

# EECOLE Roundtable

OECD, 24 November 2022

## Proceedings

**The first EECOLE roundtable, held at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris on 24 November 2022, was attended by more than 100 participants, 68 of which came in person to the event (find the agenda of the roundtable in Annex 1). All together, they represented 75 institutions from 21 countries (see list of participants in the Annex 2). The roundtable was co-chaired by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, ERIA. In addition, the following day, the EECOLE Steering Group met for the first time and discussed how to generate a positive dynamic for the policy community, while guaranteeing its sustainability.**

The Roundtable and the Steering Group refined EECOLE's priorities and governance. Concerning EECOLE's priorities, three main messages emerged from the discussion:

- An entrepreneurial mindset helps and empowers individuals, and especially young people, cope with highly volatile economies and societies. People with an entrepreneurial mindset have a positive attitude towards change because they tolerate higher levels of uncertainty, are less averse to risk, and have a problem-solving drive. EECOLE will work to generate evidence and data about entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills, as well as policies and practices to support it across all levels of education and training. EECOLE will work to connect entrepreneurial skills with SMEs and entrepreneurs.
- Entrepreneurial ecosystems contribute to the success of businesses and entrepreneurs, and economic development at large. In entrepreneurial ecosystems, all actors mobilise their resources, networks, and talent to generate collaborative spaces, cutting across areas of expertise (colliders). Local leaders emerge from these collaborative spaces. The ecosystem responds to local innovation opportunities and handle specific challenges, connected for instance to inclusion and sustainability. EECOLE will work to identify good policy approaches supporting entrepreneurial ecosystems, finding an equilibrium between agglomeration and internationalisation dynamics (i.e., place matters but networks of places matter more).

- Entrepreneurial HEIs, public research bodies (PRBs), and research and technology organisations (RTOs) have a role to play in the governance systems of entrepreneurial ecosystems, if they are open to engage and cooperate with their communities and stakeholders, and the right systems of incentives and rules are in place. Place-responsive HEIs can provide leadership and a safe environment for the coordination of different policies, including innovation, regional development, employment and skills. The EECOLE policy community will focus on the governance aspects of entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Regarding the governance of EECOLE, all partners agreed that the diversity of participants, besides HEIs, is a key characteristic of EECOLE, which makes the global initiative unique. Governance arrangement should generate knowledge products of general interest, in an effective and sustainable way.

- EECOLE should not be a network of universities but offer them the possibility to connect with policy makers, business representatives, and civil society to improve their capacity to generate societal and economic value.
- To fully exploit the diversity and heterogeneity of partners, it was agreed to organise the activities of the policy community into “task-and-finish groups” (TFGs). These thematic working groups generate information, reports and data, and organise conferences and seminars, etc. A group of EECOLE experts, including members of the Steering Group, will volunteer to organise TFGs, set their working agenda, and lead the discussion at the tasks-and-finish groups. The OECD Secretariat will be systematically involved in all TFGs and will contribute to set methodologies and metrics to assess the contribution of TFGs to the general interest of EECOLE. TFGs will build upon established knowledge and networks, including within the OECD.
- Going forward, EECOLE will promote the diversity of its partnership, while ensuring the capacity to focus on specific policy issues on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems. The OECD Secretariat will generate a calendar of activities for the task-and-finish groups that are already operational, identifying milestones and outcomes, in collaboration with partners. Partners will support EECOLE to guarantee its sustainability and independence. All task-and-finish groups will present their activities and outcomes at the next EECOLE roundtable, in the fourth quarter of 2023 (first quarter 2024).

### ***EECOLE is an OECD policy community...***

EECOLE represents one of the policy communities that the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities has generated to find innovative solutions to the challenges we are encountering in the current economic and societal context. EECOLE will connect with Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE), as well as the Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Forum and the Regional Development Policy Committee (RDPC) to promote a multidimensional and multistakeholder policy dialogue connecting places, businesses, and people.

