

SPEED-You-UP Newsletter – January 2021



It is the start of a new year. We are bombarded with Happy New Years, best wishes, and hopes of a better year than the previous one.

However, not everyone is free of worries at the start of this new year.

The negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our economy and employment figures is felt especially by vulnerable young people who are out of work or who can only find employment in sectors with a lot of temporary and precarious work. In addition, vulnerable young people still attending school are hit particularly hard by distance learning. The risk of learning delay and early school leaving continues to increase within this group.

The project

The **INTERREG 2-Seas SPEED-YOU-UP project** develops an entrepreneurial trajectory for young people who have a high risk of school dropout or are unemployed. Young people can start their own business in a safe environment. Having your own business is not necessarily the end goal of the trajectory, but it can be.

In the SPEED-You-UP project, entrepreneurship is primarily a means. Throughout the trajectory, young people will develop entrepreneurial awareness, an entrepreneurial attitudes and skills. They build up experience with collaboration, sharpen their financial and communication skills, build a professional network, take initiative and experience success. Our goal is to bring as many young people as possible closer to education or work through entrepreneurship.

*“Even the stones placed in one's path can be made into something beautiful.”
(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)*





SPEED-You-UP is a collaboration between thirteen enthusiastic international partners from Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Great Britain. These partners, in turn, work together with schools and local organizations to reach as many young people as possible.



The project website

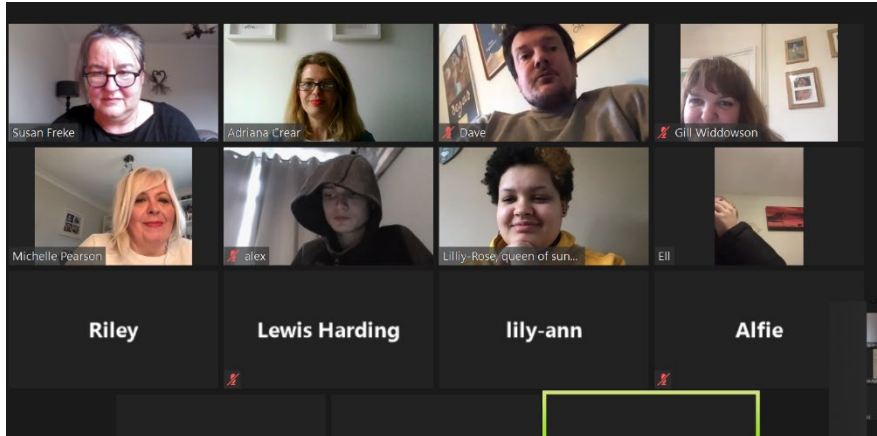
Taking the current context into account, the SPEED-You-Up project does not come a day too soon. Despite the start of the project in full lockdown and continuous measures because of COVID-19, the project partners have managed to start various pilots in France, Belgium and England. In total, the project partners have now reached more than 200 young people in vulnerable situations through entrepreneur hubs in schools and beyond. Below are quotes from young people doing SPEED-You-UP in their school. They illustrate how SPEED-You-UP takes a different approach to education.

“Don’t work hard, work smart” (Omar, a student from secondary school CDO Newton, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium)

“SPEED-You-UP makes you show up” (a group of students from CDO Newton, Sint-Niklaas, Belgium)

The COVID-19 crisis also has an impact on the project itself. The crisis is forcing us to fully commit to a digital approach. In recent months we have been busy giving concrete form to the project. Our [project website](#) already contains a lot of tools and materials for our partner organizations. Project partners are very much involved in online trainings and ZOOM meetings with young people. The picture below is an example of a training on “Talent and skills” from Hampshire, UK, held in January 2021.





Below are some comments on the Talent and skills sessions, in which young people discover more about who they are and what their talents are, and how they can use this when working on a business. Below are comments from the coach who worked with adult NEET learners and from a student who took the session online.

“The talent and skills session was very interactive – with scenario based exercises and lots of involvement from learners. We were very pleased to welcome a guest speaker Ben Dowling a Director of non- profit organisation Unlock which helps young people. Ben talked about setting up his own business at age of only 19 and skills needed in current environment in order to be successful in business or regular employment. Just to add that the online SYU module on Skills was very useful and inspirational in creating this session. This shows the power of teamwork and collaboration!” (Adriana Crear, Enterprise Support coordinator from WSX Enterprise)

“Thank you very much very interesting session on Skills!” “Cheers Adriana, very productive session on Skills and talents!” Lily-Rose and Alex (Waverley training centre learners)





Are you curious to see more? Would you like to take a look at the entrepreneurial process that we developed? How could your organization help us to further support vulnerable young people? If you have a question about SPEED-You-UP, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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