

Activities for start-up and entrepreneurial competencies development

EU best practices

- Developing entrepreneurial competencies
- Fostering innovation
- Promoting Innovation-Driven Enterprise

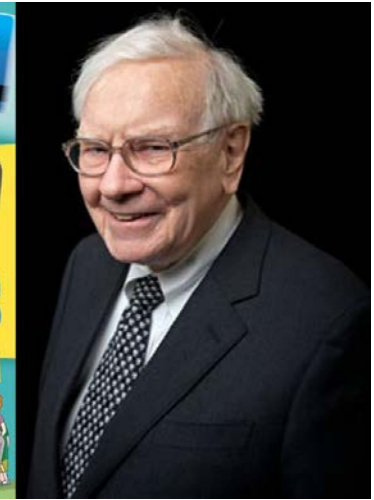
Developing entrepreneurial competencies

- Entrepreneurial skills are not just for business
- It's never too early (or too late) to start
 - Fiver challenge
- Project-based learning
 - Live projects connecting students, academics and business
- Strengthening entrepreneurial infrastructures
 - Hubs, accelerators and facilitation

Entrepreneurial skills are not just for business

- Strengthening the existing business base
- Transforming the economy through stimulating new entrants and new activities
- Socially motivated enterprise delivering on global and societal challenges
- An entrepreneurially-minded public and third sector

It's never too early to start



The Fiver Challenge

- an annual event, which pledges £5 to primary school pupils for one month to encourage them to find creative ways to make a profit and engage with their local community.
- Pupils have one month to set up mini businesses and make a profit

Project-based learning

Demola

An international structure, with 18 locations around the world. Through a structured approach multidisciplinary student teams have the opportunity to work with companies to develop novel products and services based on company needs and interests.



Strengthening entrepreneurial infrastructures

NEST-UP.

A 12-week acceleration program in Wallonia, BE

Wider mission: to promote creativity and innovation

- To develop 100+ projects (Start-ups and SMEs)
- To work in 100 Schools
- To work with 100,000 people



Nest In	For those with just an idea, a 6 day programme to help them frame their project. Working with experienced coaches, who can provide contacts, toolkits and methods.
Start Up Camp	A 6 week accelerator programme culminating in a pitch to regional bodies and other stakeholders that could help the nascent start ups get off the ground.
Innovation Accelerator for SMEs	Run through NEST UP, this promotes innovation projects in existing SMEs – it is about the project not the company.
Founders Meet Up	A series of half-day relaxed meetings where existing start-ups/SMEs can come together to discuss common themes. Forging a local ecosystem of networks and contacts.
Creativity Week	A seven day programme held in seven towns in Wallonia. This gives the public the chance to join creative workshops, to think about new business models, to make objects, test technologies and to interact with entrepreneurs.
Creative School Lab	Working in High Schools since 2013 to build creativity amongst teachers and pupils. Schools apply with a project idea and successful applications receive investment in physical space/facilities and training/activities for teachers and school children.
Makers in Tech Schools	A recent (2016) pilot this involves working with two Tech Schools to provide access to Fablabs and other maker facilities.
NEST KIDS	A six-day programme for teenagers including business models and technologies (drones, 3D printers etc). It ends on a Saturday with presentations to the parents.

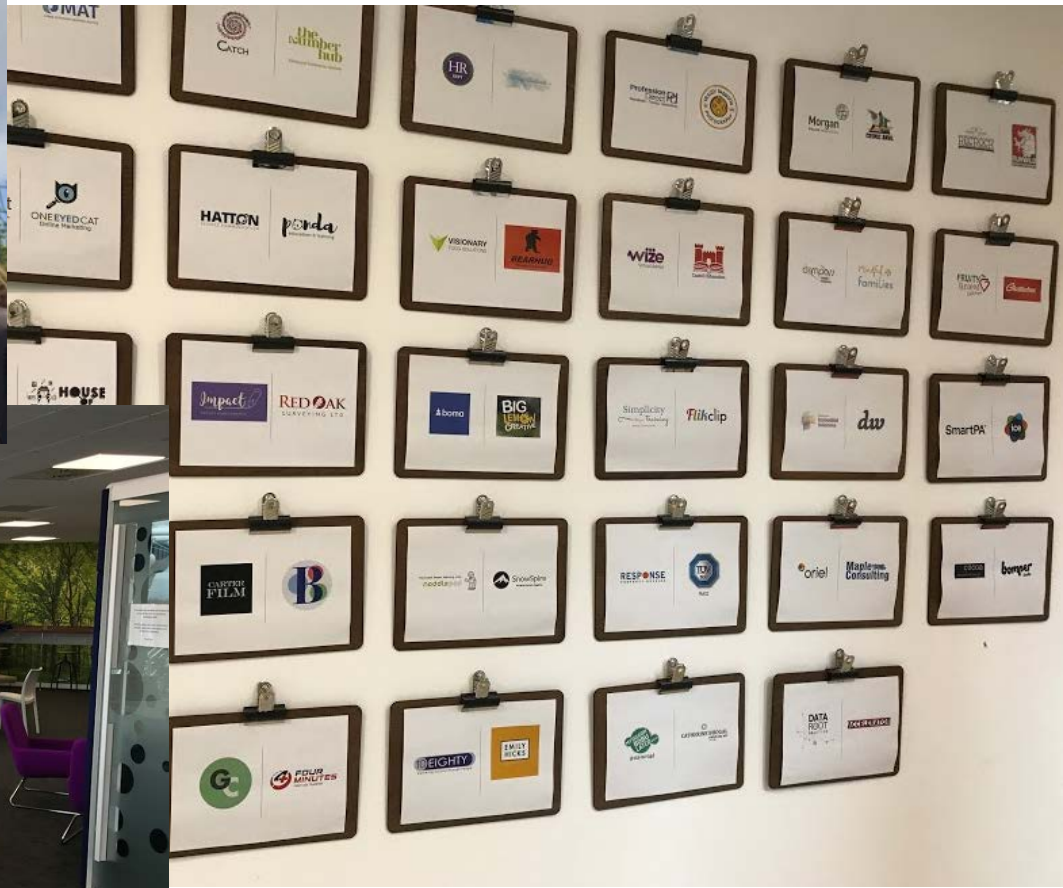
Fostering innovation: Cooperation between Universities and Business