### ***...on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems***

EECOLE will focus on entrepreneurship education and entrepreneurial ecosystems, in a broad sense (ranging from start-ups to entrepreneurship and including social entrepreneurship) with a view to better understand the enablers of SMEs and entrepreneurs’ skill development. Individuals with an entrepreneurial mindset can identify resources that are untapped or underutilised in their own communities and networks. They transform sustainable ideas into new products and services and play a central role in innovation strategies, which cannot depend anymore on the sole activity of the public sector but need to be supported by all stakeholders. Entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurial individuals, are pivotal transforming research and science into solutions supporting the green and digital transitions.

To be successful, entrepreneurial individuals need to operate in a conducive environment. Entrepreneurial ecosystems are communities and networks in which all actors, organisations, and policies are mobilised to generate collaborative spaces that promote enterprise and offer a safe environment in which experimenting new solutions. Entrepreneurial ecosystems facilitate the collaboration among individuals and organisations that have different expertise and belong to different disciplines and sectors. Local leaders may emerge from the collaborative spaces generated by the ecosystem. Ecosystems operate as colliders, allowing new combinations of information and knowledge to emerge. Entrepreneurial ecosystems have international connections, which help them generate solutions to global challenges. Place-responsive HEIs and intermediation organisations generate collective goods that connect local knowledge to international networks and supply chains.

### ***Scale and speed, triggering diffuse actions to promote talent and innovation***

To guarantee scale and speed of its activities, the work of EECOLE will focus on SMEs and entrepreneurs, due to their relevance in OECD economies and the need to improve their capacity to access talent. The EECOLE policy community will mobilise resources and intelligence to connect with many stakeholders, and link entrepreneurship with innovation agendas, and societal challenges in an effective way. EECOLE has already engaged policy discussions and peer learning in 4 different continents, including Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia.

EECOLE is not a network of universities, but it will leverage on HEIs and intermediation organisations, such as PRBs and RTOs, to offer leadership, knowledge, and coordination to entrepreneurial ecosystems. HEIs that are available to engage with their communities can offer a safe environment that facilitates the collaboration of different stakeholders, improve capabilities and social capital, and the capacity of entrepreneurial ecosystems to identify comparative advantages and opportunities for specialisation. The diffuse actions of ecosystems should inform national policy sectors, to promote complementarities, incentives, and rules that facilitate entrepreneurship, as well as the generation of public goods that can positively affect enterprise and innovation in connection with sustainability and inclusion.

### ***Organising task-and-finish groups: how EECOLE operates concretely***

Diversity of stakeholders and policy areas are the EECOLE signature, but also a challenge, without effective governance arrangements. For this reason, EECOLE will be organised in working groups, called “task-and-finish groups”. As discussed in previous meeting. These TFGs will gather experts and stakeholders from different sectors to generate a specific knowledge product, over an agreed timeline. EECOLE partners support this approach and are interested in contributing in TFGs.

- A TFGs has already started working to understand the entrepreneurial mindset and identify pedagogies and practices that can help individuals developing such a skills bundle. The TFG has developed a survey to be administered to students in partner higher education institutions. This is a first step towards the creation of evidence in this field.
- Likewise, there is a TFG working on the “geography of higher education” to generate knowledge and evidence about entrepreneurial ecosystems, and the way in which mobilising regional and international networks. Partners from the Canadian provinces of Québec and Newfoundland, as well as in Latin America have played an important role taking this work off the ground.
- Additional TFGs will be created in coordination and collaboration with partners. TFGs activities should respond to a general interest within EECOLE and generate knowledge (or processes) that are relevant for the entire policy community. Importantly, TFGs should be sustainable in terms of resources and governance.

The OECD Secretariat, in collaboration with EECOLE partners, will formalise the creation of task-and-finish groups, in the first quarter of 2023. Importantly, TFGs will generate funding and support fund-raising activities of the OECD Secretariat to guarantee the sustainability of EECOLE.

