

Mapping Students' Entrepreneurial Competences Across European Universities: A Survey-Based Assessment from the NEOLAIa Alliance

Prepared by Erika Jonuškienė, PhD Renata Šivickienė, PhD
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The aim of the research



To identify existing entrepreneurial skill level and needs of students – which will assist higher education institutions develop appropriate courses to meet the “competency deficits” identified by individuals.



Why entrepreneurship?

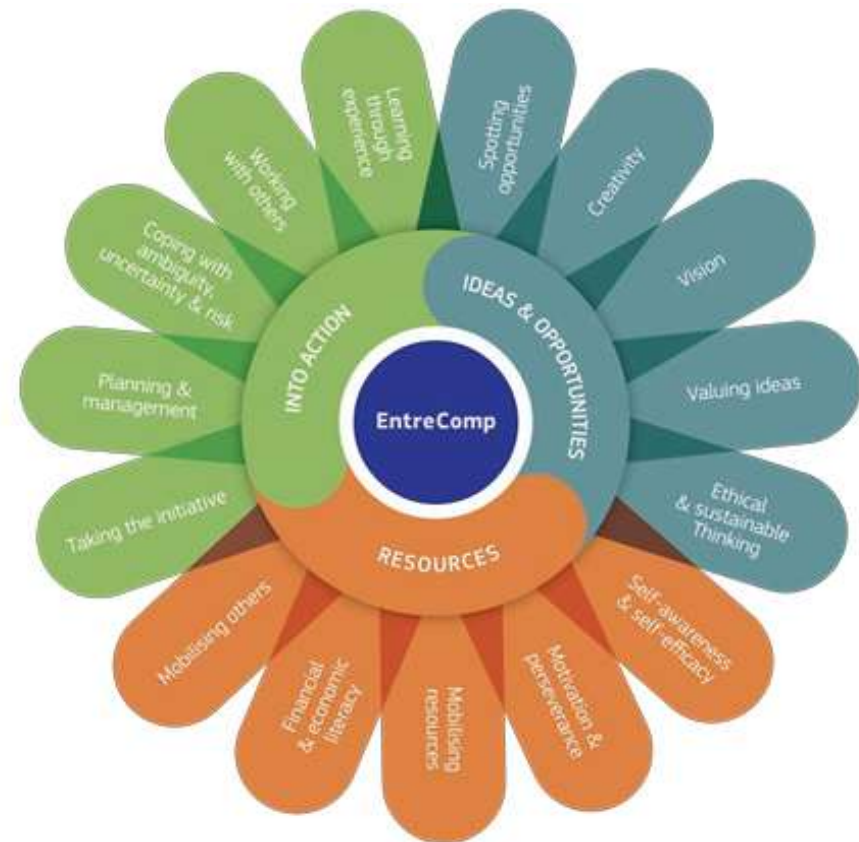


Entrepreneurship is considered a lifelong skill. Being creative or thinking of new ways of doing things are equally relevant to tackling social problems or advancing your career. Understanding how to put a plan into action and use financial resources wisely is relevant to planning a business and for life in general. Taking initiative, having the ability to mobilise other people, or to involve them in an idea are also useful skills both in personal and professional life (López-Núñez et al., 2022).

What is NEOLAiA?

-  An alliance of 9 European universities that aims to create a powerful synergy between academia, regional economic participation, and social development through local entrepreneurial ecosystems.
This study maps student entrepreneurship competences across the alliance.

The European Entrepreneurship Competence Framework (EntreComp) is the European reference framework which defines entrepreneurship as a competence for life-long learning. It can be used to map current needs, identify links with different skills, adapt and design new curricula, build competency-based selection models, identify the strengths of a team, and validate skills acquired through a learning experience.



