**Erasmus+ project “For a better Future for the Students of the Next Generation”**

**Interview with experienced teacher of Economics of Madona State Gymnasium, manager of Business Incubator - Iveta Vabule**

 **Madona, 05.01.2018.**

**Topic: How to create and develop students’ company and business?**

1. **What is a Young Enterprise company?**

A Young enterprise company is a learning company formed and run by students, which functions as a real company in a real business environment, producing and selling goods or services.

1. **What is the aim of the company-based programme of Young Enterprise?**

To foster entrepreneurial learning as well as to give students an insight into business environment.

1. **What is the legal status of a Young Enterprise company?**

It doesn’t have own legal status; its registration and accountancy takes place in the database of Junior Achievement Latvia.

1. **How do students benefit through a Young Enterprise company?**

Creating a Young Enterprise company, students learn and develop skills which they will be able to apply not only in entrepreneurship but also in other spheres of life. They develop communication skills, selling and production skills; they learn business basics, get to know other people as well as develop competencies for future labour market.

1. **How to find a team and like-minded people for creating a company?**

The team and people who share the same ideas usually pop up through generating ideas and thinking about goods or a service. They will not necessarily be your best friends or closest classmates. Generating ideas takes place in Madona business incubator, where the future team meet each other.

1. **What are the main steps forming a student company?**

The main thing is motivation and willpower to form a company. It’s the first and main step. It’s followed by generating ideas and finding a team. When you have a team, you apply for registration in the database of Junior Achievement Latvia, filling in and signing a Registration certificate. You have to hand in a business idea statement which provides the product description, target consumer group, various price-forming aspects of the product or service, team members and planned revenue from the business activities. Then you have to create the product and start operating the business. Throughout the academic year, you work on a business plan, describing your company and product, analysing the market, planning marketing, estimating risk factors, and recording cash flow. An essential thing is development of your product or service during the company operation.

1. **How is a business idea created?**

Business ideas spring up either from students themselves or sometimes at the Business incubator, where people who want to start a business get together and discuss things which are either necessary, or which we aren’t happy with, or which amaze us. Ideas are recorded and discussed by several people, which leads to the product or service idea and eventually to its realization.

1. **What can a student company produce and sell?**

It can produce and sell anything that students have intended, including food products.

1. **Where can a student company participate?**

It can take part in various trade fairs organized by Junior Achievement Latvia regionally and nationally. The best companies nationally can go to trade fairs abroad. Trading can take place also at schools or regional events such as Local business day and others.

1. **How long can a student company exist?**

It can operate one academic year, but it’s not forbidden to form a company with the same product next year again. But first you have to close it down. To have the process complete and to get accredited by Junior Achievement Latvia, the company mentor/ teacher/ business advisor has to fill in an annual report electronically, where they have to write the company’s name, product, number of trade fairs attended, the duration of its activity, revenue, and profit.

1. **How many student companies are there at school this year?**

This year there are 9 companies at our school which are working nationally, and there is a company which is participating in an international project together with the Nordic countries.