

Directorate for SME development, Ms Marija Iličković, Director:

"SEECEL is a unique example of regional structured cooperation. By supporting SEECEL, the European Commission is fostering competitiveness, economic growth and development and creation of new jobs in Western Balkans and Turkey. From the early start, Montenegro has recognized the importance of SEECEL work focused on development of lifelong entrepreneurial learning and entrepreneurship as a key competence and will continue to actively support the activities of SEECEL."

SERBIA

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Mr Muhedin Fijuljanin, State Secretary:

"Regional cooperation is one of the pillars of good relations between states and nations of Europe. Its development, strengthening and upgrading is the permanent guarantor of peace and stability in the Western Balkans and overall Europe. Building

such relationships will ensure to our countries and nations peace as lasting value. Documents based on these principles will contribute to development of mechanisms which will ensure development, prosperity and happier future in this region and beyond."

TURKEY

Ministry of National Education, Mr Ibrahim Bukel, Education Board Member:

"It was a great honour to be at this Summit representing Turkey on behalf of Mr Ömer Dinçer, Minister of National Education and would like to take this opportunity to greet you all with great respect. We, as the Ministry of National Education, believe that entrepreneurship education provides a significant contribution to personal and social developments as well as economic growth and therefore we would like to promote entrepreneurship education at all levels of education in Turkey."

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission:

"Giving all young people the possibility to develop entrepreneurial attitudes and skills is key to the growth of our economies, and to the future of the young generation. The signature of the Charter for Entrepreneurial Learning emphasizes the progress that has been made in fostering entrepreneurship as a key competence in the countries of South Eastern Europe, and will further support regional cooperation to enhance smart growth, competitive economies and the creation of new jobs".

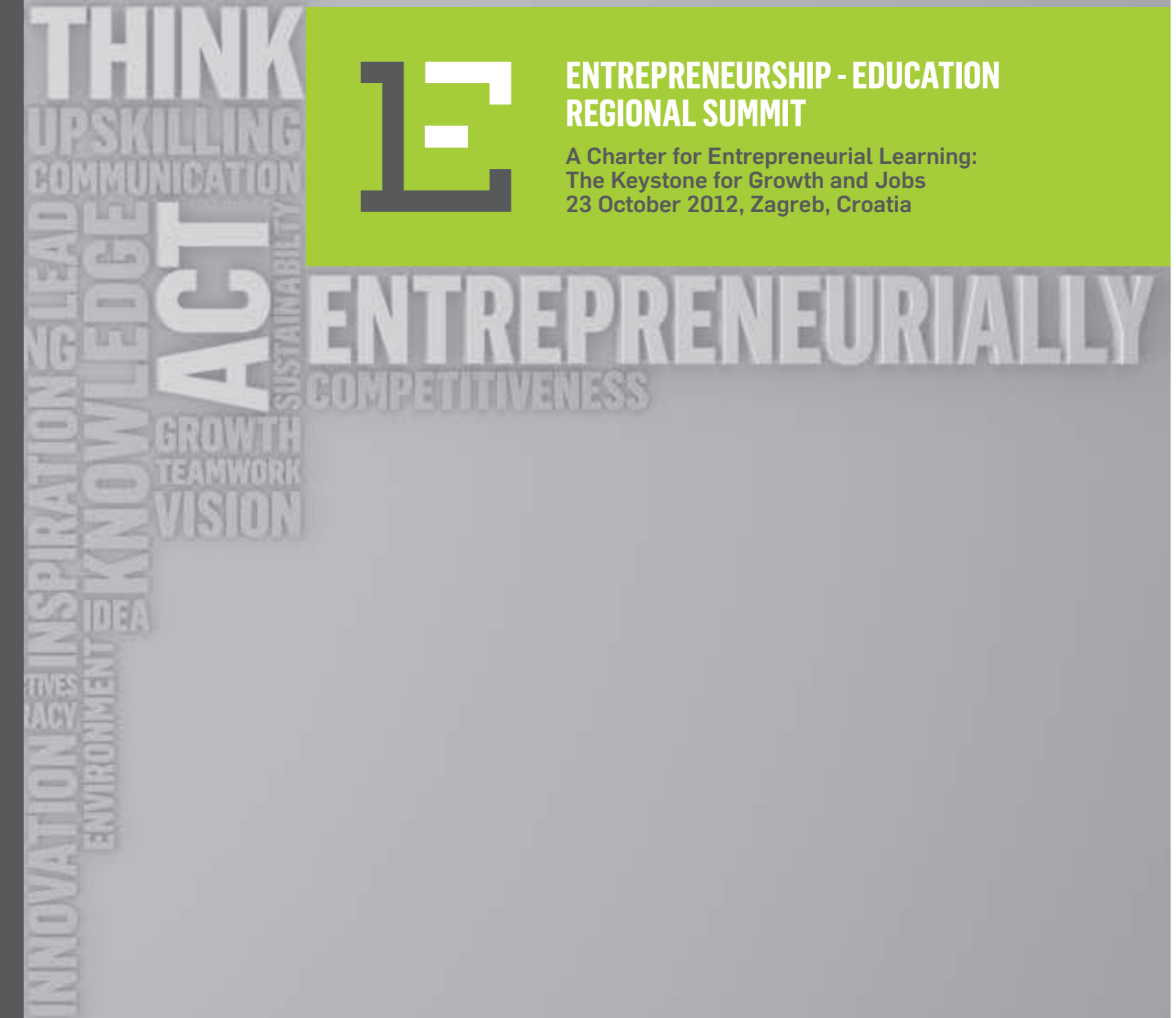
EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION

