

SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Case study

Developing and Embedding Enterprise and Entrepreneurship in the vocational curriculum in Thailand: sharing UK innovative practice

The project has won the **UK National Enterprise Educators Award: FE Team Enterprise 2017** at the National Enterprise Educator (NCEE) Awards on 7 September 2017 in Glasgow.

The National Enterprise Educators Awards (NEEA) have been recognising best practices in the field of enterprise and entrepreneurship education in the UK for the past 12 years. The awards are jointly organised by EEUK (Enterprise Educators UK – a national network that brings together over 1,600 enterprise and entrepreneurship educators and practitioners from over 100 UK Higher and Further Education Institutions and related organisations) and NCEE (National centre for Entrepreneurship and Education).



Background

In 2016, with the support of the British Council and the Thai Ministry of Education's Office for Vocational Education Commission (OVEC), Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (GLLM, based in Wales) developed a new approach and curriculum for student enterprise and entrepreneurship for vocational education in Thailand. The new approach and curriculum is now being piloted in Thai colleges.

For the second phase of the project GLLM were joined by 2 additional UK colleges - South Eastern Regional College (SERC, based in Northern Ireland) and Hertfordshire Regional College (HRC, based in England), and together they have worked jointly to support Thai colleges as they implement the new programme; providing mentoring for educators and building sustainable partnerships between UK and Thai institutions.

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At the heart of the project:

Thai partners sought to strengthen the Thai economy through the creation of more small businesses and to improve students' entrepreneurial skills and mind-sets to meet the needs of the SME (small and medium sized enterprise) job market.

The project aims to:

- Develop a learning programme that could form the basis for integrating entrepreneurship education into the Thai VET curriculum
- Design and facilitate professional development activities for teachers and incubation (start-up) managers working in colleges across Thailand
- Provide recommendations for wider implementation

What has been delivered so far:

- Field research with Thai stakeholders including policy makers, entrepreneurs, intuitional leaders and educators, graduate start-ups and VET learners.
- Identification and extensive mapping of existing UK accredited enterprise learning programmes against Thai government priorities, college needs and the UK QAA's Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education Guidance themes.
- Development of a Level 2 entrepreneurship curriculum, comprising 3 modules: Mindset; Motivation; Business Planning & Models.
- Action learning workshops to ensure appropriateness/suitability with key Thai Enterprise Educators
- Design and facilitation of a 4-day educator development programme for 30 educators working across Thailand.
- Provision of mentoring support to 5 Thai colleges to design high quality teaching materials and develop partnerships.

Good practices approaches applied:

- **Multi-perspective consultation:** creatively capturing stakeholder views to ensure that different voices informed the work.
- **Robust approach:** systematic mapping of Thai policy priorities against 51 UK accredited programmes and UK QAA Guidance.
- **Collaboration:** to agree the new curriculum, at strategic and practitioner levels, ensuring programme content, structure and delivery approach are fit for purpose.
- **Professional development** for enterprise educators: workshops and mentoring informed by research and recognised international thought leaders such as Gibb; Neck & Greene (Babson); Sarasvathy; Jones; Kirketerp; Rae whilst introducing innovative pedagogies.

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New Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Education Themes for VET in Thailand

Themes were adapted from the UK QAA Guidance (2012) and have now been adopted by OVEC as part of the Thai Government's policy to support student/ graduate entrepreneurship.

New VET Themes
1. <i>Creativity</i>
2. <i>Recognise and develop opportunity / opportunities</i>
3. <i>Demonstrate decision making</i>
4. <i>Build ideas through team work</i>
5. <i>Reflection</i>
6. <i>Interpersonal skills</i>

New Entrepreneurship Curriculum

An integrated learning programme providing recognition and accreditation for enterprise mindset and motivation learning (which had not previously existed) whilst adding value to well-established practices of business planning education.

New Collaborations

Multi-level cross sector collaborations established between project partners within and between UK and Thai organisations. Formal institutional collaborations have formed between UK FE and Thai VET Colleges; Thai VET colleges are providing peer support in new country-based networks; colleges **from 3 UK regions** (England, Northern Ireland and Wales) and 3rd sector expert consultancy organisations are collaborating to collectively provide quality, responsive support to their Thai partner colleges.

Project Impact to date:

Project commissioners, British Council and OVEC, have evaluated and adopted, all activities to create significant impact through:

- **Changes in Thai Policy guidance:** the 6 new underpinning themes for FE/VET have been adopted by OVEC, providing a framework for a consistent, sustainable approach to Entrepreneurship Education in VET.
- **Curriculum Change:** The new curriculum is currently being piloted in 5 colleges. A monitoring visit on the implementation of the new curriculum is taking place in September 2017.

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- **Staff Development:** 30 VET educators participated in a bespoke professional development programme that provided underpinning knowledge and practical tools to support the entrepreneurial development of learners. Participants reported greater confidence in their ability to engage and enable students and colleagues to embrace their institution's enterprise agenda. Teams of teachers, incubation centre managers & directors from 5 selected colleges have benefited from additional mentoring support.
- **Institutional commitment:** Directors from each of the 5 colleges have pledged to support the implementation of the new curriculum and partnership development.

The differences made to **UK partners** involved in this project include: enhanced international profile; new & stronger partnerships embraced; staff development. The results of widened horizons, experiencing another cultures' approach to work, forming teams at top-speed and inspiring the development of expertise in Enterprise Education, all ultimately benefit our VET learners.

Future Plans

UK partners plan to continue providing mentoring support to the 5 Thai colleges involved in the pilot (subject to funding). These 5 Thai colleges should become regional champions, going-on to support other institutions to introduce the new curriculum and enhance their enterprise activities.

Discussions are underway to support a joint award and ongoing quality assurance as well as tutors CPD activity.

UK partners contacts:

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