



Issue 28

In this issue

- UNCTAD's Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission
- Working with and for Youth!
- News from the Empretec network
- International Events
- Upcoming Events
- Be in the know

The first issue of the Empretec Newsletter builds on the outcomes of the recently held Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission of UNCTAD and the recently discussed Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Framework and draws the attention to the fast moving agenda of Youth and entrepreneurship. Enjoy!

From UNCTAD's Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission: Entrepreneurship as a key vehicle to achieve SDG's

The Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission held in Geneva, 20 - 24 April 2015 discussed the role of entrepreneurship in sustainable development. For example, the representative from UNDESA, Patricia Chaves highlighted entrepreneurship's close relationship with sustainable development, supported by the General Assembly resolutions 67/2012 and 69/L.14, and its contribution to the proposed SDG targets 4.4 and 8.3. UNDESA indicated a number of opportunities to promote entrepreneurship as an enabling policy within the context of the SDGs. These included: the forthcoming Financing for Development conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015, the Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals in New York in September 2015, as well as Secretary-General's report on Entrepreneurship for Development at the September 2016 General Assembly's annual session. Some panellists stressed the importance of effective entrepreneurship promotion as part of an entrepreneurial ecosystem, and the need to switch the focus of policy from the entrepreneur, as an individual, to the entrepreneur and the enterprise as part of a dynamic ecosystem.



The session moved on to discussing the topic of measuring the impact of entrepreneurship policies and the need to develop a comprehensive and structured framework for monitoring entrepreneurship policies, by systematizing existing indicators by category and providing guidance on how indicators should be compiled.

Consultative Group Meeting on Measuring Entrepreneurship Policies

On 23 April 2015 UNCTAD convened a Consultative Group Meeting to exchange views on measuring impact of entrepreneurship policies in the context of post-2015 development agenda. The meeting was held in Geneva and brought together academics, representatives from international and non-governmental organizations, entrepreneurs, and government's advisors. Participants exchanged views on the existing initiatives and their challenges related to measuring the performance of entrepreneurship and its impact on development, including among others, the existence of different definitions of entrepreneurship, its multifaceted nature and the limited availability of comparable and reliable data.

Ad hoc Workshop on Social Entrepreneurship on 1 April 2015

In collaboration with Unltd - a United Kingdom's foundation working on social entrepreneurship - and the UNCTAD's Business Schools for Impact programme, a one day training reviewed the needs and opportunities for social entrepreneurship development.

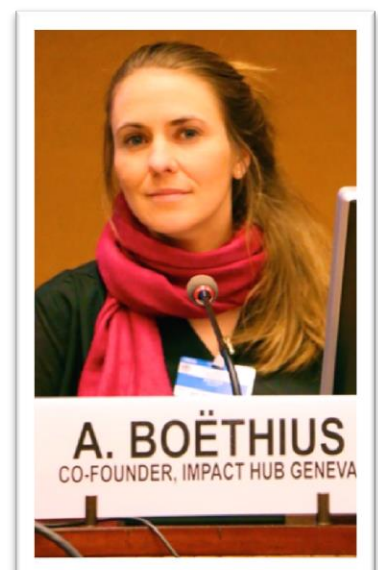
Youth Entrepreneurship: Creating a problem-solving global mindset!



Policy-makers, academics, impact investors, representatives from international and non-governmental organizations, business executives and notably women and young entrepreneurs from developing and developed countries gathered on the occasion of UNCTAD's third session of the Multi-Year Expert Meeting on "Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity Building and Sustainable Development" in Geneva on 30-31 March 2015.

Multi-year Expert Meeting on Entrepreneurship and Productive Capacity Building, 30- 31 March 2015.