- Informed knowledge
 - Placements of students or graduates
- Promoting start-ups
 - Staff, students
 - Wider community?
- Purposeful design
 - Contact spaces and collaboration (EDP)
- A role for all actors
 - Not just businesses and universities

Placement schemes

- Knowledge Transfer Partnership
 - involves a high calibre graduate (KTP Associate) working in a company with academic supervision
 - lasts between 12 and 36 months
 - employed by the University, but the company contributes to the cost
- Masters level project-based activities
- Summer Schools (EIT)
- Undergraduate schemes

Promoting start-ups and new ideas



Promoting start-ups and new ideas

- Imperial Advanced Hackspace network, gives access to cutting-edge prototyping technologies and workshops. The aim is to help staff, students, alumni and commercial partners rapidly convert research ideas into breakthrough products.
- The Invention Rooms. A mix of workshops and interactive spaces, to allow members of the community to come together with staff, students, commercial partners.....

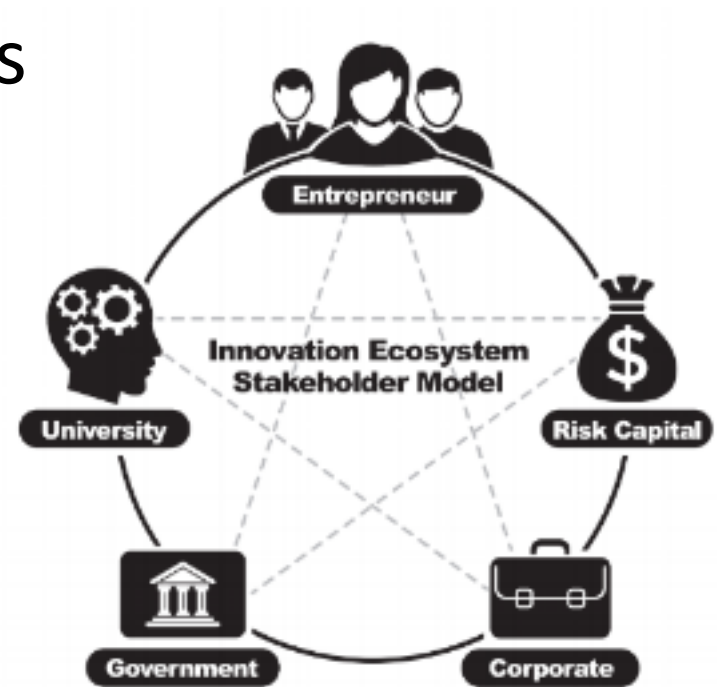
Purposeful design of innovation spaces

- An open plan and other design features (e.g., high-traffic staircases) to encourage accidental interactions.
- More common areas than are strictly necessary—multiple cafeterias, other places to read and work that encourage workers to leave confined offices.
- Emphasis on areas that hold two or more people, rather than single-occupancy offices.
- Purpose-free generic “thinking” areas in open-plan spaces, which encourage workers to do their thinking in the presence of other people, rather than alone.

A role for all actors

Building capacity and shared endeavour
it is not just about projects

Cultivate the eco-system



Source: MIT REAP

*It takes a long-time,
there are no 'quick results'*

*Boosting the capacity for innovation is more
than individual projects. It needs the
development of shared spaces for collective
conversations.*

*Physical space is a necessary but not a
sufficient condition*

Conclusions

- Leadership
 - *people, it's all about the people*
 - *Institutional thickness helps – but with a common (and more or less coordinated) goal*
- Learning
 - *There is no single approach, there is room for all*
- Bigger picture
 - *Metrics can be misleading – not just jobs, exports and growth trajectories*

Recommendations

- Move away from a transactional approach and embrace transformational agendas
 - Cultivate the eco-system
 - Multiple approaches
 - Build capacities for action
- It's all about the EDP