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SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION - REAL HELP OR JUST POPULIST SLOGANS?

Abstract

The author of this article presents an analysis of the possibility of obtaining financial support and receiving other various forms of support for young people from EU funds. On the basis of the available forms of support, the programs were selected in which the main beneficiary are young people, those who are still learning, students and the unemployed. The scope of the assessment enabled the development of conclusions and an unambiguous answer to the question: does European Union support – really help or is it just populist sloganeering?

Keywords: project management, special support, public education of youth and unemployed people, European Union directive.

Part of a conversation between a group of students can be used as an introduction to this article: „How is Agata doing? She has gone to Cyprus with the Erasmus+ program. Haven’t you seen the pictures she has posted on Facebook I am so jealous …”. Maciek has also gone mad – he is starting his own company. Can you imagine? He received an EU grant and now he will be selling fruit trees. He is a brave guy. He is studying finance and accounting, and now he is pushing himself into a completely different field. It is very good that he is taking the risk. Because if not now, when?” It is an image of the young Polish generation – brave, without complexes, with a clear precise purpose in life, who sometimes only lack opportunities.

The current possibilities of obtaining support for young people in this country

On the basis of statistical data from the Central Statistical Office (GUS) for 2014 and results of a report by the Kronenberg Foundation called “Young people and the labor market” it can be stated that in Polish society, huge innovative potential is being hidden. Unfortunately, this potential is repeatedly wasted irretrievably through emigration by the younger generation, but also through the lack of opportunities being created and through the lack of support in using their potential. It can be confirmed by the conclusion made at the 5th Forum of Young Entrepreneurs „Young Innovative”, organized by the National Chamber of Commerce and the Institute for Research on Democracy and Private Enterprise. The participants of the forum were young entrepreneurs who shared their experiences as people who had succeeded in implementing innovative projects.

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1 The Kronenberg Foundation report PBS Postawy Polaków wobec oszczędzania, October 2014.
2 http://iped.pl/
One of the basic tools for supporting and implementing innovation among young people were supposed to be start-ups. According to its definition: a start-up is a new company or a temporary organization created in order to search a business model, which would guarantee its development\(^3\). As regards the quoted definition, such companies are characterized by a relatively short period of existence and an intensive search for development opportunities, at the same time as the struggle for their survival in an ever present competitive environment. Although Poland has a huge potential for innovation, do indigenous start-ups really need better financial support from the state?

Unfortunately, relying on the statistical data and the conclusions made during last year forum of young people, it can be said that only 16 per cent of young entrepreneurs assess positively the financing of start-ups in Poland, whereas 30 per cent of them, consider it bad or very bad. This may indicate the very low effectiveness of the tools, and as a consequence their anachronism. At the end of the 2nd program of European funding, that ran between 2007 and 2013, do we really still not have enough „good” instruments of public support, so called start-ups, and do a lot of things still need to be changed? Are any other types of financial support from state agencies needed? The second important issue is eliminating barriers which stop their development and creating instruments, which are needed by young entrepreneurs in Poland, such as: better cooperation of new businesses with already existing entrepreneurs, scientific centres and universities. The Polish economy has an opportunity to become innovative, by implementing new innovative ideas on a global scale, new technologies, new design patterns, licenses, patents, and by eliminating all obstacles and administrative barriers during their implementation.

The Main Statistical Office in Poland’s (GUS) data reflects a picture of a young generation who expect to be employed, and shows that more than 75 per cent of working Poles have a contract of employment, which is at the moment the most desirable form of employment. Certainly less popular are other forms of employment including civil contracts, based on which about 12 per cent of evaluated people are employed. Far fewer people run their own businesses – What is interesting, as many as 85 per cent of self-employed people (running their own business as an owner-operator) are satisfied with such a form of employment. The civil contracts are of the least interest. Only one in four people performing his duties employed on the basis of such a contract is satisfied.

The Kronenberg Foundation while preparing its report, also verified what career plans students entering the job market\(^4\) have set out for themselves. Only 60 per cent of students are considering employment on a full time basis, 14 per cent are planning their own business, while 12 per cent would like to combine two forms: full-time and running their own business. The last solution enables young people to secure their needs by minimizing the risk connected with the uncertainty of running their own business. Still, for 66 per cent of young Polish people, the state of being employed on a regular basis constitutes a sense of security and provides a greater guarantee of certainty and stability for the future. On the other hand, young people are vulnerable establish their own business because of the sense of being independent. Such people constitute 80 per cent. Young people are optimistic about running their own business, however they still need institutional assistance. What kind of assistance can they expect, and what kind of assistance in terms of a completed and new financial perspective?