Throughout the meeting, all experts agreed on the importance of infusing entrepreneurship into national educational systems to allow a problem-solving culture to flourish and create a basis for sustainable economic growth. Experts also highlighted recent efforts to develop inclusive entrepreneurship policies through a bottom-up approach, building on sub-national regions, cities, and all types of communities' inputs and incorporating measures to enhance access to finance and to develop entrepreneurial skills. Delegates agreed that there was a need to have an enabling environment for enterprising young people as well as a shift in the mentality not only of students but first and foremost of their educators, based on the principle that one must think as an entrepreneur in order to create entrepreneurs. The experts focused on holistic and multi-stakeholder approaches to achieve inclusive and sustained growth. Participants exchanged experiences and examples of policy interventions that allow opportunities for entrepreneurs – including those in rural communities – to participate in international production systems, encourage technology exchanges, upgrade skills and better integrate into the global economy. For example, H.E. Ada Margarita Romero, Minister of the Authority for Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises of Panama presented a development plan which adopted a regional approach to poverty reduction, encompassing initiatives aimed at encouraging formalization, promoting decent work, enhancing access to credit, and diffusing entrepreneurial education. Some experts highlighted the role that the private sector can play in financing for development. Tapping into companies' strategic interests and supporting the integration of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into global value chains would leverage funds to generate jobs and to develop enterprises at the base of the pyramid.



"Our community of young entrepreneurs are transforming people's lives"

The two day meeting was concluded with a positive outlook on entrepreneurship's transformational impact in developing productive capacities. In this respect, experts highlighted that the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on "Entrepreneurship for Development" was to be seen as a positive step towards recognition of the role of entrepreneurship in the post-2015 development agenda and in the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals, and their implementation.

The background document, presentations, and full report of the meeting can now be found online on the UNCTAD Website (<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=645>).

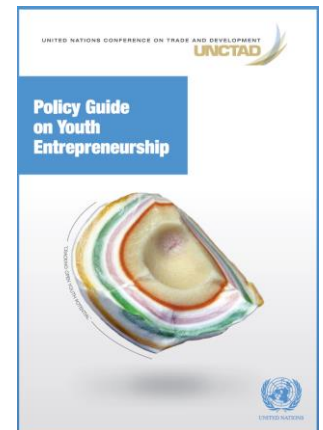


Joint UNCTAD-Commonwealth Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship

The Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship developed by UNCTAD in collaboration with the Commonwealth, building on each organisation's expertise in entrepreneurship policy and youth entrepreneurship respectively has been presented during the expert meeting held in Geneva last March.

This Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship aims at supporting policymakers in developing countries and in transition economies to design policies and programmes, and to establish institutions that will promote youth entrepreneurship, providing the foundation for achieving job creation through the development, expansion and growth of youth-led enterprises.

This Guide builds on the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework (EPF), launched in Doha in 2012, and reflects good practices and lessons learned in the area of youth entrepreneurship promotion, including the implementation of UNCTAD's Empretec Programme and the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative.



This Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship outlines the process for formulating an integrated national youth entrepreneurship strategy. It highlights the key elements that have a significant impact on youth entrepreneurship that countries will need to consider when developing their strategies. Stakeholders that need to be engaged during the development of the strategy and their roles in the process are also identified.

Pitch your Start-up Lunch-on Event

UNCTAD in partnership with Child and Youth Finance and the Business Schools for Impact Network, invited young entrepreneurs from across the globe to channel their energy, enthusiasm and ideas into a business pitch addressing policymakers, impact investors and other stakeholders at the United Nations Premises last March 31st 2015.

The event successfully enabled dialogue among stakeholders to reflect and promote sustainable and inclusive growth through entrepreneurship.

Executives from impact investment funds provided valuable feedback and advice to these young talents.



From left to right:

Ayisha Fuseini (Ghana) created Asheba Enterprise, a business processing shea butter into personal care products and groups over 120 women into cooperatives to supply all their production.

Anielle Guides (Brazil) is an ambassador of Women Frontier Brazil and founded a tech company, Urban3D, which focuses on sustainable urban development using additive manufacturing.

Emanu Georwell (Uganda) Founded Geosy Ltd in 2008, a certified company with 7 years of service in East Africa, engaged in improving modern farming methods. Emanu introduced a low-cost fish feed machine in Uganda.

Michelle Blanchet (Switzerland) is an educator, speaker, and edupreneur. She has been working with the Social Innovation Institute for Educators.

Tom Osborn (Kenya) is the founder and CEO of Greenchar, eco-stove solution. Tom is the youngest Echoing Green Climate Fellow, winner of Innovate Kenya '13 and Anzisha Prize 2014.

Sophie Roulet (Switzerland) is the creator of Pass Vita is a way to change the way the elderly live their retirement.