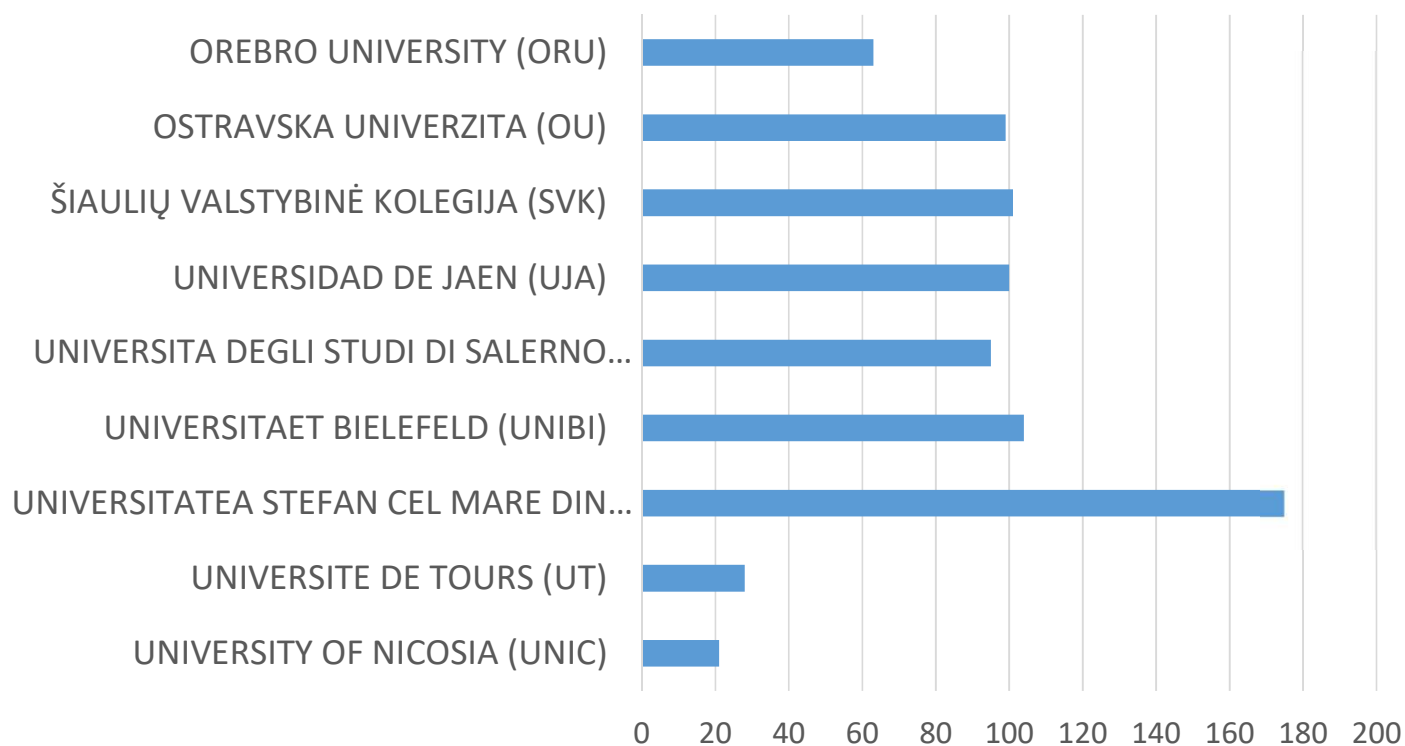
Areas and competences of the EntreComp conceptual model (source: Bacigalupo, M. (2019) https://jocis.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/JOCIS_4_Bacigalupo.pdf)

Methodology

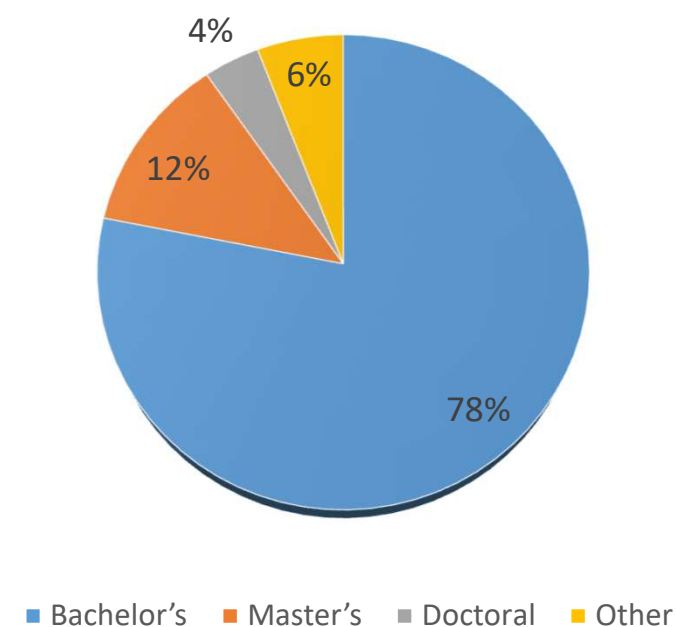
- Survey conducted Sept 2024 – Jan 2025 using EUSurvey platform.
- 786 students from 9 European universities participated.
- Competency self-assessment using 1–7 Likert scale.
- Analysis via SPSS and Excel, guided by EntreComp framework.

