



UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network Terms of Reference

Preamble

The global unemployment rate has been projected to be more than 202 million in 2013. Young people looking for jobs are particularly at risk: 12.6 percent of them are unemployed in 2013, and their prospects in the short-term are not promising as the youth unemployment rate is expected to increase by another 3 million in 2014.¹

Although the Asia and Pacific region has survived the financial crisis better than other regions in the world, it still faces many challenges. It is home to more than 800 million people living in extreme poverty – representing nearly two-thirds of the world's poor, with 563 million undernourished people, and more than 1 billion workers in vulnerable employment having low wages, no benefits, no job security and difficult conditions of work.² Across the region, economically active youth are three to five times more likely to be unemployed compared to the adult cohorts. Youth unemployment for 2013 is forecast to stand at 13.4 percent in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, 10 percent in South Asia and 9.8 percent in East Asia.³

Long periods of disengagement and disruption to professional development of this generation of future leaders and workforce will have serious implications on national and global economic growth and prosperity. One response to the unemployment crisis has attracted the attention of policymakers and educators – entrepreneurship.

However, being an entrepreneur means more than just knowing how to start up a small shop or business. Entrepreneurship is also about developing and cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit – creativeness, innovativeness, curiosity, lateral thinking, adaptability, resourcefulness, risk-taking and so on – regardless of the profession or career path to be taken. To nurture entrepreneurship requires a rethinking of our education systems, pedagogies, curriculum and other education services and activities.

The UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, based in Bangkok, Thailand, convened several events to examine the scope, content and context of entrepreneurship education. One outcome of the discussion is a proposal to create a network to support entrepreneurship education in the region.

Responding to this proposal, UNESCO is establishing the Entrepreneurship Education Network (EE-Net) for UNESCO Member States in Asia and the Pacific, the Terms of Reference as detailed in this document.



¹ ILO, 2013. *Global Employment Trends 2013. Recovering from a Second Jobs Dip*. Geneva; ILO, 2013. *Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013. A Generation at Risk*. Geneva.

² UNESCAP, 2013. *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2013. Forward-looking Macroeconomic Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Development*. Bangkok.

³ ILO, 2013. *Global Employment Trends 2013. Recovering from a Second Jobs Dip*. Geneva.

Objectives of EE-Net

The EE-Net aims to provide a platform to increase understanding and knowledge about entrepreneurship education by engaging policy makers, educators, researchers, entrepreneurs, students and communities through a variety of activities and channels. The specific objectives are to:

- Facilitate discussion and exchange of information and experiences;
- Coordinate research studies on topical and relevant issues;
- Disseminate best practices and innovative approaches;
- Recommend policies, strategies, pedagogies and tools to enhance entrepreneurship education; and
- Foster collaboration among EE-Net members.

Structure and Functions of the Network

- EE-Net will be served by the Secretariat based in the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) unit in UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Recognizing and respecting the diversity of needs and conditions in the region, each country will set up its own independent National Chapter to serve as the focal point of the network where possible.
- Institution and individual memberships will also be accepted in cases where National Chapters are not in place.

EE-Net Secretariat

- The Secretariat welcomes secondees, volunteers and interns from National Chapters and Member institutions to be stationed in UNESCO Bangkok as an on-the-job training and capacity building opportunity. Conditions of this assignment will be in line with UNESCO rules and regulations. The assignment must be at least three months in length, with no financial support, remuneration or employment expectations. Selection of the secondees, volunteers and interns will be at the discretion of UNESCO Bangkok Director, APEID Chief and staff members.
- The Secretariat will be the focal point for the network, specifically to plan, coordinate and communicate regional activities.

National Chapter

- The National Chapter should be an entity that can function effectively at the local, regional and international levels. This entity can be under the Ministry of Education or other relevant Ministry and its line agencies; national bodies or commissions; universities, research or training institutes; international organizations, non-governmental organizations and so on with relevant educational roles and functions. The Secretariat may seek the endorsement or verification of the National Chapter's legal status from the national government as and when necessary.
- The rules and regulations, operation, functioning and management of the National Chapter will be at the discretion of the members in each country to meet their respective circumstances and conditions.
- The National Chapter will be responsible for funding its operation and activities. Whenever possible, the National Chapter can collaborate with the Secretariat and/or other National Chapter(s) to submit proposals to potential donor agencies for funding.
- In cases where it is not possible to set up a National Chapter, other arrangements may be made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Secretariat.

Institutional/Individual Membership

- Institutions or individuals who have no affiliation with the National Chapter may also join the network at the discretion of the Secretariat to encourage inclusiveness, gender balance and geographical representation.
- These members should demonstrate that their area of expertise or interest is in line with the network's focus and objectives.

Implementation Strategies

- **Meetings:** The Secretariat will try to convene a regional meeting once a year pending availability of funds. National Chapters are encouraged to sponsor the meetings on a voluntary and rotating basis. The meetings should also serve as a platform for the dissemination of knowledge and research results by inviting eminent speakers and experts to share their insights.
- **Communication:** The Secretariat will develop various channels of communication with the support and input of the National Chapters, including a dedicated website, social media platforms, e-forum, newsletters, research reports, press releases, audio-visual products and so on as and when appropriate.
- **Timeframe:** The timeframe for the EE-Net is set for December 2013 – December 2015, after which the Terms of Reference will be reviewed to assess the conditions and needs of EE-Net members and the Secretariat.
- **Budget:** The Secretariat is operating on a limited budget, with UNESCO providing in-kind contributions in terms of staff time, office space and some communication costs. The Secretariat and National Chapters will seek funding support individually and collaboratively as and when possible to facilitate the operation of the network.

General Conditions

- **Use of the name, emblem and official seal of UNESCO:** Unless authorized in writing by UNESCO, the National Chapter shall not use the name, acronym or official logo of UNESCO, or any abbreviation of the name of UNESCO, for advertising or any other purposes.
- **Use of EE-Net logo:** The National Chapter must have the written permission from UNESCO Bangkok to use the EE-Net logo. The name of the country may be added to the logo if necessary. Under no circumstances can the National Chapter use the logo for advertising or any other purposes.
- Any **issue or problem** arising with the operation and activities of the National Chapter should be addressed to the UNESCO EE-Net Secretariat, APEID, UNESCO Bangkok, 920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakanong, Bangkok 10110, Thailand; tel: +66 2 391 0577 ext. 211; fax: +66 2 391 0866; email, lc.tan@unesco.org.



UNESCO Entrepreneurship Education Network Secretariat
APEID, UNESCO Bangkok
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EE-Net logo

- The red shape element in the logo represents bamboo shoots as symbols for entrepreneurship education that should be inculcated from childhood.
- The red color suggests the adrenaline rush, confidence, assertiveness and determination linked to entrepreneurship.