Alexandre Coquet (Senior Manager, ResponsAbility), Stawicki Boleslaw (Programme Manager, Africa Ent. Chllg. Fund), Roland Dominicé (CEO, Symbiotics), Benjamin Firmenich (Partner, Impact Finance),



To inspire these young entrepreneurs, Lina Khalifeh Founder of She Fighter and winner of Empretec Women Business Awards 2014, set the scene by sharing her success story.

Working with and for Youth!

UNCTAD and key global players are partnering to empower young entrepreneurs. The partnerships involve among others joint initiatives for mentoring, skills-training, access to financial services, tailored events and publications.



Ye! - The global youth entrepreneurship platform - is an online and offline portal which has been developed by Child and Youth Finance International (CYFI). Ye! connects young entrepreneurs from across the world and provides them with an ecosystem designed to help their business thrive. On Ye!, young entrepreneurs can share their experiences, look for country specific resources and access country entrepreneurship guides, apply for coaching and gain access to funding opportunities. <http://yecomunity.com/en/> <http://www.childfinanceinternational.org/>.



Youth Business International is a global network of independent non-profit initiatives helping young people to start and grow their own business and create employment. <http://www.youthbusiness.org>.



Impact Hub Geneva is part of the largest of a global network of locally owned collaborative working spaces. It provides support to entrepreneurs through flexible access to workspace and curate a supportive, collaborative environment for these impact makers. Impact Hub Geneva also co-hosts an event during which young developers, and designers collaborate intensively on projects to produce new solutions often resulting in web or mobile applications. Hackathons typically last 24 – 48 hours over a weekend but can last up to a week. Recently hackathons have become increasingly popular across a number of sectors including social enterprise. <http://geneva.impacthub.net/>.

New Youth Entrepreneurship Training

UNCTAD in collaboration with UNITAR developed a new training of trainers for youth based on a behavioral methodology. The training aimed at enhancing entrepreneurship skills and mindset of youth. The first trained took place in Algeria in 2014. 25 local trainers have been trained and the training extended to more than 800 Algerian youth in 2015.

News from the Empretec network

The first assessment and certification Empretec workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 April - 8 May 2015

On 27 April - 8 May 2015 the first assessment and certification Empretec workshop took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was designed specifically to assess a team of Ethiopian trainers in Empretec methodology and to certify the first 20 Ethiopian Empretec trainers as UNCTAD - Empretec national trainers.

The Ethiopia Empretec programme started two years ago as the initiative of the Ethiopian Government to accelerate the growth of the Ethiopian economy by promoting the development of the SME sector. The initiative has also the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), UNDP and Empretec Ghana, which implemented the initial stage of the programme. The local Empretec Centre - Entrepreneurship Development Centre (EDC) has so far delivered over 160 Entrepreneurship Training Workshops (ETWs) and trained over 7,000 entrepreneurs in Ethiopia. A team of three senior International UNCTAD-Empretec Master Trainers, including Roberto Gandara from Brazil, Busi Bango from Zimbabwe and Nana Boateng from Ghana conducted two six-day workshops. As a result, 20 Ethiopian trainers obtained the certification as UNCTAD-Empretec National Trainers.



Tatiana Krylova with International Master Trainers: Roberto Gandara (Brazil), Nana Boateng (Ghana), and Busi Bango, Zimbabwe.

First ETW in Cameroon

The Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicraft and UNCTAD launched the Empretec programme in Cameroon in May 2014. The main objective is to train around 400 entrepreneurs in the coming five years and to create a new Agency to promote entrepreneurship and SMEs in the country. The first ETWs were planned in January 2015.

Empretecos with H.E Minister Etoundi and Fiorina Mugione UNCTAD



Third Empretec training for Women Entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia

25 women entrepreneurs attended the Empretec workshop in Riyadh, organized by UNCTAD in collaboration with the Saudi Credit and Savings Bank (SCSB).

Dezider Stefunko at the 3rd Empretec Workshop for Women Entrepreneurs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

International Events

Italy: The Global Entrepreneurship Congress (GEC) is an inter-disciplinary gathering of start-up champions from more than 150 countries and attracted over 3,000 delegates at the Milan event held from 17-19 March 2015. Main events organized and attended by the UNCTAD's and Empretec delegations:

- SME Ministerial
- Inclusive and sustainable solutions for youth employment through entrepreneurship development
- Empretec Summit II
- Global Entrepreneurship Research Network

The addition of a Ministerial meeting to the GEC this year illustrates the importance of new firm formation to national economic policy while mayors and city officials showed the same commitments for local efforts at the municipal level. Deeper engagement from business angels and early stage investors present at the GEC and a network of researchers provided additional opportunities.

