

Cultivating young entrepreneurs: portugal aligns school curriculum with EU competency goals

FAYETTEVILLE, GA, UNITED STATES, June 16, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In an era defined by uncertainty and rapid change, equipping students with entrepreneurial skills has become more urgent than ever. A recent critical analysis sheds light on Portugal's newly implemented national framework for [entrepreneurship education \(REE\)](#), a structured curriculum aiming to foster creativity, resilience, and initiative in school-aged learners.

Despite strong international consensus on the value of entrepreneurship education, its integration into national curricula—particularly at the primary and lower secondary levels—has been fragmented and uneven. Research consistently points to the long-term benefits of nurturing entrepreneurial mindsets, from boosting employability to strengthening civic engagement. However, practical barriers such as inconsistent policy support, inadequate teacher training, and a lack of cohesive instructional frameworks continue to hamper progress. In Portugal, entrepreneurship had historically been the least implemented module under Citizenship Education. Traditional educational models often fall short in promoting interdisciplinary and forward-looking learning. Faced with these obstacles, there is an urgent need for inclusive and adaptable frameworks that can systematically embed entrepreneurial competencies from an early age.



Areas and competences of the EntreComp conceptual model.

On March 4, 2025, a team of researchers from the Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal, University of Algarve, NOVA University Lisbon, and the Polytechnic Institute of Santarém led by Francisco Banha published (DOI: [10.1007/s41959-025-00135-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41959-025-00135-y)) a detailed evaluation of Portugal's

Framework for Entrepreneurship Education (REE) in the journal Entrepreneurship Education. The framework, introduced in 2024 by the Directorate-General for Education, aligns closely with the European EntreComp model and provides a scaffolded, age-specific approach to entrepreneurship education from preschool through secondary school. The study offers a critical review of the framework's architecture and potential, while also presenting evidence-based recommendations to guide future educational policies and reforms, both in Portugal and internationally.

The Portuguese REE marks a comprehensive national effort to weave entrepreneurial education into the fabric of compulsory schooling. Structured around five core themes—Entrepreneurial Competences, Creativity, Entrepreneurial Action, Surrounding Environment, and Communication—the framework defines specific sub-topics and learning goals appropriate for different educational levels. It leverages EntreComp's conceptual foundation while promoting critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and hands-on problem-solving. One notable innovation is its emphasis on cross-disciplinary learning, connecting entrepreneurship to STEAM fields and digital skills. Sustainability and social responsibility also feature prominently, although the study identifies room for further development—particularly in introducing entrepreneurial ecosystem concepts and practical tools like risk matrices and design canvases. The authors argue that a clearly defined progression model, based on EntreComp's Basic-to-Expert levels, is essential for guiding long-term skill development. The framework's flexibility also makes it suitable for adaptation in diverse educational settings, particularly in Lusophone regions. As the study concludes, the REE represents a timely, strategic response to evolving educational demands in a globally connected world.

"The question is no longer whether we should teach entrepreneurial skills, but how effectively we can deliver them through our education systems," said Francisco Banha, lead author of the study. "Our work shows that the Portuguese Framework is a strong foundation, but also a call to action. Teachers need support, resources, and assessment tools to implement entrepreneurship education in a meaningful way. With proper investment and continued refinement, this framework has the potential to inspire a generation of students who are not only workforce-ready but also socially and civically empowered."

Portugal's REE stands as a transferable model for nations seeking to modernize education in line with 21st-century needs. Its modular yet comprehensive structure enables customization across linguistic, cultural, and institutional contexts—making it especially viable for adoption in Portuguese-speaking countries. By embedding entrepreneurial competencies into the core curriculum, the framework empowers students to engage creatively with their communities and contribute to social and economic innovation. In a world increasingly shaped by digital transformation, environmental challenges, and uncertain job markets, such frameworks are crucial. As entrepreneurship is redefined as a life-wide competence, the REE offers a roadmap for building resilient, adaptable learners ready to shape the future.

References

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