



Europe-wide programme for young entrepreneurs holds final conference event

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Coming to a Close: Pan-European programme to inspire young digital and ethical entrepreneurs

**Charity CEO available for interview – details in notes*

A Europe-wide project to provide training and resources for aspiring young social entrepreneurs draws to a conclusion with an in-person conference in London on 22nd June 2022.

The International Conference was hosted by London Southbank University Business School, who have supported the project by engaging their business school students in the creation of resources for the programme. The conference was attended by international project partners, business professionals, young people from local schools and a group of business students from Poland.

Participants came together to learn about the new [EDEEY training platform](#), and to hear about the four national competitions (in Greece, Cyprus, Czech Republic and the UK) to train aspiring entrepreneurs to undertake the EDEEY training before designing a business plan for an ethical business. Participants then had the opportunity to vote on the UK competition winners before the winners were announced.

The conference concluded with a key-note speech from Lucy Findlay MBE, Founder and Managing Director of [Social Enterprise Mark CIC](#) – the only UK based, international accreditation social enterprise that independently proves that businesses or organisations put profits towards social or environmental good rather than creating shareholder value.

Lucy told the conference about her journey as an entrepreneur and lessons that she has learnt along the way. She said that “the EDEEY training platform is a fantastic resource and I wish that I had this kind of support when I was starting out”.

Zainab, a student who took part in the EDEEY workshop, online training and competition said:

“The course is useful for my future because I always had an entrepreneurial mindset and I always wanted to be an entrepreneur somewhere down my career path so the more knowledge I have the better. I always envisioned myself as someone who will own a company so it was useful to know the contents of a business plan and what to include. I now know that I can market my business in many ways and I am really grateful for the course teaching me.

The EDEEY platform is free to use and open to any young entrepreneurs or those who support young entrepreneurs.

The Project

The [EDEEY programme](#) supports young people to gain the skills they need to undertake social and digital entrepreneurship. It offers an innovative, accredited training course to prepare those without access to infinite capital on how to utilise digital entrepreneurship as a way of poverty alleviation, whilst also increasing the creation of jobs. EDEEY is co-funded by the EU and coordinated by UK charity IARS International Institute, (now [Sculpt](#)), and works across four European countries.



Notes to Editors:

Dr. Claire Bonham, Chief Executive of The IARS International Institute is available for interview. Contact Claire directly on: director@iars.org.uk +44(0) 7833 224442

The accredited online training platform can be found at: <https://edeey.eu/en/>

EDEEY works through the following partners:

1. Coordinator: IARS International Institute / UK www.iars.org.uk
2. Symplexis / Greece www.symplexis.eu
3. CARDET / Cyprus www.cardet.org
4. Youth Included / Czech Republic <https://youthincluded.com/>



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