Ms Madlen Serban, Director:

"The signing of the Charter is an historic moment for the region. This Charter sits at the intersection of the competitiveness and jobs agenda and is a strong statement by the signatory countries that education and training are key to economic turn-around and employment."

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence

** The Former Yugoslav Republic





PREAMBLE

With EU accession as our common primary goal, we are committed to ensuring that our economies respond to competitive pressures and are complementary with the Copenhagen Criteria and, in particular, the market forces of the European Union.¹ We recognize that the challenges for our small businesses are significant. Since the 2003 Thessaloniki European Council,² we have collectively engaged in a systematic and rigorous review of our enterprise policies where we are now making considerable efforts to accommodate the provisions of the Small Business Act (SBA) for Europe. Our SBA monitoring framework has provided us with a mechanism to track progress, set objectives and share experience and know-how between signatory parties.

In this context, we believe that entrepreneurial learning is important for the personal, social and economic developments in all our countries. It stimulates one's interest and willingness to do different things and increases the speed of operation and production, which is an added value for small businesses.

Through the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning, which we established in 2009, we have been paying specific attention to how our education and training systems work towards developing an entrepreneurial culture and skills in each of our countries. We see this as essential in our bid to meet the EU 2020 objectives for smart and sustainable growth as well as enhanced employment.

Therefore, through this Charter, we outline a number of principles and action lines to bring forward the entrepreneurial learning agenda of our ministries and to re-confirm our commitment to political cooperation, policy learning and good practice sharing.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Charter is to reinforce our commitment to systematic development and progress in lifelong entrepreneurial learning through continued policy improvement, good practice sharing and regional cooperation.

PRINCIPLES

This Charter is based on a number of principles:

