

HSBC supports the British Council's Inaugural "Social Entrepreneurship" School Competition

500 students from 54 schools, Vocational Educational Training (VET) institutions, second chance schools and NGOs took part in the first School Competition on "Social Entrepreneurship", organised by the British Council. The competition is part of the "Life Skills: Developing Social Entrepreneurs" educational programme (for young people aged 16+), which is funded by HSBC as part of their Future Skills strategy.

The final stage of the competition was completed on May 9 in Innovathens, Greece. The top 10 ideas were presented to a jury of experts in Social Economy. Of these, the top three teams – representing the Larisa VET School, Lighthouse of the World Protection Centre for Roma Children and from the First High School of Florina - won prizes totalling 1,800 EUR for their schools.

The aim of the programme is two-fold. Firstly to cultivate the idea of social entrepreneurship and secondly to develop the individual and team skills that will enable young people to create, innovate and enhance their critical thinking. The programme consists of six core activities that encourage students to creatively resolve social issues that concern them.

"Life Skills: Developing Social Entrepreneurs" is one of two modules from the British Council's "Life Skills" programme. The second module "Life Skills: Developing Active Citizens" is for children and teenagers aged 10 to 16. So far, 58,000 young people, among them students from public schools in deprived or rural areas, second chance schools, NGOs and refugee camps have taken part in the programme.

Steve Banner, CEO HSBC Greece commented: *"At HSBC we believe that enhancing young people's life skills and financial capability is key to achieving our goal of helping young people have the tools they need to succeed in a rapidly changing, globalised world. Therefore, I am proud that once again this year we supported British Council's "Life Skills" programme. I am very pleased to see that the teams that won the competition came from diverse backgrounds."*

Anastasia Andritsou, Country Director British Council said: *"Schools and vocational education and training (VET) institutions are uniquely placed to play a key role in developing essential skills for young people, enabling them to become successful adults that live in healthy societies. We are really happy to see Life Skills achieve this goal through the creative, innovative and socially impactful ideas presented in the competition. We are also very proud*

that the programme was created in Greece and was cascaded to other parts of the world, such as the Middle East and Armenia”.

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