Service components for connecting cross-border entrepreneurial ecosystems

Deliverable D7

ExcellEnt: *Excellency in Entrepreneurship: Expanding European entrepreneurship by boosting youth (self) employability and promoting a sharing resources culture*

Horizon Europe Programme, Project number 101100515

Prepared by: Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (iED)

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Deliverable Information

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History of changes

Version	Date	Prepared by	Comments
v0.1	01.03.2024	iED	Online repository specifications and integration in the European Entrepreneurship Academy
	20.03.2024	All partners	Feedback and suggestions for the online repository
v0.2	05.04.2024	iED	Online repository first release
	10.04.2024	All partners	Resources suggestions
v1.0	11.04.2024	iED	Online repository final release
	12.04.2024	iED	Finalization of Deliverable D7
	17.04.2024	EISMEA	Request for revisions
v2.0	29.04.2024	iED	Revision of Deliverable D7 and resubmission to Participants Portal

Notes on v2.0

Deliverable D7 was initially submitted via the Participants Portal on April 12th, 2024. It was rejected on April 17th for the following reasons:

"*The EU logo with the mention "funded by.." is not visible enough on the website https://europreneurship.eu/. It should appear at the top, at the same level of home. In the financial support section, you might might to refer to the funding opportunities part of the EISMEA website https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/european-innovation-ecosystems_en.*"

All required modifications have been applied to the European Entrepreneurship Academy (Deliverable D8 of the ExcellEnt project), which includes the current deliverable.

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Executive Summary

Deliverable D7 *Service components for connecting cross-border entrepreneurial ecosystems* introduces the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub, a component designed to connect and support entrepreneurial ecosystems across Europe. This deliverable centralizes a diverse array of resources and services, catering to the varying needs of startups, entrepreneurs, and their support networks.

The Entrepreneurial Resources Hub is segmented into key areas: Learning and Development, Financial Support, Operational Tools, Strategies and Frameworks, and a facility for members to Submit Resources. Additionally, it offers a 'Start Your Business' section, equipped with tools specifically for guiding new entrepreneurs. These sections collectively offer MOOCs, webinars, funding opportunities, operational software, strategic guidance, and more, making it an indispensable toolkit for any entrepreneurial endeavor.

Key features of the Hub include:

Learning and Development: Offers MOOCs and webinars that provide continuous education on essential business skills such as management, digital marketing, and leadership.

Financial Support: Aids entrepreneurs in securing necessary funding through a detailed compilation of available sources and pitch event listings.

Operational Tools: Equips businesses with the latest tools and software for enhancing operational efficiency.

Strategies and Frameworks: Delivers a repository of best practices and methodologies to assist in the strategic development of businesses.

Submit Resources: Allows members to contribute their resources, fostering a collaborative and growing community.

Start Your Business: Provides diagnostic services and self-assessment tools to help launch and grow startups.

This approach not only facilitates the growth of startups but also fosters cross-border collaboration and innovation by leveraging the strengths of the Academy's expansive network. The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable, supportive environment that enhances accessibility to essential resources and promotes the collective growth and success of Europe's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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By integrating local support with access to a broader pool of resources, Deliverable D7 achieves its mission of developing a pan-European entrepreneurial support framework, positioning the European Entrepreneurship Academy at the forefront of entrepreneurial development in Europe.

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About the ExcellEnt project

The ExcellEnt project aspires to explore novel ways to capture, preserve, curate, organise and communicate sets of unstructured entrepreneurial experiences, stories, narratives with an emphasis to those of younger audience that is addressing the challenge of (self)employability, so that they can constitute a shared resource that people can augment, and that individuals as well as institutions can delve into, to find inspiration for new ways of conceptualising and promoting entrepreneurship, and how these new ways can be reflected into every-day practices and policies, and foundations for visions of our common European future.

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Introduction

Deliverable D7 *Service Components for Connecting Cross-Border Entrepreneurial Ecosystems* is implemented through the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub of the [European Entrepreneurship Academy](#). This deliverable facilitates the release of an online repository filled with service components and resources designed to foster the collective growth of startups, entrepreneurs, and their hubs across Europe. The strategy is to leverage the complementary of network members to develop a pan-European support framework that merges local support with access to a broader pool of resources.

