**Report**

**Students’ pilot course implementation at “Eqrem Çabej” University**

**Supported by Entral Project**

**Working Team**

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**Title of the course**: Entrepreneurship Innovation Camp

This Innovation Camp was piloted by "Eqrem Çabej" University, Gjirokastër in the framework of the EntrAL project. It aims to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among students of diverse education background. This innovation camp is based on the transferable skills and experience gained during the Innovation Camp organized within the EntrAL project at the University of Turku in November 2021.

Participants experienced the Innovation Camp concept. Students developed business ideas in teams and got hands-on experience in entrepreneurship, the process of developing a business idea and how to sell it.

After the camp, participants are expected to better understand the requirements of becoming an entrepreneur and they can reflect on whether entrepreneurship could be a possible career path in the future. The camp also introduced a different approach to learning about entrepreneurship and fostering entrepreneurial skills. Participants are better equipped with entrepreneurial skills and open to an entrepreneurial mindset,

The camp was organized for 3 days in the premises of "Eqrem Çabej" University. Students gained 2 ECTS and a certificate after completing the innovation camp was issued.

**Open badges link:** <http://uogj.edu.al/6389/>

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the Innovation Camp, conducted by "Eqrem Çabej" University, Gjirokastër as part of the EntrAL project, is to foster entrepreneurship and innovation among students from diverse educational backgrounds by equipping them with problem-solving, creative thinking, and teamwork skills, enabling them to identify business challenges and devise creative solutions, promoting a comprehensive understanding of entrepreneurial opportunities and skills, and ultimately inspiring them to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career path while instilling an entrepreneurial mindset.

**Specific training objectives (Learning outcomes)**

• Developing problem solving and creative thinking skills and team building skills.

• Applying skills and knowledge to identify business problems and challenges and find creative and feasible solutions.

• Understanding entrepreneurial opportunities, entrepreneurial skills, business logic, start-ups and enabling two-way communication and collaboration with the business environment.

• Promoting entrepreneurship as a career path for bachelor and master university students as well as providing the opportunity to develop their in entrepreneurship.

T**arget group: EÇUG Students**

**Implementation of the student course “Entrepreneurship Innovation Camp”at the “Eqrem Çabej” University**

The Innovation Camp was organized by the “Eqrem Çabej” University, Gjirokastër, during 16,17 & 18 May, 2023, after the pilot course approval by the Rectorate and Academic Senate.

The announcement of the students' module was made available in the following links:

* Official website of the University of Gjirokastra:
* <http://uogj.edu.al/6208/>
* Official Social Accounts Facebook and Instagram:
* https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\_fbid=941593237028010&id=100035320284422&mibextid=Nif5oz
* https://www.instagram.com/p/CryGvSuo3cd/?igshid=MmJiY2I4NDBkZg==

After the publication of the call for participating, the implementation team create the link of registration as below:

[**https://forms.office.com/r/C9wk0JrCRf**](https://forms.office.com/r/C9wk0JrCRf)

At the end of the registration process, 106 participants out of 184 registered students representing two faculties students participated in the entrepreneurship innovation camp. None of the students were from the Faculty of Economy. The focus of the module was to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among students in different fields of study. Through this module, the students learned and gained more practical experience about entrepreneurship and developed new business ideas in teams. Distinguished guest speakers were invited to share their experiences dealing with the challenges faced while opening new businesses. Students’ teams were organised to develop the new business ideas and present them on the final day of the training.

## All the materials and the activities were very comprehensive for all the participants, and the activities were simple, and all the students participated actively. The students were able to comply with all assignments and tasks given to them and were able to pitch their ideas despite time constraints in three days.

Detailed information regarding the specific activities of the entrepreneurship innovation camp can be found in the links above.

**The methodology**

The module offers a range of activities that integrate theoretical concepts with practical application. These activities aim to develop the final business plan and video pitch for the entrepreneurial project. The utilization of participatory methods and other techniques was crucial in enabling the participants to gain a clear understanding of the learning content. Several techniques, tools and teaching aids were used to support entrepreneurial learning, including:

* Warming up/energizer
* Brainstorming
* Self-reflection
* External Speakers
* Lean Start Up
* Pitching role playing simulation
* Group work (onsite)
* Facilitated group work
* Power Point presentations

**Pilot course evaluation**

Participants’ email addresses have been sent to the project coordinators for an individual evaluation. The following evaluation is based on the EÇUG questionnaire distributed to all the participants. 87 responses were collected out of 106 participants.

The survey contained three sections. First section collected general information necessary to validate the following 10 responses of the second section, where participants gave their assessment for different aspect of the training program. Participants were asked to assess the activities from 1 to 5, with 5 being the maximum evaluation.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement No.** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** |
| **Average Rating per statement** | **4.81** | **4.60** | **4.52** | **4.79** | **4.73** | **4.74** | **4.87** | **4.85** | **4.71** | **4.47** | **4.69** |
| **Section 2 Average rating** | **4.71** | | | | | | | | | | |

Generaly speaking, the students were actively engaged in the activities and in independent and facilitated teamwork. Throughout the training the participants, comprising the dedicated group of students, demonstrated a high level of commitment and enthusiasm. The jury listened to all the innovative presentations, among which, the winner was selected.

**Conclusions**

1. There is a strong student inclination towards entrepreneurial activities.
2. Students demonstrate commendable involvement in collaborative endeavors.
3. Active discourse and student engagement are observed in the context of specific matters pertinent to business idea formulation.
4. Students exhibit limited familiarity with the educational curriculum.
5. The deficiency in collaborative group work is noteworthy.