Starting from 2007 and continuing until 2013, Poland received about 68 billion EUR in total, out of which 80 per cent has been successfully distributed. In terms of measuring notable effects, this funding has meant that, about 340 000 new jobs were created, 10 950 km of new and modernized roads, over 27 600 types of support provided to

\(^3\) http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Start-up

\(^4\) The Kronenberg Foundation report PBS Postawy Polaków wobec oszczędzania, October 2014.
a variety of companies, about 2 thousand modern buses and trams were purchased for use in Polish cities, 1 713 thousand new laboratories were established and 3.5 billion were dedicated to support energy projects. In order that the funding be used by Polish beneficiaries, the government has prepared the National Cohesion Strategy (NSS), which specifies the priorities and scope of the use of Structural funds and the Cohesion Fund within the Community budget for 2007–2013\(^5\).

The total NSS budget for 2007-2013 is about 85,56 billion EUR, out of which:

- 67.3 billion EUR constitute EU funds;
- 11.86 billion EUR constitute national public funds;
- 6.4 billion EUR constitute financial commitment from private bodies – beneficiaries of support.

The NSS’s allocations were realized with the support of the Operational Programs (PO), managed by the Ministry of Regional Development and the Regional Operational Programs (RPO), managed by the Marshall Offices of the particular provinces, including:

- PO Innovative Economy - 12.3% of total funds (8.3 billion EUR);
- PO Human Capital – 14.4% of total funds (9.7 billion EUR);
- PO Development of the Eastern Poland – 3.4% of total funds (2.3 billion EUR);
- PO European Territory Cooperation - (0.7 billion euro);
- PO Assistance Infrastructure and Environment - 41.3% of total funds (27.8 billion);
- PO Technical - 0.8% of total funds (0.5 billion EUR);
- 16 Regional PO – 23.8% of total funds (15.9 billion EUR).

According to the demonstrated photos and descriptive data posted on, it can be seen how Poland has changed through the prism of last years, more precisely since 2009, when the first projects were realized under one of the financial programmes. In order to illustrate what the last financial programme has brought, a look at the statistical data will be very useful, for example:

- the number of realized projects: 193 535;
- EU grants per Polish citizen equaling: 9 790,73 PLN;
- total value of all projects: 617 338 276 802,55 PLN.

Here, we should ask the following question: to what extent did such huge financial assistance help young people to make their lives easier?

For several years, the European Union has been offering young people a wide range of possibilities, among them: school students, university students, graduates young entrepreneurs, scientists, farmers, etc. The European Union enables educational trips and traineeships abroad within various programs, including the most popular Erasmus+ program. It also funds scientific projects, training courses and various social initiatives important for young people, including support for the unemployed, young farmers and the disabled.

Currently, who has the biggest chance to receive money within the new financial programme and what should be done in order to receive these grants? The European Union provides financial support and subsidies for the realization of many projects and programs in such areas as:

- regional development and urban development;
- employment and social integration;
- agriculture and rural development;
- maritime policy and fisheries policy;
- scientific research and innovation;
- humanitarian assistance.

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\(^5\) Acc. to data of the Ministry of Regional Development.
The EU funds are planned and managed according to strict rules, in order to guarantee a strict control over how they are spent and to ensure at the same time their transparency and accountability. Twenty-eight EU commissioners take final political responsibility for guaranteeing proper spending of the EU funds. Since management of the majority of the EU funds is conducted at the national level, governments of particular beneficiary countries take responsibility for ad-hoc controls, and annual reports. The management of over 76 per cent of the EU budget is performed within a partnership between national and regional authorities (so-called shared management), mainly through the five largest funds – such as the structural and investment funds for realizing the „Europe 2020” strategy.

At present, the majority of financial funds are divided and operate within five main funds:
1. European Regional Development Fund (EFRR), responsible for developing regions and urban development;
2. European Social Fund (EFS), responsible for social integration and appropriate governance;
3. Cohesion Fund responsible for economic parallelism of less developed regions;
4. European Agricultural Fund created for Rural Development (EFRRROW);
5. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EFMR).

