



Empresa Joven Europea

Why?

EJE program shares a common approach with many different Mini-Enterprise schemes that are being implemented in Schools worldwide whose aim is to integrate Entrepreneurship into Education.

Although the European Commission, Country members and experts in education have already agreed on the need to promote Entrepreneurship in the educational system this concept needs to be clearly defined.

In our opinion Entrepreneurship Education is not only about the skills and knowledge needed to set up and run a business but it also encloses the development of a set of personal attributes and skills (creativity, flexibility, initiative, self-confidence, team-work) which would prepare young people to face a changing labour market (switching from the employee to the self-employed status throughout their professional career). EJE program aims to fulfil these two needs by means of a “Learning by Doing” or Active Learning approach where the teacher acts as a facilitator and the student is fully responsible for its own decisions.

On the other hand, in countries such as UK, plans have been drawn in order to give an International dimension to the curriculum . This represents another of the cornerstones of this program or one of its most specific features. Most of the Mini-Enterprises are run either the local or the national level . EJE is a chance to go a step further and internationalise this kind of programs. Globalization as a concept sounds familiar to everybody and whether we want it or not it affects every single aspect of our life.

EJE encourages the collaboration between schools at the international level. Let's put it this way, International Trade between schools is an "excuse" to promote further understanding of different cultures and social realities and the exchange of ideas. This would have represented a daunting task years ago whereas now the development of Information and Communication technologies has made this much easier. Nowadays ICTs have proved to be powerful communication tools and mastering its use has become a "must" for almost every single person. This is why EJE encourages the use of ICTs (e-mail, Internet, Videoconferencing) throughout all the different stages of the project.

Finally, EJE provides an opportunity to practise a foreign language in a real context . We would like to insist on the fact that Trading between schools is 100 % real.

Past, present

The program has been implemented since 1999 where it all started on an experimental basis . A workgroup consisting of Secondary School teachers and Business creation experts worked hand in hand to design the framework and teaching materials for this program. Meanwhile some teachers were testing it in the classroom.

This process took two years and 3 school cooperatives started trading products with schools in Scotland and Navarra (Spain) .

Finally, the teaching materials were released on October, 2001. Last course, 2001-2002, 15 schools in Asturias were involved in the project. They started trading with schools in Mexico, the States, Germany, Scotland and Sweden as well as some other schools in different regions of Spain.

At present, 25 schools from Asturias have been already matched with schools abroad but this number may be increased in the following weeks bearing in mind we are still holding meetings and providing info to many other interested schools.

..... & Future.

As a result of Valnalon's close collaboration with the Department of Labour and Industry and the Department of Education and Skills, EJE program will be fully integrated into the School curriculum as an optional subject for grade 10 students.

This means, next course 2003-2004, 75 to 90 high schools will be implementing the program. Needless to say that one of our foremost priorities at this stage is the search for interested schools abroad.

On the other hand we have plans to translate the teaching materials into English in a very near future. This is due to the fact that lots of teachers in different countries have shown an interest in using these resources in the classroom.

How can schools apply?

Nothing could be simpler. Filling out and sending the application form to the following e-mail address:

eje@valnalon.com

As soon as we receive this info we will provide the contact details of the Spanish School.

NO FEES are exacted from participating schools.