***Going forward: the EECOLE agenda set by partners and the Steering Group***

EECOLE partners and members of the Steering Group, the OECD Secretariat will generate a calendar of activities for task-and-finish groups and identify goals, processes and deliverables. EECOLE will collaborate with other international networks promoting entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial mindset, including in education systems. EECOLE partners, and members of the Steering Group, will play an active role in these TFGs by providing leadership, expertise, peer-reviewing, and resources to achieve the established objectives. In the next EECOLE roundtable, to be organised at the end of 2023 (or beginning of 2024), all active TFGs will present their activities and intermediate/final outcomes. Capitalising on evidence and networks, new TFGs may be organised and launched, then.

## **Annex 1. The final agenda of the 2022 EECOLE Roundtable.**

### **Welcoming session - The EECOLE platform and the objectives of the Forum**

- Céline Kauffmann, Head of the Entrepreneurship, SMEs and Tourism Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities.

*The first Roundtable is to contribute to define the objectives and the governance of EECOLE.*

*EECOLE is one of the policy communities that the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities has generated to involve new partners and find innovative solutions to the challenges of skills for SMEs and entrepreneurship.*

### **EECOLE supporting entrepreneurial skills**

*In the context of major transitions underway, entrepreneurial skills are an increasingly important focus of governmental agendas, which is transversal across several policy areas. Panellists will discuss how EECOLE can help identify the skills bundle characterising the entrepreneurial mindset, as well as good practices and approaches to promote its development.*

*Panellists:*

- Richard Chenier, CENTECH Montreal, Québec, Canada
- Antonio Celia Martinez, international expert and former President of Promigas Colombia
- Diana Filip, Deputy CEO & Chief Development Officer, JAEurope

Moderator: Giulia Ajmone Marsan, ERIA

Coffee break

### **Second moderated panel and discussion – EECOLE promoting entrepreneurial ecosystems**

*HEIs can contribute to the development of local entrepreneurship ecosystems through their education, research, and collaboration activities (place-responsiveness). In this session, the panellists will focus on enhancing the connections between HEIs, businesses and other partners in their own communities to foster entrepreneurial and resilient ecosystems.*

*Panellists:*

- Dominique Foray, Polytechnique de Lausanne, Switzerland
- Louise Kempton, Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies (CURDS) Newcastle University, United Kingdom
- Stefano Micelli, Executive Chairman, Upskill 4.0, Italy

Moderator: Raffaele Trapasso, OECD

### **Roundtable discussion: implementing the EECOLE tasks-and-finish groups (TFGs) and networks: discussion on content and process**

*This session will mobilise participants to seek their support in framing and organising the activities and the agenda of the TFGs and the networks of EECOLE. Champions and experts whose experience can inspire the organisation of the activities of the TFGs, will launch the discussion.*

Moderators: Maria Sobron Bernal and Giorgia Ponti

Issues for discussion: What are task-and-finish groups? How do they work? Who can participate in these activities? What do we ask participants? What is the final goal of the task and finish groups? How can we make task and finish groups sustainable?

**Discussants:**

- Brigida Blasi, ANVUR, Italy
- Luc Sirois, Innovation
- Denis Gauvreau, Polytechnique de Montréal, Québec, Canada
- Kim Plevoets, UC Leuven-Limburg, E<sup>3</sup>UDRES<sup>2</sup>, Belgium
- Yancy Vaillant, Toulouse Business School in Barcelona and Babson Collaborative

Within this session, Ms Alison Cathles (IADB) and Programme Director Adam Leach (University of Sheffield Hallam) will present the respective projects that have been launched or are currently discussed, in connection with the Geography of Higher Education and the way these international experiences will contribute to the production of a Handbook, based on international good practices.