Scope of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

The Entrepreneurial Resources Hub serves as a centralized platform offering a wide range of tools and services designed to support every phase of entrepreneurial development. It encompasses educational content like MOOCs and webinars, financial support mechanisms including funding sources and competitions, operational tools such as business software and applications, and strategic resources like best practices and methodologies. Additionally, it facilitates the submission of new resources by members and provides specific tools for starting a business.

Purpose of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

The primary purpose of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub is to empower entrepreneurs by providing comprehensive access to critical resources and support systems. It aims to enhance their knowledge, streamline their business operations, increase their funding opportunities, and improve their strategic decision-making processes, thus accelerating business growth and innovation.

Context of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

The Entrepreneurial Resources Hub is designed to address the unique challenges faced by entrepreneurs in Europe. It leverages the collective expertise and resources of the Academy's network

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to provide tailored support that fosters sustainable business practices and encourages cross-border collaboration and innovation.

Intended Audience

The intended audience for the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub includes aspiring and established entrepreneurs, startup founders, business students, mentors, investors, and other stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Hub aims to support these individuals and groups by offering resources that are relevant and adaptable to a variety of business stages and industries.

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The Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

The European Entrepreneurship Academy features a dedicated Entrepreneurial Resources Hub, organized into distinct categories to streamline navigation and access:

- **Learning and Development**: This category houses MOOCs and webinars for continuous education.
- **Financial Support**: Here, users can explore various funding sources and entrepreneurial competitions.
- **Operational Tools**: This section provides practical tools and software tailored for business operations.
- **Strategies and Frameworks**: Users can delve into best practices and methodologies for business strategy.
- **Submit Resources**: A space for users to contribute their own materials to the hub.
- **Start Your Business**: A section offering tools to assist users in the initial phases of establishing a business.

Learning and Development

The Learning and Development section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub (see Figure 1) is dedicated to providing educational resources for entrepreneurs at all stages. It features tailored Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) focusing on essential business skills like management, digital marketing, leadership, and innovation. Additionally, the section offers a library of recorded webinars, delivering insights and knowledge on a range of topics pertinent to entrepreneurial success.
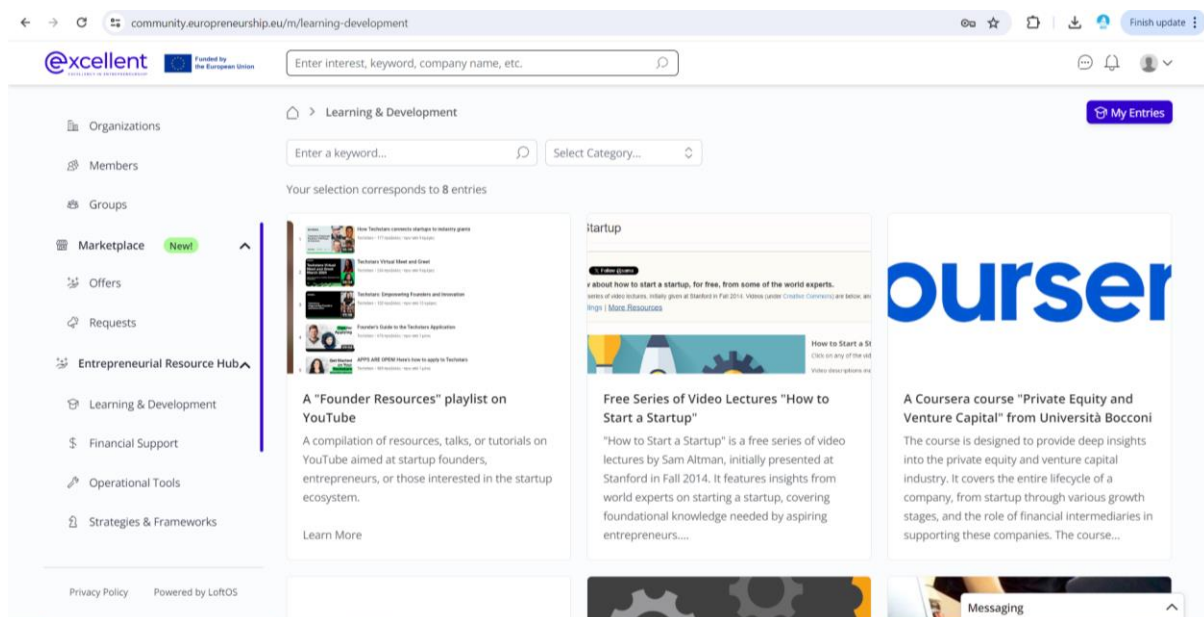
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Figure 1: Learning and Development section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

