

# 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Forum on Cross-border Innovation Entrepreneurs by the Association of European Border Regions and Drama Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Between the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, international students from various European countries as well as Greek students joined the initiative of the first Youth Forum on cross-border entrepreneurship. The Forum took place at the premises of Drama Chamber of Commerce and Industry and gathered thirty young scientists from all over Europe. The participants who came from eight different countries had one shared goal: to be part of an intensive startup accelerator programme which was particularly focused on cross-border innovation.



The overall outcome of the Forum was applauding according to the material and the methodological tools used throughout the workshops. The latter contributed to a better understanding of the lectures, and contributed to the implementation of the ideas presented during the Forum. The young students had the opportunity to reflect upon their business plans via an interactive process with the instructors.

In particular, Drama Chamber of Commerce and Industry invited these mentors of the organization 'Innovation Farm' to give guidelines and train the students of the accelerator programme. Because every participant had to develop an entrepreneurial project in collaboration with his classmates, the coaches of the Forum divided the students into five groups. Each group presented its entrepreneurial project in front of the class and received some feedback on the procedure that should be followed regarding the realization of the projects.

Furthermore, all participants received an attendance certificate by representatives of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the European Parliament (Athens Office), the President of Drama Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as its Administrative Committee at the closure of the Forum.

In fact, Mr. Martin Guillermo Ramirez- (Secretary General of AEBR), Mr. Jens Gabbe (Chairman of AEBR Advisory Committee), and Mr. Johannes Moisiso (Chairman of Task Force of External Borders at AEBR) were the official representatives of AEBR, all having different cultural backgrounds (from Spain, from Germany, and from

Finland). More specifically, Mr. Johannes Moisio was the person in charge for collecting and evaluating all the application forms in advance of the Forum. At the same time, Mr. Charis Kountouros, the representative of the European Parliament in Athens provided the participants with important information on the role and the competencies of the European Parliament.



*Speech by Mr. Stefanos Georgiadis  
President of Drama Chamber of Commerce and Industry*

Chamber to support innovative entrepreneurial structures, and stressed the significance of increasing the potential of entrepreneurship in the future. In the end, he thanked all members of the staff as well as members of the Chamber's Administrative Committee for their contribution to the successful outcome of the Forum.

*Speech by Mr. Jens  
Gabbe,  
Chairman of the AEBR  
Advisory Committee*



Moreover, the Lead Interreg Administration, based in Thessaloniki, supported financially the Youth Forum. In this context, Drama Chamber highly appreciates the offer of financial aid that was organized by Mr. Alexandros Samaras, the director, as well as Mr. Kiriakos Fotiadis, executive member of the Interreg Administration office.

In addition, all students had the opportunity to have a first-hand experience of training inside Drama Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which has adapted to current challenges of hosting startups. Mr. Stefanos Georgiadis, the President, referred particularly to the capacity of Drama



*Speech by Mr. Charalampos Alexandridis  
Director of Drama Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry*



*Speech by Mr. Martin Guillermo Ramirez  
Secretary General of AEBR*

*Training at the Drama Chamber of Commerce  
and Industry  
Students and other participants discussing their  
proposals during the seminar on  
'Investment Readiness'*



*Students exchanging ideas  
during the breaks  
of the seminar on  
'What startups are,  
and are not'*



*Speech by Mr. Argyris Spyridis  
Lecturer of the Youth Forum CEO  
at Innovation Farm*



*Moments from the closure of the Youth Forum  
and the award ceremony Mr. Stefanos  
Georgiadis offers the certificate  
of attendance to the participants*

## Award Ceremony in pictures