Mauritius: Within the framework on UNCTAD's para 166 Training Course for developing countries policymakers, the module on Enhancing productive capacities through foreign direct investment, enterprise development and STI, was carried out by UNCTAD in Mauritius on 23-27 February 2015. The module reviewed the role of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the development process and its interaction with development strategies related to enterprise development and science, technology and innovation (STI) policies. Participants learned which policies, institutions and strategies can best attract FDI and "embed" it in host economies, notably through business linkages, enterprise development and STI policies, and the key elements of an effective entrepreneurship policy framework. Sanjay Mungur, Director of Empretec Mauritius, shared information with the participants - both from francophone and anglophone Africa - about the Empretec methodology and international network.



Expanding the role of SMEs in value chains between Asia and Latin America

UNCTAD took part in the conference on "Expanding the role of SMEs in value chains between Asia and Latin America", organised by the Division of International Trade and Integration of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC). UNCTAD made a presentation on "Promoting business linkages between large and small firms: the experience of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development", based on a book's chapter that was also jointly prepared by ECLAC and UNCTAD. The book - to be released by ECLAC in July 2015 - compares the features and rationale of business linkages programmes in Asian and Latin American countries.

*Fulvia Farinelli, UNCTAD and
Ricardo Finkelsztein, Empretec Argentina.*



UNCTAD presented the characteristics of UNCTAD's business linkage programmes, designed to upgrade and increase the capacity of SMEs by generating linkages between transnational corporations (TNCs) and SMEs. It also includes the programmes implemented in Argentina and Brazil, while also reflecting on the Mexican experience. Ricardo Finkelsztein, Director of Empretec Argentina, delivered a presentation on the specific methodology and outcome of the business linkages programme in Argentina.

For more information on the conference, see <http://conferencias.cepal.org/pymes>.

Upcoming Events

Empretec Latin-American Regional Forum



Hosted by the Empretec Center and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in the Dominican Republic, the regional Latin-American Forum

will take place in Punta Cana from 1st to 6th June 2015. Directors and International Master Trainers will gather to exchange experiences in the delivery of the EMPRETEC training, further extend existing regional partnerships and explore latest materials provided by UNCTAD to serve women, green and social entrepreneurs.

UNCTAD's partnership with the Business Schools for Impact Network has just launched its first round of summer internships (<http://business-schools-for-impact.org/professional-opportunities>) for business graduates who want to make a difference. Some 20 internships are available in 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with businesses ranging from start-ups to mid-sized and commercial entities to social impact firms and foundations. About half of these placements are with entrepreneurs who are part of the Empretec network. These internships are intended to give impact-minded students an opportunity to make a difference, while gaining valuable experience in the field. Empretec and empretecas interested in getting involved can contact impact@unctad.org.



GEW 2015

The next Global Entrepreneurship week will take place November 16-22 2015. Please check www.gew.co to participate or organize an event during this amazing week, the world's largest celebration of the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare.



Contact

All inquiries and requests to submit articles to the Empretec Newsletter may be directed to the Editor: [Fiorina Mugione](#), Empretec Programme, UNCTAD.

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Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2015 - Kenya

The 2015 Global Entrepreneurship Summit will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on July 25-26. It will be the sixth annual gathering of entrepreneurs at all stages of business development, business leaders, mentors, and high-level government officials. For more information: www.ges2015.org.



United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, 25 Sep 2015 - 27 Sep 2015, New-York

The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

For more information: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/summit>.



6th Global Innovation Forum World Bank HQ, Washington DC August 12 - 14, 2015

Athgo's 6th Global Innovation Forum at the World Bank headquarters will bring together 200 young (18 to 32 years of age) entrepreneurs and promising college students from around the world.

Be in the know

Books

Clayton M. Christensen, "The Innovator's Dilemma: The Revolutionary Book That Will Change the Way You Do Business", HarperBusiness, 2011

Websites

Look out at www.yecommunity.com/ to get in touch with peers, find knowledge, coaching and funding.

The SME Finance Forum brings together financial institutions, technology companies, and development finance institutions to share knowledge, spur innovation, and promote the growth of SMEs: <http://smefinanceforum.org/>.