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## Module I: Soft-skills

In the module, we present and discuss the idea of soft skills and the ways which may enhance such skills in students. Several approaches are described and some interesting practical examples are shown either as videos or readings. Special focus is put onto entrepreneurial learning exemplified as a way of enhancing students' entrepreneurial skills, more or less related to innovation, initiative, teamwork, critical thinking, and similar.

The module presents detailed information in the areas of:

- **Soft-skills as a crucial element of knowledge and behaviour in the forthcoming years**

Soft skills represent an important part of knowledge that students need to be able to prosper in the 21st century. For this reason, teachers in higher education and at other levels of education should be able to transfer such skills to students also throughout regular teaching processes, classes, and courses.

An important teaching ability relates to the use of digital technologies and digital resources since the use of such technology may significantly improve students' learning and interpersonal communication. Despite the importance given to technologies, teachers often show poor knowledge about audio, video, and multimedia software or software supporting the creation of webpages.

Another aspect that should be emphasized, tackles the issue of how teaching and learning may be done through experimentation. Experts agree that teaching how to learn is an extremely important and relevant element in the life of a professional.

Teaching creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and teamwork skills are already strongly present in a higher education environment; however, the frequency of use and the variety of such approaches depend upon the direction as well as the discipline of teaching.

Intercultural entrepreneurship and the state of integration of interculturality in the study programs are other important issues that significantly form future graduates. Development of intercultural skills among teachers may be crucial for all levels of education. It seems that interculturality is well understood by most teachers in different countries, and most of them find it important to develop intercultural skills.

In this part of the module, we are going to investigate wide-area soft skills as well as the possibilities to transfer those skills to students. Besides, the results of a small-scale investigation among teachers in Poland, Portugal and Slovenia will be presented and discussed.



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- **The approaches to learning by which soft-skills can be enhanced**

Research confirms the high importance of entrepreneurship education. It recognizes influences on the emergence of entrepreneurial intentions, as well as on the quality of entrepreneurship, especially on the survival rate of new businesses and on their growth. The policies regarding education and training in most countries recognize the need for entrepreneurship education and for fostering the entrepreneurial mindsets of young. Entrepreneurship education should be directed into educational efforts in terms of changes in the state of mind, in terms of mastering some specific business situations, and also in terms of enhancing entrepreneurial behaviour. In the first case, the education focusses on the creation of appropriate values, beliefs and attitudes associated with successful entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship as well. In the second case, in which entrepreneurship is aligned with mastering specific situations, education focuses on handling functional expertise, such as, how to start a business, how to explore the market, etc. The latter situation relates especially to individuals who are considering establishing their firm.

In the third case, entrepreneurship is considered as a matter of behaviour. In this case, education should encourage the transfer of competencies related to entrepreneurial behaviour, whether on the role of independent entrepreneur, entrepreneurial manager or enterprising employee. Among these competencies, creativity, innovativeness, critical thinking and teamwork play a major role.

Studies identify many possible approaches to entrepreneurial learning in a higher education environment. Some educators indicate the importance of action learning approach, others the importance of integration of simulations and business games, learning contacts with some leading entrepreneurs and other practitioners, the use of psychological tests for selection of appropriate students, self-conducted learning and e-learning, which has gained huge attention during the coronavirus pandemics, and also the use of personal coaching. Besides, many practitioners and researchers put special attention on problem-based learning.

We can conclude with the idea that entrepreneurial learning methods should be interactive and action-oriented. This means that teaching should involve students as much as possible.