Furthermore, there are funds managed directly by the European Union. The EU support may take different forms, including:
1. Grants for very specific projects connected with areas of EU activity, which are usually granted following a public announcement of a competition. The funds come partly from the EU budget and in part from other sources.
2. Procurement by European institutions submitting offers for the purchase of goods, services or works required for functioning of the institution, including: research, training, organization of conferences, workshops, purchase of equipment, etc.
3. Grants or money for humanitarian assistance for countries outside the EU.

The new financial perspective for „2014-2020” – an opportunity for young people

Taking into account the aspect of chance for young people, the main problem should be specified by asking the following question: How to search and apply for funds, in a wide and often difficult to understand range of the EU support directed for young people?

The map of possibilities for receiving such support can be presented by a group of people fulfilling the criteria for participation in particular actions:

a) Students, where the main types of support are:
1. Education and training – possibility of studying abroad, support for high school graduates, possibility of performing professional training in another country.
2. Financing projects, in which the target group are young people, as encouragement to: national activity, popularization of volunteerism, openness of young people to other cultures, gaining new experience and skills.

The most popular program Erasmus+ is a European Union programme in the field of education, sport and training for youth, for the period 2014 - 2020. Its total budget is approximately 14.7 billion EUR. Erasmus+ is based on the achievements of European educational programs, which operated for 25 years, and it is the result of combining the following European initiatives and programs realized by the European Commission in
2007-2013, including: “Lifelong Learning”, and “Youth in action”, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink, and programs developed in cooperation with industrialized countries in higher education. At the end of 2015, nearly 4 million people have benefited from this kind of support, and the next 2 million will have benefited by the end of 2020. Additionally, nearly 800 thousand lecturers, teachers, trainers and youth workers will take part in projects called the “Mobility of Employees”. The whole project involves about 25 thousand strategic partnerships, nearly 130 thousand schools and institutions of higher education, institutions of training and vocational education, and other youth organizations and enterprises. Nowadays, 28 European Union member states and 5 countries outside the EU take part in the programme.

An interesting form of assistance are all kinds of competitions mutually realized with EU aid funding. In many of them, Poland is gaining outstanding success. One of those, which is particularly worth being proud of, is the European Union Contest for Young Scientists’ Projects (EU Contest for Young Scientists), which supports research by young people from different fields of science, such as: the natural, technical, social and economic sciences. The European Union Contest for Young Scientists’ Projects (EUCYS) has been organized by the European Commission since 1989. Each country within its borders can submit three works projects undertaken by winners of national contests. In 2015, for the final of the Polish qualifications there were, among other projects, projects concerning: multipotential bioimplants based on nano textiles, and intelligent mirrors automatically compensating for a change in the position of a motorcyclist. These incredible innovative projects were not created by working scientists, but by young people aged between 13-20 years. The aim of the contest is primarily to encourage young people to develop their scientific interests and embark on their scientific careers. What makes this contest different from others is that, apart from the high cash prizes, it also offers, among other things, something more precious – invitations to take part in internships in the leading European scientific centres. For the majority of young, talented and ambitious people performing traineeships in such prestigious places, it is a great beginning to their scientific path of development, that will enable them not only to expand their knowledge in areas of their interest, but also result in a new experience useful in their further development. It will also enable them to cooperate with other young scientists, lecturers and specialists. The great importance and the role of various contests organized for young people has been learned by politicians, MPs and public figures. Under their patronage, many competitions are held of a cyclic nature the majority of them dedicated to and directed mainly towards young people, such as:

1. Contest „The Young spinning union” - http://www.kudrycka.pl
2. Contest „Your European challenge” - http://krzysztofhetman.pl
3. Contest „Scientific debut balanced development” - http://buzek.pl

Such contests enable the real development of young people.

b) Young scientists

In comparison to the already implemented financial programmes, young scientists can rely on great support from new funding programmes. In 2014–2020, the EU will allocate nearly 80 billion EUR for research, primarily within its core program „Horizon 2020“. The European Union program of financing, research, and innovation is the biggest in history. The aim of the program is to create a cohesive and complete system of financing, mainly for activities of an innovative kind, whose range of support and assistance will cover each stage from scientific concept, through to research, and the
implementation of new solutions, products and technologies. The Ministry of Science and Higher Education has, in order to adjust the program to expectations, invited a diverse range of research groups from over 300 scientific units for support and activation, to apply for money for the development of science from the shared European budget. Such support is usually granted in the form of a subsidy, granted to a wide variety of different research projects, in which young scientists can participate.

