SUB-SECTION II. ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PEACE EDUCATION

Good practices in partner countries – GERMANY

COUNTRY

Germany

NAME OF GOOD PRACTICE

Social Entrepreneurship Akademie (SEA) – Certificate for Transformational Change and Qualification Programmes

ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE

Social Entrepreneurship Akademie (SEA) – a network organisation of the entrepreneurship centres of the Munich universities, including Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU), the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and Munich University of Applied Sciences (MUAS).

WEBSITE/REFERENCE LINK

https://seakademie.org

YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION

2010 – Ongoing

TYPE OF PRACTICE

- Higher Education Programme
- Entrepreneurship Training
- Sustainable Entrepreneurship Initiative
- Micro-Credential Programme
- Digital Learning Platform (MOOCs)
- Innovation Ecosystem Initiative

BACKGROUND

The Social Entrepreneurship Akademie (SEA) was founded in 2010 as a joint initiative of the entrepreneurship centres of Munich's universities and has since become one of Germany's leading competence centres for social innovation and sustainability-oriented entrepreneurship education. It was created to close a gap in higher education by equipping students and young professionals with the entrepreneurial skills needed to turn socially and environmentally driven ideas into economically viable ventures.

Guided by the principle "Education for Societal Change", the Akademie operates through three connected pillars: qualification, advisory and funding support, and an ecosystem network. Rather than teaching entrepreneurship in the abstract, it combines structured learning with hands-on work on real venture ideas, mentoring, and connection to funding and partner organisations across Bavaria, Germany and Europe.

Through its integration with several universities, SEA links academic knowledge with entrepreneurial practice and provides a formally recognised pathway – including certificates and credit recognition – for

learners who want to develop economically viable, socially effective and ecologically sustainable business models.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop entrepreneurial and social-innovation competences among students and young professionals.
- Support the transformation of sustainability-oriented ideas into economically viable and impact-driven business models.
- Provide a recognised, competence-based qualification pathway through certification and credit recognition.
- Strengthen the social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Germany and Europe through networking, advisory and funding support.
- Foster interdisciplinary, hands-on learning that connects academic knowledge with real entrepreneurial practice.

TARGET GROUPS

- University Students
- Young Professionals
- Entrepreneurs and Aspiring Founders
- Start-ups and Social Enterprises
- Sustainability and Impact Professionals

MAIN ACTIVITIES

SEA delivers a portfolio of complementary learning formats that guide participants from first exposure to entrepreneurial thinking through to the development and validation of their own venture. The programmes combine structured input, coaching and real project work in interdisciplinary teams.

The central offer is the SEA:certificate (Certificate for Transformational Change), a semester-long, competence-based qualification programme for which up to 6 ECTS can be credited depending on the participant's degree programme. Participants work on system innovation, impact-oriented venture development and the design of financially sustainable business models, culminating in a recognised certificate. This is complemented by SEA:start, a short intensive introductory workshop; the international Global Entrepreneurship Summer School (GESS), where interdisciplinary teams develop and pitch sustainable business models; and free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) that make foundational content accessible to a wide, international audience.

Beyond qualification, SEA provides advisory and funding support – including the Social-Startup-Hub Bayern, a central contact point offering free start-up consulting from early idea to launch – and connects participants to funding opportunities, experts and partner organisations. Consultancy projects place student teams with social enterprises, allowing learners to apply their competences to real organisational challenges.

INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

A distinctive strength of SEA is that it treats entrepreneurship education as a competence-based and credentialised pathway rather than a stand-alone course. Learning is modular, progressive and formally recognised, combining certification, ECTS credit and community membership.

Particularly innovative elements include:

- A micro-credential-style certificate (SEA:certificate) with formal ECTS recognition.
- Blended learning that combines MOOCs, intensive workshops and semester-long programmes.
- Real venture development and market validation in interdisciplinary teams, supported by coaching.
- Integration of qualification with advisory and funding support through the Social-Startup-Hub Bayern.
- An international, network-based ecosystem linking universities, entrepreneurs and partner organisations.

RESULTS AND IMPACT

Since 2010, SEA has qualified and supported hundreds of students, young professionals and founders, and has established itself as a leading competence centre for social innovation education in Germany. Its MOOCs have connected more than 10,000 learners internationally, extending the reach of its entrepreneurship education well beyond Munich.

The Akademie has contributed to building the German and European social entrepreneurship ecosystem by combining education with advisory and funding support, helping participants move from early idea to founded and financially sustainable venture. Reported impacts include strengthened entrepreneurial competences, a growing community of alumni active as founders and change-makers, and a recognised model of competence-based, credentialised entrepreneurship education that connects academic learning with real-world impact.

RELEVANCE FOR GREENEDGE

SEA is highly relevant to GREENEDGE, and particularly to the development of learning content on entrepreneurial skills and market validation. Its competence-based, credentialised approach offers a proven model for how GREENEDGE can structure its own micro-credential pathways, combining recognised certification with progressive, modular learning.

The SEA:certificate demonstrates how entrepreneurial competences can be developed and formally validated within a single semester, culminating in the design of a financially sustainable business model. This directly informs GREENEDGE's work on entrepreneurial skills and market validation, showing how learners can be guided from opportunity identification through business-model development to testing an idea's viability in a real context.

SEA's blend of MOOCs, intensive workshops, team-based venture development and coaching also provides a concrete reference for GREENEDGE's AI-supported and gamified learning activities, while its integration of qualification with advisory and funding support offers a model for linking the project's virtual incubator to a wider ecosystem of experts and opportunities.

REFERENCES

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