Financial Support

The Financial Support section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub (see Figure 2) provides crucial resources to assist entrepreneurs in securing necessary funding. It includes a comprehensive list of available funding sources tailored for European entrepreneurs, such as grants, loans, and investor networks. Additionally, the section features a detailed compilation of upcoming pitch events and competitions, offering entrepreneurs opportunities to secure investment and showcase their ventures.
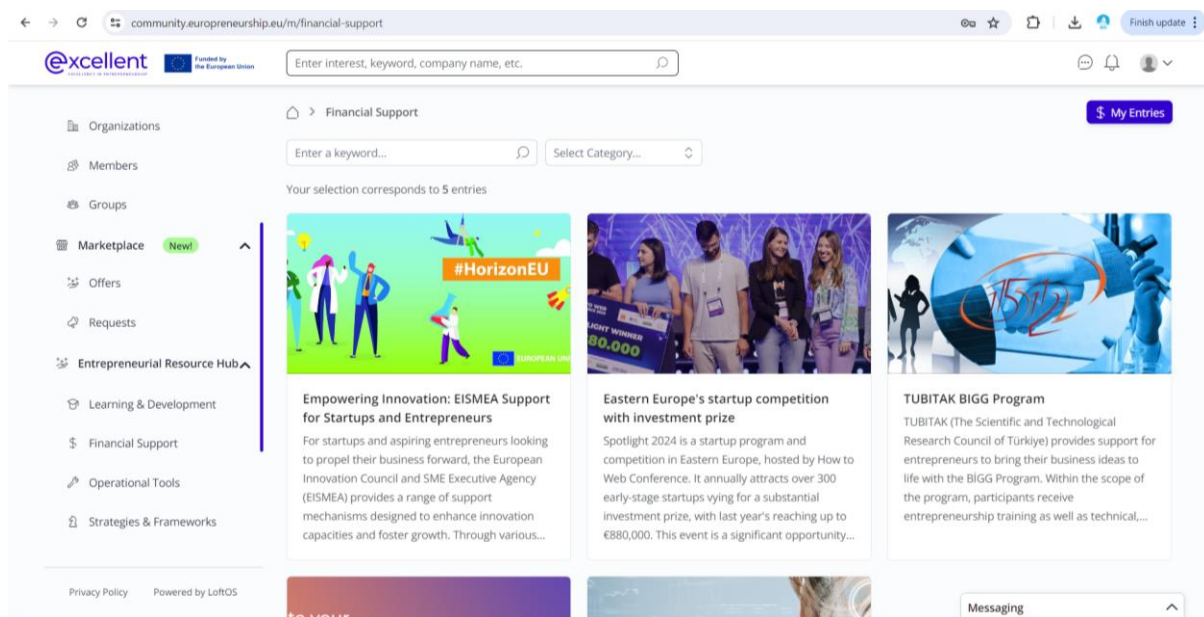
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*WP2 Connecting entrepreneurial ecosystems / T2.3 Connecting cross-
border entrepreneurial ecosystems / D7 Service components for
connecting cross-border entrepreneurial ecosystems*

Figure 2: Financial Support section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

