An Education System fit for an Entrepreneur

by

Mr. Nigel Culkin
President, ISBE University of Hertfordshire

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD
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President, ISBE
University of Hertfordshire, UK
The Context

- Commissioned in December 2012 following an APPG meeting with Anne-Marie Morris / David Willets
  - Recognition that term SME is meaningless today
  - (New) Micro firms create jobs
  - 5.2M Private Sector firms in UK;
  - 99.3% Micro-Small; 0.6% Medium; 5,000 large firms
  - 76% sole traders
Sample of Key Findings

• Evidence suggests that learning for innovation needs to be implicit and not seen as a bolt-on experience.

• Our education systems need to deliver knowledge harvesters, not merely knowledge retainers.

• Flexibility and adaptability are key skills and behaviours, yet many educational systems conspire against them.

• Learning from experience includes the experience of being taught – the teacher can be a role model to emulate.
Sample of Key Findings

- Schools encouraged to measure to the test, not the talent
- Peer recognition and rewards schemes are emerging and have impact
- Formalised progression and career paths are at a very early stage of development (for entrepreneurship educators)
- UK Government support was lacking in England
- Europe and the world were moving ahead of us
Key Concerns include:

• Disjointed landscape – HE’s lead with QAA

• If we want to make it in curriculum – assessment strategies still need robust development

  “not a single educator or educational respondent stated that they could reliably track the development of creative and innovative capacities”

• Educator enhancement strategies / training is required

• Disjointed and ad hoc funding – many insights get lost

• Good educators are rarely rewarded within HE sector

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Sample of Key Recommendations

• Government overarching strategy is required (Parties agree)
• Definitions need to be more consistent (QAA/OFSTED)
• Academic support / University ‘buy in’ is required – drawing on all bodies and networks (Value Networks)
• Business Schools are not alone, this is an interdisciplinary agenda (Small Business Charter?)
• We need to look to the world stage, e.g. UN and EU are well advanced in their thinking (here I am, learning!)

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“Integration and pathways to be developed so that schools, colleges and universities can provide a continuous and integrated approach that will help our learners to develop the lifelong skills needed to be enterprising and entrepreneurial.”

Professor Andrew Penaluna
Ex-Chair, EEUK

Lord Young - the Prime Minister’s Special Advisor for Small Firms - called on the author to complete his *Enterprise for All* Report; it was accepted by the Cabinet in October 2014.