

On 7 November 2016, Minister of Education, Children and Youth Claude Meisch, and Secretary of State for Economy Francine Cloesener presented the project entitled "promotion of entrepreneurship in secondary education". The project involves promoting the emergence of 'entrepreneurial schools' in the Grand Duchy - secondary schools that not only promote links with their social and economic environment but also encourage their pupils to develop multidisciplinary skills enabling them to take up future entrepreneurial challenges successfully.

Promoting the emergence of these 'entrepreneurial schools' means promoting a spirit of initiative and entrepreneurship, revealing young people's personal talents and ambitions, challenging their creativity and originality, making them aware of the ecological, political and economic issues of our time and helping them take responsibility, passing on to them the positive frame of mind that is necessary in looking to the future.

The aims of education that promotes entrepreneurship are:

- to develop fundamental multidisciplinary skills, including creativity, cooperation, spirit of initiative, mastery of the information and communication technologies;
- to prepare pupils better for working life and to stimulate a spirit of active citizenship;
- to combat dropping out of school by adopting an innovative educational approach;
- to make pupils more 'employable', and even to stimulate the creation of start-ups;
- to bridge the gap between school life and working life.

There will not be classes in multidisciplinary skills as such; they will be developed through 'challenges' the pupil will be required to take up by mobilising his/her knowledge and talent, and involving external stakeholders. There are already about 150 challenges listed in the European reference framework Youth Start, co-founded by the Erasmus + programme. They have been drawn up by a working group whose members are entrepreneurs in various sectors and teachers, with a view to structuring learning.

The challenges represent teaching units that may take place at school or in a business, are of varying duration and complexity, and put into practice the academic knowledge dispensed by teachers and/or trained external partners.

"Our aim is to draw up ten challenges of our own, adapted to the context of the Grand Duchy, for the start of the 2017 school year," said the Secretary of State for Economy.

Working meetings, which will be attended by representatives of the professional chambers, are to begin in November 2016.

Three secondary schools (lycées) have signed a collaboration agreement. They will work as a network on drawing up and implementing the educational concept. The conceptualisation stage will extend from September 2016 to July 2017. The 'entrepreneurship' profile will be implemented in the participating schools from the start of the 2017-2018 school year. The Ministry of Education, Children and Youth (MENJE) is providing funding in the form of releases granted to those teachers involved in conceptualising the project. The Ministry of the Economy is providing the link with stakeholders in the world of work, including the professional chambers. Both Ministries will be represented on the steering committees set up in each secondary school taking part in the project. The main aim of the project is to encourage and promote educational approaches that are close to the professional world and transferable to other schools.