c) Young farmers

Poland has the largest group of young farmers among all the European Union state members. In Poland, about 40 per cent of farmers applying for financial support (including area payments for farmers from within EU funds) are under 40 years of age. There is also the biggest group of „very young” farmers, up to 35 years of age, from all of the EU member states (in Poland about 15 per cent, with an EU average of about 7 per cent). Similarly to previous years, this group is prioritized, and young farmers in Poland are supported at many levels.

The majority of young farmers in Poland are eligible for farming subsidies on the basis of the size of land held. People who use innovative methods of farming, including organic cultivation, methods that protect biological diversity, soil and water quality, which result in reduced emissions of harmful substances, may receive additional support. Due to EU funding, framers can be trained in new innovative technologies or restructure their farms. Such an action aims at general improvement of living conditions in rural areas by creating new jobs and providing basic services. Besides this, within the funds dedicated to the development of rural areas, young farmers can obtain assistance for conducting nonagricultural activity, as well as a higher amount for investment in their agricultural activity. The Agency for Restructuring and Modernization provided young farmers with about 3 billion PLN. Young farmers now make the largest group of young entrepreneurs, who are using subsidies and willingly applying for new ones.

d) Private companies for young unemployed people

The European Funds provide many possibilities to receive grants for establishing businesses. Any person who has an idea for his own business, may apply for EU funding to help him start up his idea. The funds are available in the form of grants or loans. Apart from financial support, it is possible to make use of other available forms of support, such as: training, free advice needed for running a company, or providing equipment for work. Unemployment among young people is currently among the most serious demographic problems in Poland. Although, in the last year, the number of unemployed Poles under 25 years of age decreased (by over 100 thousand), the situation in this group is the most difficult. According to the Central Statistical Office (GUS), it can be observed that while about 20 per cent of young Polish people are unemployed, the overall unemployment rate is below 10 per cent (according to data on 1st Jan 2016).

A range of information on the situation of young people in Poland shows that the sooner they start working after their graduation, the greater is their chance of building a strong professional career. The people, who at the beginning of their working life are forced into long-term unemployment, are vulnerable to a higher risk of losing work in later years. The optimum and most desirable state is a situation in which a young person is given a job offer, or an internship proposal, 4 months after their graduation, at the latest. A permanent improvement in the situation of young people in the labor market will result

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8 http://www.nauka.gov.pl/horyzont-2020
9 http://arimr.gov.pl
10 http://stat.gov.pl/
in their deciding not to go to work abroad and it will encourage others to come back to Poland.

It is a desirable state and at the moment difficult to implement. The current situation in the labor market, a decreasing but still high unemployment rate, especially among young people and the so called employer’s market is not conducive to employment. Employers continue in the practice of employing young people as “eternal” trainees or on a civil contract basis. In order to help young people, who apart from having ideas, are motivated, willing and determined to start their own business, assistance and effective external financing are needed. To do so, special programs supporting young people on the labor market were created and launched. As regards the current programme, for this type of action, an amount of 2 billion EUR has been allocated.

Young jobseekers can rely on support from the new “Operational Program Knowledge Education Development (PO WER)”. For its realization, 4.6 billion EUR were allocated (from the EU funds), out of which 37 per cent of this amount (about 1.7 billion EUR) were allocated for the support of young people. It is planned that this money will be distributed to 700 thousand people under the age of 30, up until 2020. People, who do not study, are not in training and do not work comprise a group gathered under the acronym NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) can rely on this kind of support. The activities, conducted on a large scale, within this program, aim at professional activation of young people and improvement of their situation in the national labor market. According to official EU statistics and data presented by the Eurostat, the number of such people in Poland amounts to approximately 2 million people.11

