



## **DRAFT STRATEGIC PLANNING UNECE ESD 2030 CONCEPT NOTE FOR STRAND 4: ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EMPLOYABILITY AND INNOVATION**

### **Group Members:**

**Dr Aravella Zachariou**, Chair of the UNECE ESD SC, Cyprus National Focal Point

**Ms Nevena Cabrilo**, Bureau for Education Services, Montenegro

**Ms Nino Gokhelashvili**, Georgian Ministry of Environment, Georgia National Focal Point

**Mr Simon Herteleer**, Belgium Youth Representative

**Ms Boglárka Ivagenova**, Senior State Advisor and policy officer at the MoE in Slovakia

**Mr Dominik Porvažník**, Slovakia Youth Representative

**Dr Manana Ratiani**, Georgian Ministry of Education, Georgia National Focal Point

**Dr Tatyana Shakirova**, ESD Programme Manager, CAREC

**Ms Myrto Skouroupathi**, Cyprus Energy Agency

**Prof Daniella Tillbury**, HR Government of Gibraltar, UK National Focal Point

**Mr Savvas Vlachos**, Cyprus Energy Agency

**Dr Stylianos Yiatros**, Cyprus University of Technology

**Item 6 (a) : Outcomes of the three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning**

**15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the UNECE ESD SC, 19-20 October 2020 (hybrid meeting)**

# Policy framework

The radical changes required for fast transformation on a global scale can be brought about Entrepreneurship, Innovation and new Employment routes:

- A sustainable transformation will see jobs disappearing and new jobs coming into play (Frey & Osborne, 2017), creating a gap in skills and competencies.
- As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, there is an urge for even faster digital transformation and agility in the workforce.
- Both innovation and entrepreneurship are bound to be important in ensuring sustainable employment in an ever-changing world by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities, and making the transition just and inclusive for all which is crucial in meeting the Agenda-2030 Targets (UN, 2015)
- Systems innovation is necessary to boost efforts in the transition while ensuring that people are adequately trained to be employable in an agile, future and competitive job market, since unemployment, and particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern (UN Agenda 2030).

# Context (challenges and Problems)

The lack of connection between education, research, policy and the market needs.

The lack of desired competencies in the labour market in the present and future workforce, including the formal education process.

The lack of ecosystems to nurture entrepreneurial mindset.

Increasing gender equality will boost employability for all, also through entrepreneurship.

Lack of intergenerational approach and focus on inclusive education for people with disabilities and marginalised groups.

# VISION

Despite significant technological advances, many communities across the world cannot cope with the changing economy, society and the environment. Educating and re-educating people to address these challenges is becoming of utmost importance

## OBJECTIVES

### **“Green” digital skills:**

Individuals should be able to constantly learn, develop their knowledge about “green” and ICT technologies, in order to make and apply effective decisions for the sustainable future.

### **Systemic innovation:**

Need a systemic approach in dealing with challenges and stakeholders (EIT Climate-KIC, 2019) in order to bring about lasting solutions.

### **Entrepreneurial mindset:**

Entrepreneurial skills focussing on finding needs and delivering value propositions to meet new and changing demands (Osterwalder et al, 2014).

### **Reform of formal education:**

Bridging theory and practice with active involvement of private and public sector practitioners in formal education

# EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- **Launch an initiative** to call upon all countries, institutions and businesses to apply their **creativity and innovation and commit to tangible results** pertinent to the UN SDGs.
- Create **guidelines and an assessment tool to benchmark the level of institutional readiness** in infusing/ encompassing entrepreneurial skills and innovation to support employability competences.
- **Establish a funding mechanism** to increase awareness on the importance of education for sustainable development regionally, with the aim to develop an ecosystem to champion agile employability, entrepreneurship and innovation.
- **Create synergies with global, regional and local initiatives** (e.g. Covenant of Mayors) on tackling environmental, social and economic challenges at local level, by enhancing the role of local governments in developing and implementing local policies and strategic actions.
- **Promote**, at the level of relevant state institutions, **proven and functional educational approaches, projects and organizations** that support the required skills for the development of entrepreneurship, employability and innovation.



**DRAFT STRATEGIC PLANNING UNECE ESD 2030  
CONCEPT NOTE FOR STRAND 4: ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EMPLOYABILITY AND  
INNOVATION**

**THANK YOU**

**Item 6 (a) : Outcomes of the three meetings and of the subsequent work of the Ad Hoc Group on Strategic Planning**