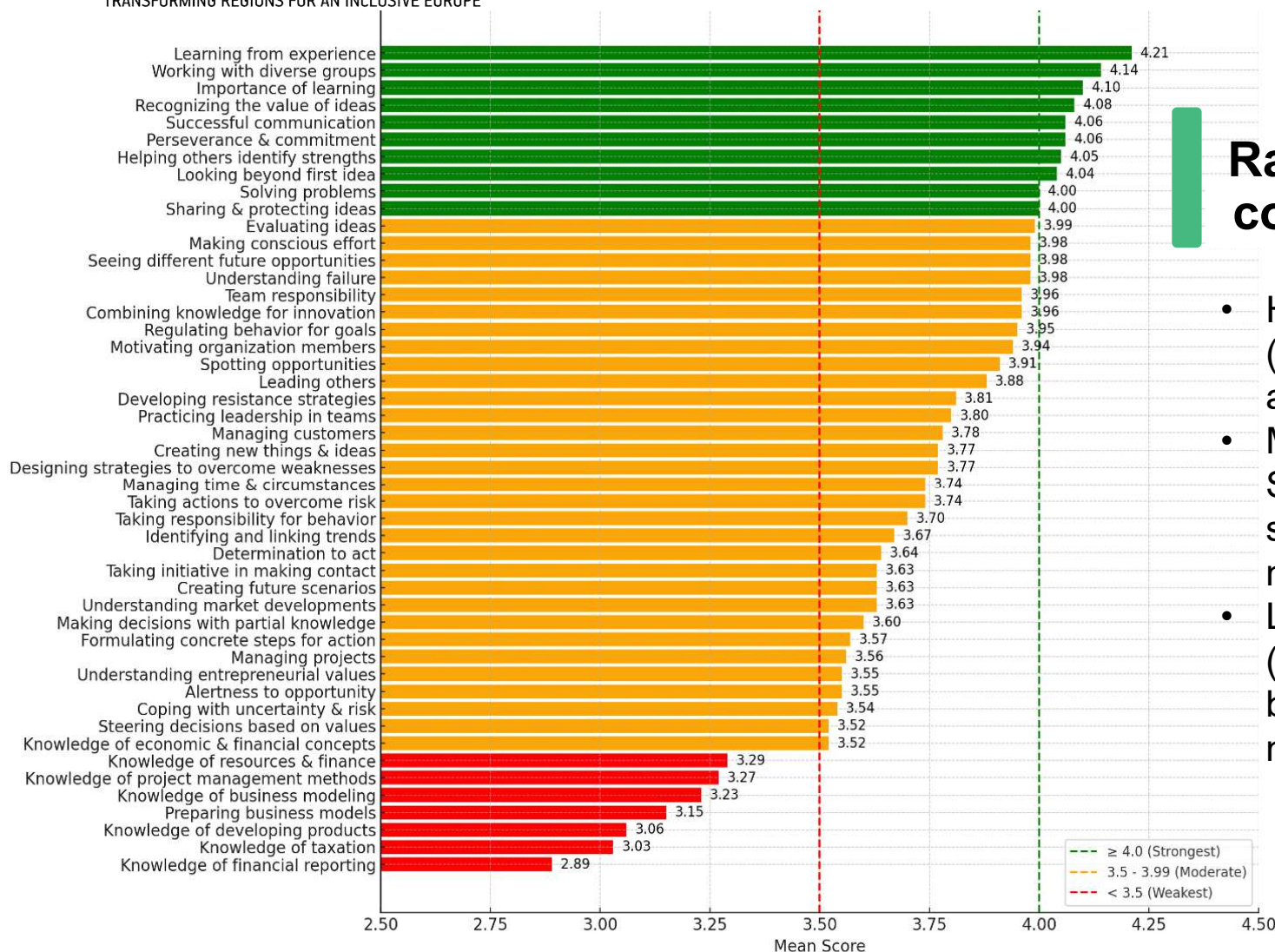


Respondents by University



Study level





Ranking of Entrepreneurship competencies by respondent

- High-Scoring Competencies (Strengths) – Learning, motivation, and vision stand out as strong skills.
- Mid-Level Competencies (Moderate Skills) – Coping with uncertainty, spotting opportunities, and planning need improvement.
- Low-Scoring Competencies (Weaknesses) – Financial literacy, business modelling, and resource mobilization require urgent training.

Main conclusions

- Students show strong motivation, vision, and learning capacity.
- Financial and strategic skills are underdeveloped.
- Poor understanding of taxation and financial reporting.
- Difficulty managing resources and executing business plans.
- Need for hands-on, skills-based training modules.





Q&A / Thank You!

Questions? Ideas? Let's collaborate!