Nowadays, having a job and its future stability, as regards young people, is treated as a priority. This is the main consideration taken into account when, among other things, making family and life plans. Unfortunately, a lack of experience or insufficient qualifications constitute a barrier for young people to overcome when competing with older generations. For this reason EU funding should be made use of, which is possible due to a special package of funds directed especially at young people by the Knowledge Education Development program. The EU funds can be used by people under the age of 30, who are unemployed, do not study and are not trained. One of the elements of the package of activities aimed at the improvement of the situation of such people are the funds for opening businesses. At the beginning, an analysis of the situation and the individual predispositions of the person applying for funding will be conducted. Out of the combined list of all ideas, only the ideas which according to the commission’s assessment appear to be the most effective, will be chosen. In case of a positive assessment of the idea for establishing an individual business (assessment of the business plan), an unemployed person can receive a one-time grant for starting a business, including the costs of legal assistance, consultations and advice connected with the action planned for the first stage of the launch of the company. The unemployed person may be granted funds in the amount agreed in the contract, not exceeding 6 times of the average salary. The person who received a one-time grant to start a business is obliged to return the received funds including interest, if the business lasts less than 12 months or other terms of the contract regarding the granting the funds, have been violated.

As regards the above, the Labor Fund can be applied for by:

− unemployed people,

people under the social insurance for farmers with whom a contract of employment or an official relationship have been terminated because of the company for undertaking non-agricultural activity.\footnote{12}

The European Union subsidizes various business ideas, however they are usually hairdressing salons, specialist shops, driving schools, accounting offices, massage salons, cosmetic studios, private kindergarten centres, etc. Their specificity results from the gained professional knowledge or education of their owners, the needs of the local market, and the minimizing of the risk of the collapse of the project. It must be regretfully admitted that running a business in Polish market conditions is an uneasy task. The young entrepreneurs mainly struggle with a „tangle” of incomprehensible legal and tax regulations. The necessity of paying high amounts of social insurance constitutes a problem of serious importance. Statistical data performed mainly by job centres confirm the relatively low “endurance” of newly established businesses. Ninety-nine per cent of companies in the first 12 months of their existence manage to survive, however, over the following years, this indicator decreases significantly, and after 36 months of the company’s existence, it rises to 45 per cent.

There are, however, such business ideas, that are so original and innovative that they cannot be passed by indifferently. Often, young people have such bold ideas, that without EU assistance they could not be realized.

Has anyone ever heard about the T-shirts with a fragrance of vanilla and chocolate which also change color when exposed to heat and glow in the dark? It is one of the remarkable ideas of the „Kids of Chameleon” company, based in Łódź, which sells children’s T-shirts with fragrance properties, interactive and luminescent. The two women running this business, using the experience they gained while taking part in EU training on intelligent textiles, decided to take a risk and establish their own business. The idea of using such modern materials for production of children’s clothes turned out to be a great success, because of the huge interest that it generated which attracted many clients.

e) Companies established by disabled people

Similarly to previous years, people with disabilities may apply for a one-time grant from the National Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled People (PFRON) to start up a business. The detailed terms and conditions for getting the funds are regulated by: the Act of 27th August 1997 on vocational and social rehabilitation, and employment of disabled people, and also the Act of 20th April 2004 on promotion of employment and institutions in the labor market\footnote{13,14}.

The amount of funding cannot exceed fifty times the average wage which is put in force on the day of signing the contract. The funds can be allocated to a disabled person who is registered at the Municipal or District Labor Office, who is going to start a business, an agricultural activity for a period of at least 24 months and to contribute an income to a social cooperative or to be a member of a social cooperative at the territory of the Republic of Poland.

As regards discrepancies and amendments occurring in the regulations concerning the application for funds and their distribution in regards to starting up a business both with PFRON, and the labor fund, the current information is available on the web pages of the Labor Offices and the web page of the National Fund for Rehabilitation of Disabled People (www.pfron.org.pl).

\footnote{12} Ordinance of the Minister of Labor and Social Policy of 15th January 2009 on detailed conditions and procedures for reimbursement of funds from the Labor Fund – Journal of Laws No 5, item 26. column 26.
\footnote{13} Journal of Laws of 2011, No 127, item 721 with further amendments.
\footnote{14} Journal of Laws of No 69, item 415 with further amendments.
In order to grant a disabled person funds for establishing his own business, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- submit a proper application form with its attachments;
- be registered in the Labor Office as an unemployed person or a job seeker with no employment;
- do not conduct a business, agricultural activity or be a member of a social cooperative within the 12 months preceding the date of submission of the Application Form and not being convinced in the 2 last years before the date of submission the Application Form according to Law of 6th June 1997, Civil Code;
- not having received earlier non-repayable public funds (PFRON, Labor Fund, EFS, etc.) for starting a business, agricultural activity or contributing an income to a social cooperative;
- be able to conduct a business for a period of at least 24 months (good health).

