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Entrepreneurial education in R. of Moldova and the role of social entrepreneurship in creating better conditions for young people

An important role in developing the spirit of initiative and entrepreneurship lies in entrepreneurial education that enables young people to be more creative and more confident in their work and to increase their chances of engagement encourages them to start new businesses and improve their role in society and economy. Investing in entrepreneurship education is one of the highest return investments Europe can make. Surveys suggest that between 15% and 20% of students who participate in a mini-company programme in secondary school will later start their own company, a figure that is about three to five times that for the general population.

At present, the educational system in the Republic of Moldova offers opportunities for the realization of entrepreneurial education through the optional and compulsory disciplines included in the curricula, as well as the extracurricular activities carried out in the educational institutions.

In order to increase the attractiveness of the professions, entrepreneurship courses have been introduced in all vocational technical education institutions. The aim of the discipline the Basics of entrepreneurship is the students' initiation in the basic concepts of entrepreneurship and the development of competences in pupils, which will allow them to efficiently capitalize on their own potential and, in the future, to initiate and effectively manage some entrepreneurial activities.

In terms of entrepreneurship education in post-secondary technical (colleges) and university education, the achievement of these depends, to a large extent, on the field of study.

Regarding social entrepreneurship, although the Entrepreneurship course mentions this form, there is no educational institution that would include in the curriculum a course of Social Entrepreneurship.

But, non-formal education, being efficiently organized, contributes to the strength of young people's knowledge and skills that they need to succeed in contemporary society, mobilizing the full potential of children / young people's learning to assimilate socio-cultural changes that are permanent in modern society. Thus, non-formal education complements the gaps in formal and extracurricular education.

The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor's GEM 2015 Report on Social Entrepreneurship defines "Social Entrepreneurship Activity" (SEA) and defines the need for any kind of activity, organization or initiative that has a particular social, environmental or community objective. This could include providing services or training to socially deprived or disabled persons, activities aimed at reducing pollution or food-waste, organizing self-help groups for community action, etc."

Although widespread and valued in the Western Europe countries, social entrepreneurship remains a relatively new idea in the Republic of Moldova. The legal framework that would regulate and support the development of social entrepreneurship is at the stage of constitution, the articles on social entrepreneurship in the Law on Entrepreneurship and Enterprises was enter into force on June 2018.