- Alison Cathles, Senior Specialist at the Competitiveness, Technology and Innovation Division, IADB (remotely)
- John Goddard, Professor of Universities and Cities, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom (remotely) and Adam Leach, Sheffield Hallam University – National Civic Impact Accelerator, United Kingdom
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*Participants will have the possibility to comment on key messages*

Chantal Pharand, Deputy Vice-Rector, Université de Montréal, Québec, Canada - Jan Eggert, EIT Raw Materials - Paolo Manfredi, Confartigianato, Italy - Leonardo Lorusso, Lombardy Region, Italy will open the discussion

**Wrap up of the discussion and next steps**

- Raffaele Trapasso, Head of the Entrepreneurship Education and Skills Unit, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

*A summary of the discussion: mainstreaming entrepreneurship education and skills to promote individual mindsets; mobilise entrepreneurial ecosystems; leverage on HEIs PRBs and RTOs to provide effective governance to entrepreneurial ecosystems.*

*Activation of EECOLE TFGs in the first quarter of 2023. Organisation of the next EECOLE roundtable in Q4 2023 or Q1 2024.*

## **Annex 2. List of participants in the first EECOLE Roundtable and in the meeting of the Steering Group**

<b>In-person participants</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Giulia	AJMONE MARSAN	Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)
Cigdem	AKCELIK	Alfa College, The Netherlands
Muge	AKPINAR DEMIRTEMEL	KOSGEB, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organisation, Turkey
Wolfgang	ARENS-FISCHER	Hochschule Osnabrück, Germany
Mahamadou	BIGA DIAMBEIDOU	UCLouvain, Belgium
Nicola	BLACKWOOD	GEL, United Kingdom
Brigida	BLASI	ANVUR, Italy
Paolo	CAMMAROTA	Trade and Industry Policy Officer, Economic and Trade Mission of Israel to the OECD, Israel

Aurora	CANDEL	Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism, Romania
Antonio	CELIA	LSE, United Kingdom, and former CEO of Promigas, Colombia
Richard	CHENIER	Centech, Canada
Paul	COYLE	Entrepreneurial Mindset Network, France
Kelly	CULVER	Culver Group, Canada
Lucia	CUSMANO	OECD
Christian	DE KRAKER	Alfa college and the Hanze University of Applied Sciences. the Netherlands
Adrien	DEGEORGES	Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France
Jan	EGGERT	EIT RawMaterials
Ayman	EL TARABISHY	International Council for Small Business (ICSB), United States
Claudio	FEIJOO	Technical University of Madrid, Spain
Diana	FILIP	Junior Achievement Young Enterprise Europe, Belgium
Dominique	FORAY	Ecole polytechnique federale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland
Fernando	FRITZ	InvestSP Europe, Germany
Giuseppe	ROSACE	University of Bergamo, Italy
Fatih	GÖKYURT	KOSGEB, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organisation, Turkey
Raul	GONZALEZ LIMA	Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil
Federico	IANNELLA	Politecnico di Milano, Italy
P. Lelio	IAPADRE	University of L'Aquila, Italy
Seda	KALAYCI	Small and Medium Industry Development Organisation (KOSGEB), Turkey
Celine	KAUFFMANN	OECD
Louise	KEMPTON	Newcastle University, United Kingdom
Adam	LEACH	Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom
Young-Soon (Erica)	LEE	Ministry of SMEs and Startups, Korea
Leonardo	LOMBARDELLI	Bocconi University, Italy
Leonardo	LORUSSO	Regional Delegation of Lombardy to the EU, Lombardy
Sirois	LUC	Conseil de l'innovation du Québec, Canada
Paolo	MANFREDI	Confartigianato, Italy
Ariosto	MANRIQUE	Testa Marketing - BIAC
Malgarini	MARCO	ANVUR, Italy
Fernando	MERIDA-MARTIN	European Commission - Joint Research Center
Stefano	MICELLI	Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy
Carlijn	MOLEWATER DE LA RIVE BOX	Alfa College, the Netherlands
Fiorina	MUGIONE	GDSI, Switzerland
Ryota	OCHI	Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI), Japan
Florencia	PALMA	Technological University of Uruguay (UTEC)
Chantal	PHARAND	Université de Montréal, Canada
Kim	PLEVOETS	UC Leuven-Limburg (University of Applied Sciences), Belgium
Giorgia	PONTI	OECD
Edna	PRIMROSE	Differenza, United States
Roberta	RAGAIŠYTE	Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Lithuania
Claudio	RORATO	Politecnico di Milano, Italy
Mohammed	SALLAH	Mansoura University, Egypt