People with disabilities will be able to draw upon another form of support. With this support, they will receive a grant for employing a personnel assistant. Some of the money from operational programs will be used as other forms of support: including for people leaving orphanages, social therapy centres, educational centres and prisons.

Information on the current possibilities for receiving support can be found on the web page: www.funduszeeuropejskie.gov.pl/wyszukiwarka by making a search for grants. In addition, free information and advice about the possibility of taking part in projects can be obtained from the European Union Funds Information Points, district labor offices (information mainly for the unemployed) or on the website of the provincial labor office.

f) Business Incubators

Business incubators are institutions, whose main aim is to support enterprise in the broad understanding of the term. Depending on the groups addressed, we can distinguish three main types of business incubator:

- For beginners or those planning to start a business (technological incubators);
- For social economy entities (social business incubators);
- For youth and students (academic business incubators).

The Academic Business Incubator which is a huge success, enables young people to start in business through a model of pre-incubation, which enables new entrepreneurs to become a legal body. One of the greatest achievements of the academic incubators was being included in the list of key projects for the Polish economy by the Ministry of Economy in 2009.

The AIP incubators are a practical school of conducting business for start-ups, where, the AIP enable people to test ideas on the market including preferential terms without the necessity of registering a business or a company. The AIP incubators are also the only ecosystem in Poland which enables people to obtain grants for development through the simplest model of investment – 100/15 which is 100 000 PLN for 15% stake in a start-up. Since 2004 this innovative, European wide, network of 42 incubators has through the AIP helped over 7000 start-ups to develop. Among them, were: Qpony.pl, PhotoBlog.pl, and Goldenline.pl.

15 https://inkubatory.pl/
Conclusion

In answer to the problematic question asked at the beginning of the article, it can be concluded from the survey of the evidence, that the European Union’s support offers real help and not only populist slogans. The EU funds enable young, ambitious people to realize even the most ambitious and innovative of dreams and help them achieve scientific and business success. To a large extent, EU support contributes to a decrease in unemployment. This year’s survey of the Eurostat revealed the decrease of the unemployment rate among young people in Poland by 5 per cent. This is a very good result on a European scale, which also indicates the economic recovery in our country. This significant decrease in the unemployment rate confirms that more and more young people are applying for European funding, and are recognizing them as an opportunity for their personal development. Taking into account the current allocation of funds available from the Operational Program Knowledge Education Development (PO WER) for 2014-2020, whose budget is 5.4 billion EUR, young people again will receive enormous support adjusted to their needs; it would be a sin not to use this unique opportunity. The most important form of support from the European Union for young people are grants dedicated to starting businesses available from the operational programmes: „Human Capital” and „Innovative economy”. They allow people to make their dreams come true, people who have an idea for their future career and object to working within a model of full time, regular employment within other people’s businesses. When entering the labor market, the majority of young people do not have the proper experience and sufficient funds to achieve their aim. However, they can pride themselves on their education, creativity, innovative approach to many issues, and huge enthusiasm for work. The European Union gives them a helping hand in the form, for example, of capital assets, dedicated training courses, offering loans with a low interest rate, etc. which are enormously helpful for people starting a company. In the media, Internet, as well as in everyday day life, we can very often see examples of business projects, which were successfully realized because of EU support. Establishing their own companies enable many young people to realize their dreams, and at the same time it is the best example of promoting entrepreneurial attitudes, supporting employment and investing in education, which are some of the main elements of the new cohesion policy of the European Union „Europe 2020”.

Young, educated people are open to all opportunities which are offered to them by the labor market, at the same time they are flexible, and in case of failure they are able to change their occupation quickly. Moreover, they are not afraid of challenges and are able to take the entire responsibility for the projects they undertake. The EU support backing up their ideas is invaluable; it provides young people with faith in their own possibilities and encourages them to follow their ideas, so that “to want, means to be able to”. If only young people have a vision for their future, are determined to be successful and focus on it, then despite the many various difficulties, such as lack of money, they will certainly achieve the goals.

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