

2° Entrepreneurship Education High Level Reflection Panel - Stockholm 23-24 April 2009

- SUMMARY REPORT -

The second Entrepreneurship Education High Level Reflection Panel took place on 23-24 April 2009 at the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications in Stockholm. Participants included representatives from **Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden**.

This initiative is jointly developed by the European Commission and national authorities as part of the implementation of the Small Business Act. This project is intended to help in the exchange of good practices, in view of introducing more systematic strategies for the development of entrepreneurship education at all levels.

The Panel brought together senior managers from **national departments of education and enterprise**, as well as some relevant stakeholders. In particular, all ministries of education of the above cluster of countries were represented. Stakeholders included representatives from business associations and teachers.

In these countries there is a good level of development of policies for entrepreneurship education, and good cooperation among different players. A **national strategy** exists already in **Finland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden**. A similar strategy is in preparation also in **Denmark and Estonia**. Therefore the focus is now especially on implementation. **Finland and Norway** are launching a new action plan for the coming years.

As regards the split of tasks within national administrations, the **Ministry of Education** is normally in the lead and responsible for curriculum development, while the **Ministry of Economy** provides specific funding, for instance by supporting NGOs active in this field.

Main challenges highlighted by participants concern especially the need for more research on the effects and impact of entrepreneurship education, and the preparation of teachers. Also it was stressed that it is particularly difficult for national authorities to influence developments in higher education, due to the autonomy of universities.

Participants agreed that it is essential to **create a steering group** where all national departments interested in this issue can meet regularly, in order to facilitate communication and the development of coherent measures. **Norway** provides a good example of that. Also, it was stressed that stakeholders need to be involved since the beginning of this process. The experience from participants is that it takes 15 to 18 months to agree on a national strategy (e.g. in **Sweden**) and that it will take of course more time to implement the objectives set on paper.

Having a clear strategy as a starting point, next steps will be to provide stable sources of funding, and to find the best way to integrate entrepreneurship into the national curriculum (as it is the case in **Finland**).

Participants stressed **the importance of this initiative** set up by the Commission, as it creates a framework where EU Member States can exchange experiences and information on how to improve and coordinate their policies. The format of these Reflection Panels is considered as very helpful, but it should not remain the only opportunity for Member States to work together. The Commission needs to play a key role in facilitating the continuation of this process.