Winslow	SARGEANT	International Council for Small Business (ICSB), United States
Simone	SASSO	European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC)
Carlos	SENTÍS	World Innovation Alliance
Maria	SOBRON BERNAL	OECD
Isabel	TOMAN	International Association of Universities
Raffaele	TRAPASSO	OECD
Laura	TREIMANE	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Latvia to the OECD and UNESCO
Richard	TUFFS	Friends of Smart Specialisation, Belgium
Marko	TURK	University of Applied Sciences PAR, Croatia
Yancy	VAILLANT	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
Ingrid	VAN DEN HUL	NHL Stenden Hogeschool, the Netherlands
Ben	VAN DER LAAN	SMRT.bio, the Netherlands
Hilligje	VAN'T LAND	International Association of Universities
Allan	VILLEGAS	HEC Paris, Qatar (member of Qatar Foundation)
Michaela	WEBSTER	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, New Zealand
Charles	WESSNER	Georgetown University, United States
Monique	WONG	JA Europe, Brussels

<b>Online participants</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Marwa	ABD EL TAWAB	MSMEDA, United Kingdom
José Manuel	AGUIRRE GUILLÉN	Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
Siah Hwee	ANG	Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
Jean	BIBEAU	Université de Sherbrooke< Canada
Johan	BLAUS	KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
Max	BULAKOVSKIY	OECD
Moises	CARBAJAL MARRON	Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
Alison	CATHLES REGAN	Inter-American Development Bank
Jason	CHANG	Industrial Technology Research Institute, Chinese Taipei
Dimitri	CORPAKIS	Friends of Smart Specialisation; former European Commission, Belgium
Adisa	EJUBOVIC	ACEEU, Germany
Eva	FABRY	European Centre for Women and Technology, Norway
Denis	GAUVREAU	Polytechnique of Montreal, Canada
john	GODDARD	Newcastle University, United Kingdom
Imre	GOMBKÖTŐ	EIT RawMaterials, Hungary
Mahamat	HAMIT-HAGGAR	Statistics Canada, Canada
Lina	IOANNOU	Ministry of Education, Greece
Fumi	KITAGAWA	University Of Edinburgh Business School, United Kingdom
Loredana	LOMBARDI	European Commission
Sabrina	LUCATELLI	Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri DPCO, Italy
Salvatore	MAJORANA	Kilometro Rosso, Italy
Domenico	MARINO	Mediterranea University, Italy
Minna	MELLERI	JA Europe, United States
Birute	MISKINIENE	VU Business School, Lithuania
Morne	MOSTERT	SMRT.BIO, South Africa



Davi	NAKANO	University of Sao Paulo, Polytechnic School, Brazil
Juan Carlos	NAVARRO	Former IDB, United States
Monica	PARRA TORRADO	World Bank, Colombia
Jurgita	PETRAUSKIENE	PR of Lithuania to the OECD, Lithuania
Marta	RODRIGUES	EURASHE, Belgium
Giuseppe	RONDISVALLE	University of Catania, Italy
Alessandro	ROSIELLO	University of Edinburgh Business School, United Kingdom
catherine	SARACCO	British Council, France
Slavica	SINGER	J.J. Strossmayer University in Osijek, United States
Francesca	SPIGARELLI	University of Macerata, Italy
Marcelo	TEDESCO	Global Ecosystem Dynamics, Argentina
Laura	TOSCHI	University of Bologna, Italy
Johannes	VAN DER POL	Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Jurgita	VIZGIRDAITE	Vilnius University Business School, Lithuania
Guang	YANG	The Institute of Public Policy, Hebei Normal University, China