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JA Worldwide



EU Youth & Innovation Manifesto “20 goals for 2030” at the occasion of the European Year of Youth

6th September 2022

Background

This Manifesto is the result of the actions of JA Europe, its Members and Alumni, the Youth & Innovation Hackathon of Startup OLÉ, as well as the consultation of young people, all of which are in line with the New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA), which has been adopted the 5th of July 2022. It started with a workshop held on 11th January 2022 called “Innovation and Youth: Defining a European Approach”.

Also, this Manifesto includes the outcomes of the Youth & Innovation Hackathon, which has been carried out with the active engagement of young people, as a way for them to meet different stakeholders of the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem. This Hackathon relied on four challenges, which were the following: to increase the number of women in the innovation ecosystem, to create innovative solutions related to the circular economy, to provide entrepreneurial education for young people and to increase the number of entrepreneurs to create their own startups. Youth provided solutions to them and the winners were announced by the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Ms. Mariya Gabriel, the 8th of July 2022.

Finally, youth from the Gen-E 2022 Event on 12-14 July which gathered the finalists of 370,000 JA young entrepreneurs and innovators from across Europe, and the JA Alumni Europe Conference 2022 were consulted into the process.

Preamble

In 2030, European youth will have the skillset and mindset to build a thriving Europe. For this to happen, we must act now, by providing opportunities and creating a European Union as a space where talent meets opportunity. Young people should be empowered to create their own future in a tolerant, inclusive and enabling environment.

JA Europe, its members across Europe and Startup OLÉ call on the European Union and its Member States to take urgent and concrete action to empower the next generation of Europeans to succeed in the global economy and build thriving communities locally. Achieving more entrepreneurial activity and Startup creation in Europe will be the result of successful scaling of



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Entrepreneurship Education opportunities to Europe's youth, who will have the skillset and mindset to start their own business. Europe must encourage entrepreneurship in all its policies and funding streams.

This Manifesto calls for action on 20 goals for 2030:

1. **Make Entrepreneurship a viable career path for Europe's youth** by increasing the number of young entrepreneurs by 30% by 2030.
2. Target the **development of individual talents** of young people to build a future (still) worth living. Ensure talent retention in the European Union by appropriate compensation of youth in order for Europe to **remain competitive globally**.
3. **Incentivise entrepreneurship** through significant investment into Entrepreneurship Education by both private and public investors.
4. **Provide Economic Opportunities for All:** ensure Europe's education systems offer concrete learning experiences for all youth with a strategic focus on disadvantaged, rural, remote and underserved communities.
5. **Make innovation** a fundamental basis for education and entrepreneurial education in close collaboration with the EIT.
6. Ensure the EU **allocates 3% of its budget to supporting entrepreneurs**.
7. **Create a dedicated EU Agency for Youth Entrepreneurship and Start Ups:** targeted funding and projects will accelerate Europe's move into an innovation and knowledge-based economy.
8. **Achieve a significant reduction of bureaucracy to start a company** across Europe. EU Member states must commit to cutting red tape for business creation in their countries.
9. **Workforce Development of Europe's youth:** increase incentive mechanisms such as the Youth Guarantee with more opportunities for apprenticeships, and bring more flexibility into the labour market where young people can be employed.
10. **Create a network of pre-accelerators across Europe;** and increase their access to funding. Research at universities shall be better connected to the talent from secondary education.

11. **Open up the EU as a Single market to provide access and validation of newly created Start Ups for their innovations.**
12. **Incentivise schools and teachers** who take an active role in integrating entrepreneurship education into their programmes.
13. **Break barriers for girls to enter into entrepreneurship careers and encourage Start Up and Scale Up creation by women.**
14. **Simplify EU rules for access to EU funding and reduce bureaucratic burden** to make it easier for young entrepreneurs and innovators to apply.
15. **Instill a culture in Europe recognizing those who try and fail**, in order to make entrepreneurship a desired career path.
16. **Strengthen the inter-disciplinary approach blending entrepreneurship and STE(A)M education, as well as digital and AI applications** in a business context.
17. **Promote Circular Economy** among young entrepreneurs in order to generate more sustainable startups and companies.
18. Continue to build mechanisms for generating **seed-investment into early-stage entrepreneurial projects**, especially for the most innovative businesses and deep-tech Start Ups like the EIT Deep Tech Talent Initiative.
19. Invite all EU Members to develop a **Strategy for Entrepreneurship Education** which should be integrated in their education systems and curricula.
20. Call on all EU Member States to **act and allocate resources** on the measures needed to scale Entrepreneurship Education opportunities.