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D 2.2 University scheme for entrepreneurship education support

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1. Introduction

The present report provides an overview of the university scheme for entrepreneurship education support at Tashkent State Transport University in *Uzbekistan*. The entrepreneurship education scheme was developed as part of Work Package 2 on “Enhancing Entrepreneurship Education and Skills Development” (WP2) of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education Project “Triggering innovative approaches and entrepreneurial skills for students through creating conditions for graduate’s employability in Central Asia” (TRIGGER). The entrepreneurship education scheme directly builds on the “Report on status quo on entrepreneurship education, labor market requirements and knowledge/skills mismatches” which was developed earlier by the Tashkent State Transport University in WP2 (see Deliverable 2.1).

Before outlining the entrepreneurship education scheme in more detail in the next sections, a summary of the notion of entrepreneurship education as utilized in the TRIGGER project is provided below:

- **Entrepreneurship Education (EE)** seeks to provide students with knowledge, skills and motivation to create ideas in entrepreneurial action in different environments, both as a self-employed entrepreneur and as employee in established organisations (EC 2015, Lackéus et al. 2020).
- **Entrepreneurship** is a key competence for all learners, supporting personal development, active citizenship, social inclusion and employability (see European Commission et al. 2016: 21).
- **Organizational change** of HEIs is needed, since „the capacity to implement the entrepreneurship and innovation agenda depends on the governance arrangements, organizational capacity and the institutional culture of HEIs as well as characteristics of the surrounding economy“ (OECD 2019: 12).

2. Policy and strategy of the HEI to enhance entrepreneurship education

A number of reforms are currently underway at our university to promote student entrepreneurship, support students in entering small businesses, expand the system of access to sources of initial capital and make it more effective.

For instance, at a meeting chaired by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in connection with the tasks set to ensure the employment of youth and the meaningful organization of their spare time, to create conditions for young people to earn a decent income, the issues of knowing how to properly use the credits allocated for youth in the "Youth Book", to independent entrepreneurs and practical assistance in getting them back on their feet were covered. Moreover, in President's speech at the Youth Day event,

650 billion sums have been allocated to solve the problems of over 700,000 youth. In 2 years, 4 trillion 400 billion soums of soft loans have been allocated for business projects of 174 thousand young people.

In order to ensure the implementation of the goals set by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated 05.06.2018 No. PP-3775 "Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on additional measures to improve the quality of education in higher educational institutions and ensure their active participation in the large-scale reforms carried out in the country" (<http://lex.uz/docs/3765586>), an open dialogue on the topic was held at the Tashkent State University of Transport "A young entrepreneur is an assistant to the state." The event was attended by representatives of the University administration and youth, the banking system and the Department of Labor and Employment. Practical suggestions were given on how to manage the mechanism created in Uzbekistan to support students' entrepreneurial activities, how to direct the micro-loans spent and how to anticipate the results of business projects.

In order to direct students to entrepreneurship, support new business projects and start-ups, our university is developing a strategy to develop entrepreneurship among students. In particular, to create favourable conditions for the development of student entrepreneurship, to assist in the organisation of youth entrepreneurship, to provide soft loans, to allocate space, to develop and implement programmes to provide material and technical means, to implement activities aimed at acquiring professional knowledge, to amend plans, to coordinate work in cooperation with experienced entrepreneurs, to further develop and strengthen the material and technical base of educational institutions and others.

This should not be limited to special economic training. It is necessary to diagnose abilities, motivation, personal qualities, to study and apply effective methods to activate personal entrepreneurial potential of university staff and students in the system of business education.

3. Goals and objectives of the HEI to enhance entrepreneurship education

On the basis of the above strategy, Tashkent State Transport University's goals:

Firstly, to ensure the acquisition of the special knowledge and skills required to start and develop a business;

Secondly, to create a database of all students interested in entrepreneurship;

Third, to strengthen the material and technical base of the university (providing new literature related to entrepreneurship, updating modern equipped laboratories and research centers, development of the section of the website about entrepreneurship, to create a platform for the formation of entrepreneurial skills);

Fourth, advise students on funding a public scheme, the private sector, or a combination of both to sustain and expand them, take advantage of the benefits provided by the state; Fourth, to allow students to use the laboratory and research center on a pro bono basis to pursue ideas.