Operational Tools

The Operational Tools section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub (see Figure 3) is designed to equip entrepreneurs with the necessary software and tools to enhance their business operations. This section includes a range of software tools, applications, and platforms that support various business functions like project management, financial planning, and customer relationship management. Additionally, it offers specific software solutions vital for product development, business process management, and improving operational efficiency, ensuring that entrepreneurs have access to the latest technologies to streamline their activities.
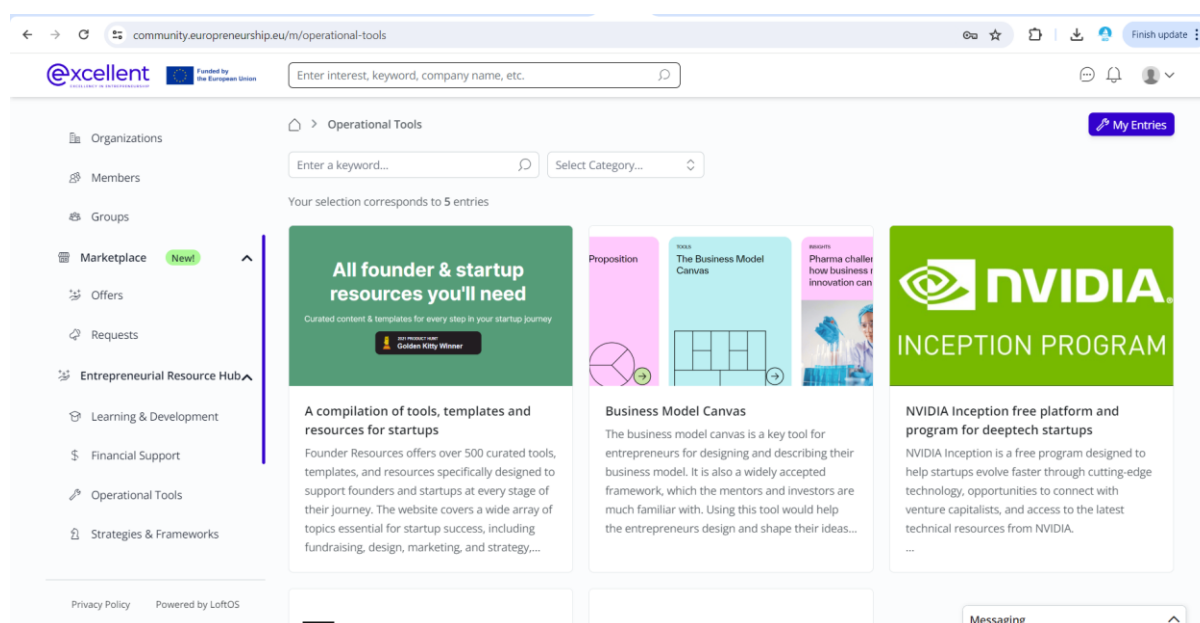
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Figure 3: Operational Tools section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

Strategies and Frameworks

The [Strategies and Frameworks](#) section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub (see Figure 3) provides entrepreneurs with a rich repository of methodologies and best practices essential for business development. This includes detailed explanations of various frameworks such as lean startup methodologies, design thinking, and innovation processes, which guide entrepreneurs through the complexities of starting and scaling their ventures. Additionally, it features a collection of documented strategies and approaches that have been proven effective across different aspects of entrepreneurial activities, helping entrepreneurs make informed decisions and adopt successful practices.
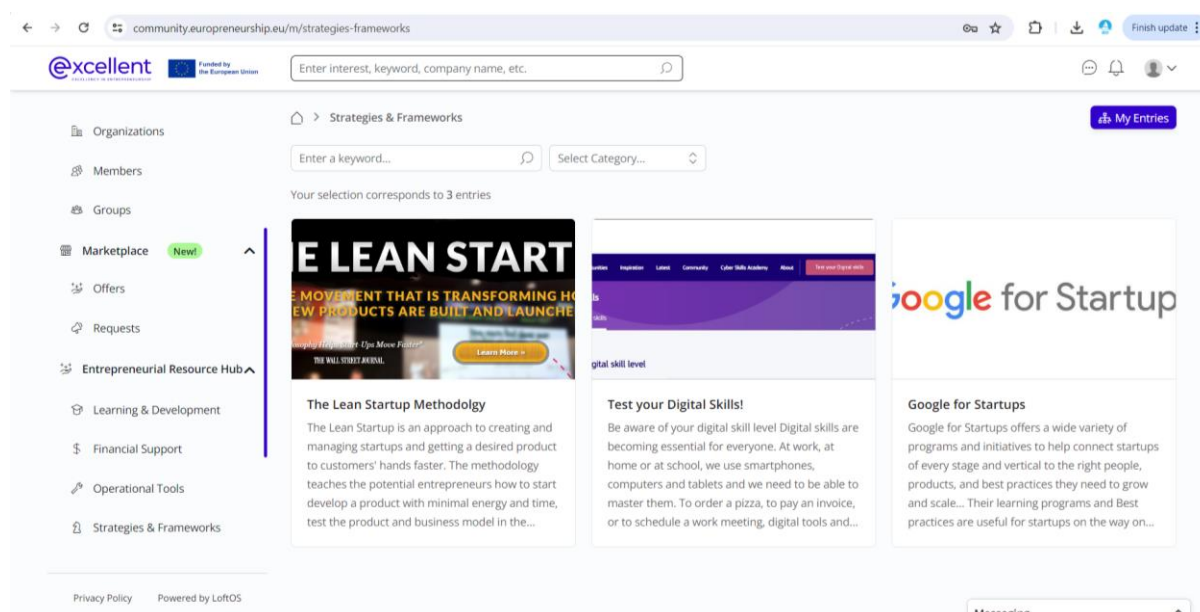
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Figure 4: Strategies and Frameworks section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

