

## Supporting Entrepreneurship in Europe: *Creating Sustainable Employment and Growth*



**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014**  
Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie  
Brussels



# Supporting Entrepreneurship in Europe: Creating Sustainable Employment and Growth

## Overview

Given the extended period of the economic crisis, Europe is in more need than ever of finding a sustainable way to create jobs and growth. With 4 million new jobs created every year, small and medium-sized enterprises create the most new jobs in Europe. Today, SMEs account for 99% of enterprise in Europe and have been identified as key drivers in achieving the growth and development needed for economic recovery. Entrepreneurs are the driving force behind these businesses and are, therefore, vital to this process.

Amongst other things, the EU has launched its Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan to promote entrepreneurship in the EU28. Whilst innovative projects and initiatives are positive steps towards accessing this potential, much more still needs to be done to unleash Europe's entrepreneurial potential, both at national and European level. Eurostat figures show that entrepreneurship is not seen as a viable and successful career path because common barriers such as access to finance, administrative burden and fear of failure remain in most European Member States.

Specific groups such as women, young people and migrants must be actively supported in their journey through entrepreneurship; support mechanisms, pan-European projects and networks are important ways to realise their enormous potential. Currently, women are considered as one of the biggest sources of potential growth and new jobs in the European Union; they make up 52% of the population of Europe but only account for 34.4% of those self-employed in Europe.

For young people as well, entrepreneurship can be a viable option that should start with education and training in schools. Current figures put the youth unemployment rate at 23.5% in the EU, and fostering young entrepreneurs can help to address this, as well as ensuring sustainable growth.

This international symposium seeks to analyse current entrepreneurship practices across Europe. It aims to monitor and measure the impact of partnership working, exchange good practice at local, national and international levels and ensure that current measures are both inclusive and transposable on a supranational level. The symposium seeks to integrate European knowledge in order to help shape sustainable EU-wide inclusive entrepreneurship strategies.

The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate with local and regional practitioners and policymakers at EU level.

**“ More entrepreneurs mean more jobs, more innovation and more competitiveness. Becoming an entrepreneur and making a vision come true takes a lot of personal risk and effort. Entrepreneurs are the heroes of our time. Entrepreneurship is also the most powerful driver of economic growth in economic history. Therefore, we want to make entrepreneurship an attractive and accessible prospect for European citizen. This is the key message of our action plan. If we can unleash Europe's entrepreneurial potential, we can bring back growth to Europe...”**

- EU Commission Vice President, Antonio Tajani, January 2013

## Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie  
Avenue Louise 91-93  
B-1050 Brussels  
Belgium



## Why Attend?

- ✓ Gain insights into EU initiatives and policy developments to promote entrepreneurship in Europe
- ✓ Assess entrepreneurship practices and stimulate partnership working at all levels
- ✓ Explore solutions to promote and develop female entrepreneurship
- ✓ Discuss and promote early intervention mechanisms to strengthen inclusive entrepreneurship

## Who Should Attend?

- Small Business Federations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Social Funds
- Gender Equality Councils
- Local Authorities
- Training Managers
- Recruitment Advisers
- Organisational Development Professionals
- Equal Opportunities Officers
- Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Practitioners
- Equal Opportunity Ombudsman
- Women's Associations
- Women's Enterprise Agencies
- Institutes for Occupational Health
- Child Care Service Agencies
- Associations for Education and Development of Women
- Institutes for Training and Employment
- Institutes for Social Inclusion of Women
- Women's Centres
- Anti-Discrimination Agencies
- Research Centres for Gender Equalities
- Academics and Universities
- National Agencies on Gender Equality
- Women's Networks
- Trade Unions
- Employers' Associations
- Equal Opportunity Agencies
- Women's Lobbyist Groups
- Women's Councils
- Women's NGOs Networks
- International and Regional Organisations
- National Ministries and Institutes
- Confederations of Women's Organisations
- Joint Committees on Women
- National Coordinators on Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities
- Social Exclusion Officers
- Judges and Lawyers
- Human Rights Groups
- Disability Forums and Associations
- Confederations of Independent Unions
- Women in Legal Careers Associations and Bodies
- Medical Women Associations
- Social Care Professionals

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## Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Promoting Entrepreneurship in Europe - Initiatives and Developments**
- Insights From the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan
  - Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Entrepreneurs as Key Players in Economic Growth
  - Improving Support to Entrepreneurs and Reducing Red Tape
  - Existing EU Funding Mechanisms for Entrepreneurship
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Reigniting the European Entrepreneurial Mindset**
- Reducing Administrative and Financial Burdens for Entrepreneurs at a National Level
  - Creating the Right Business Environment for SMEs and Entrepreneurs
  - Supporting Entrepreneurial Diversity and Minority Groups
  - Current Initiatives and Projects
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Realising the Potential of Female Entrepreneurs**
- Providing Better Access to Finance and Care for Female Entrepreneurs
  - More Effective Training in Business Skills for Women
  - Empowering Female Entrepreneurs - The Importance of Role Models and Networking
  - Recommendations and Examples From Existing Initiatives
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Promoting and Developing Youth Entrepreneurship**
- Education and Skills - Fostering Youth Entrepreneurial Attitudes
  - Entrepreneurship as an Attractive Career Path for Young People
  - Integrating Entrepreneurship into European Education Systems
  - Example of Best Practices
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Symposium Close

*\*\*Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice\*\**

## Event Details

- Date:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie, Brussels



## Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Improving Food Safety and Labelling in the EU: Smarter Rules for a Sustainable Agri-Food Chain  
*10th September 2014*
- ✓ E-skills for New Jobs: Accelerating Europe's Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth  
*17th September 2014*
- ✓ Young People and Sexual Health: Reducing Risky Behaviour through Education and Empowerment  
*23rd September 2014*

## Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.


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