- Lifelong entrepreneurial learning: entrepreneurship promotion should begin in early education and be sequenced through subsequent levels. In this way, the entrepreneurial spirit and skills in society as a whole would be strengthened. The efforts of the formal education system, therefore, should be reinforced with the promotion of entrepreneurial learning through collaboration with civic interest groups, business support organizations and the world of enterprise;
- Entrepreneurship key competence: promotion of entrepreneurship as a key competence is critical to the development of the entrepreneurial mind-set and behaviour, resulting not only in increasing numbers of small businesses but also greater creativity and productivity of the workforce in general;
- EU policy framework: entrepreneurial learning developments in our region built on the Small Business Act for Europe, EU developments in entrepreneurial learning and the broader EU 2020 policy recommendations for growth, sustainability and employability, all of which have equal relevance to our economies and our common objective for EU accession;
- Partnership: the entrepreneurial learning agenda requires partnership and cooperation at the local, national and international levels involving different parts of the learning system and the range of stakeholders with interests in entrepreneurial learning. Cooperation between all levels of education and the world of enterprise is a central pillar of this partnership drive;
- Co-working developments: given the newness and complexity of the entrepreneurial learning policy area, co-working of developments, peer learning and sharing of good practice brings added value and efficiency to efforts at the national and regional levels;
- Entrepreneurial learning and social and environmental concerns: through entrepreneurial learning, we have the responsibility to promote awareness and the understanding of social and environmental responsibility of individuals, the public sector, communities and businesses serving our communities.

AREAS FOR ACTION

By endorsing this Charter, we commit to bringing forward developments in the following areas, in each of our respective countries, while ensuring value-added through our co-working arrangements:

1. Entrepreneurship promotion across all levels and forms of learning systems

We recognize the value and importance of all forms of entrepreneurial learning promoted by schools, universities, training organizations, business support organizations and civic interest groups. We will continue our development work on entrepreneurial learning outcomes, including recommendations for curricula, teacher training and school management. A particular feature of this work will be to further improve our pioneering efforts to promote entrepreneurship as a key competence. Additionally, given increasing policy concerns for a safer, cleaner and more sustainable economy, we will consider issues and options as to how the education and training system can better promote an environmental key competence.

2. Progress through partnership

We recognize that the entrepreneurial learning agenda addresses a host of policy areas (education, training, employment, social inclusion, small business, innovation) which requires us to cooperate and coordinate strategically both at home, between signatory parties, with European partners and beyond. For the purposes of enhanced partnership and development of the entrepreneurial learning agenda between our ministries, we will continue to strategically cooperate and support the mandate and activities of the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning.

3. Entrepreneurship promotion in third-level education and links to innovation

We invite higher education and research communities to strategically cooperate with government and the private sector to maximize the entrepreneurial potential of our universities and research environments in generating innovations for our economies, contributing to smarter, more sustainable growth and improved employment.

4. Reinforcing networks, sharing of good practice and peer learning

We appreciate the work to date of the regional

networks facilitated by the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning on human capital developments in our countries. We will further develop the networks to address specific areas of policy interest as expressed by the countries collectively, identify and disseminate good practice (from the region and the European Union) and build knowledge and know-how through peer learning activities.

5. Reinforcing the contribution of the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning Centre to the SBA support framework

With an objective of increased ownership and contribution to the SBA policy process, we endorse the recommendation of the 2012 SBA assessment to fully integrate the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning into the institutional support framework, alongside the European Commission, Regional Cooperation Council, Western Balkans Investment Framework, European Training Foundation, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

6. Readiness for further collaboration

We offer to share our knowledge, expertise and experience developed within the region and to further enrich our work by engaging with policy experts and practitioner networks from the European Union, its neighbourhood regions and beyond.

CONCLUSIONS

Our market transition has required us to make considerable adjustments to our education and training systems to ensure improved relevance and contribution of our human capital to the competitiveness of small businesses and the overall economy. More recently, we have had to additionally respond to the turbulence of global financial markets, which has created uncertainty for our businesses and workforces.

Set against these challenges, and with steadfast commitment to our integration within the European Union, we re-confirm our readiness to install the necessary policies, structures and capacities to foster the development of an entrepreneurial society and entrepreneurial behaviour in everyday life.

We will continue to bring value to our efforts through our cooperation and with the support of the South East European Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning.

Finally, we invite those countries of the European Union and neighbouring regions that share our commitment to building a more entrepreneurial Europe to join us on this journey. We owe it to the next generation, and beyond.

¹ Conclusions of the European Council, Copenhagen, June 21-22 1993.

² Conclusions of the European Council, Thessaloniki, June 19-20 2003.