Submit Resources

The Resource Submission Form section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub invites members to actively contribute to the enrichment of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub. This form is designed for members to share valuable resources such as educational materials, tools, financial support opportunities, and strategic frameworks that can benefit other entrepreneurs within the community. By filling out the submission form, members can propose their materials for review, which, once approved, will be integrated into the hub. This collaborative approach not only enhances the variety and quality of resources available but also fosters a supportive, engaging community environment where members can learn from each other's experiences and expertise.

Start Your Business

The Start Your Business section of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub (see Figure 5) offers a suite of diagnostic services and innovative self-assessment tools designed to assist entrepreneurs in launching and growing their startups. These are:

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- Igostartup (igostartup.com): An online self-consulting service that provides guidance for entrepreneurs aiming to develop their startup ideas and enhance their entrepreneurial mindset.

- Valuater (valuater.io): This tool offers online company valuation for SMEs, including risk assessment analysis and resources to aid in the preparation of financial statements and forecasts.

- myStartupTool (mystartuptool.com): Provides the largest directory of resources for startup submissions, helping entrepreneurs showcase and promote their ventures effectively.

Members of the Academy can access these tools for free, using dedicated vouchers to unlock all paid features, ensuring comprehensive support as they navigate the initial stages of business development.
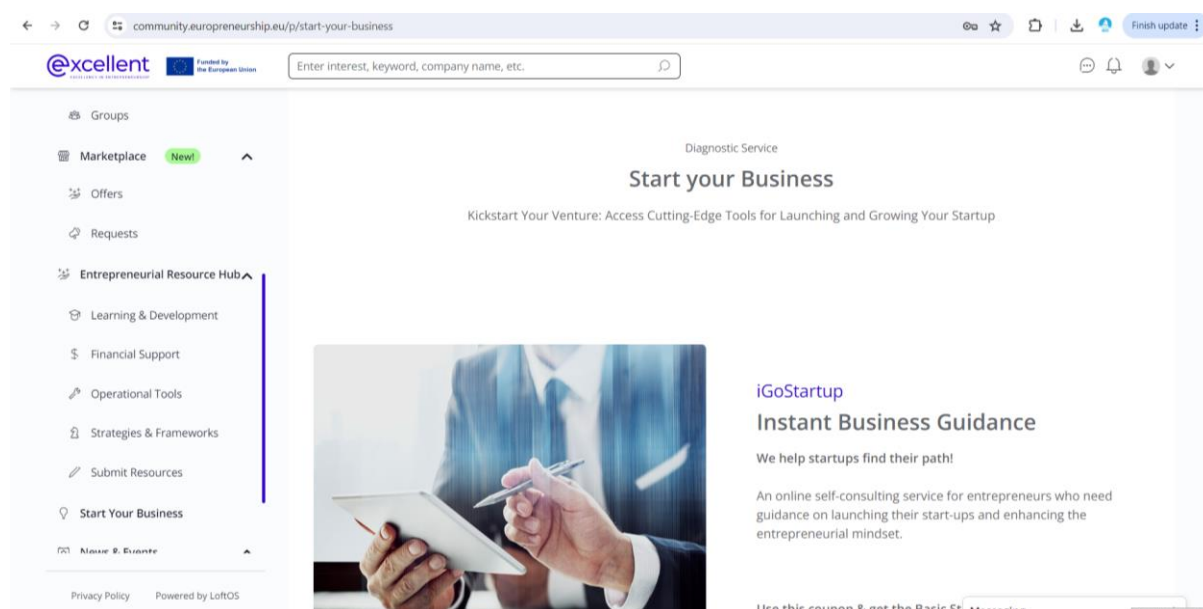

Figure 5: Start Your Business Diagnostic Services of the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub

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Conclusion

Deliverable D7, through the Entrepreneurial Resources Hub of the European Entrepreneurship Academy, successfully establishes a comprehensive framework to connect and support cross-border entrepreneurial ecosystems. This initiative not only consolidates a wide array of resources and services under one roof but also fosters a collaborative environment that enhances accessibility and promotes sustainable growth across Europe. By integrating local insights with a broad range of tools and best practices, the Hub effectively addresses the diverse needs of entrepreneurs, startups, and their supporting entities.

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