Fifth, to support the implementation of the results of student business initiatives, start-up projects and action research at our university, and to provide comprehensive support for young entrepreneurs' projects in the manufacturing and service sectors.

Objectives to be performed for the implementation of the above goals:

- to promote business start-ups that will create jobs;
- to commercialize research outputs;
- to promote business start-ups by students;
- university can be a shareholder in a spin-off company;
- to have a written strategic document.

4. Activities and measures to enhance entrepreneurship education

Our university is planning several activities to promote entrepreneurship education. In particular, for students who were admitted in 2021-2022 academic year to make changes in the curriculum, and for students who will be admitted in 2022-2023 to introduce subjects that are directly related to entrepreneurship.

Establishment of an entrepreneurship support center. The main purpose of the center is to teach students to be entrepreneurs. And upon completion of the course, to assist in the effective interaction of non-profit and public organizations, public authorities and local authorities, to ensure the implementation of student projects who intend to develop their own business.

To create a business incubator at the entrepreneurship support center. The business incubator will support start-up projects by young entrepreneurs at all stages of development, from idea development to commercialisation. The business incubator will also provide assistance in finding leased office space, legal and marketing services.

Conduct regular trainings and seminars to attract and develop entrepreneurial activities of students. Provide assistance in attracting investment and venture capital companies to implement business ideas of young entrepreneurs.

5. Required resources, infrastructure, and environment

In order to implement the above activities, it is necessary to improve the qualifications of the staff, in our case the teaching staff, to pay the salaries of the center staff, to regularly invite well-known entrepreneurs to conduct seminars, master classes to motivate, skills and experience of students.

It also needs classrooms for conducting classes, counseling, technical equipment for providing necessary services.

External resources are also needed, such as finances to implement the ideas, which are raised in-house and subsidized by the government. Forming and strengthening relationships with venture capital companies.

6. Timeline and responsibilities

Strategy / policy priority	Goal / objective	Activity / measure	Required resources	Timeline	Responsible	Indicators of achievement
2023 year						
Creating favourable conditions for the development of student entrepreneurs hip	Ensure the acquisition of special knowledge and skills necessary for starting and developing a business.	For students admitted in the academic year 2021-2022, amend the curriculum and for students admitted in 2022-2023, introduce subjects directly related to entrepreneurship	-	During 2023 2027	Training department	Shaping entrepreneurial activity
2024 year						
Acquiring professional knowledge	develop a wide range of qualities that form the basis of the character and personality of an entrepreneur	Establishment of an entrepreneurship support centre.	Classrooms, counselling, technical equipment	During 2024 2027	Department for the organisation of research activities for gifted students	Development of professional knowledge and skills.
2025 year						
Financial support for students	to strengthen the material and technical base of the	Assist in attracting investment and venture capital	Attracting financial resources to purchase	Always	Department for the organisation of research	Development of own business, production of

	university (provision of new literature related to entrepreneursh ip)	companies to implement business ideas of young entrepreneurs	necessary supplies		activities for gifted students	products, meeting the needs of the population
2026 year						
Coordinating work in cooperation with experienced entrepreneurs	advise students wishing to engage in entrepreneurial activities on how to use the benefits provided by the state	Conduct regular training and workshops to engage and develop students' entrepreneurial activities.	Staff development	Always	Department for the organisation of research activities for gifted students	Increase motivation, develop cooperation.
2027 year						
Collaboration with international organisations on implementation to enhance entrepreneursh ip	to support the implementation of the results of student business initiatives, start-up projects and action research at our university, and to provide comprehensive support for young entrepreneurs' projects in the manufacturing and service sectors.	Building relationships with international companies.	Forming and strengthening relationships with venture capital companies.	Always	Department for the organisation of research activities for gifted students	Opportunity to sell products abroad