

Myths about entrepreneurs

Learning objectives: To familiarize the participants with the entrepreneurs career path, to give them the space to reflect regarding the entrepreneurship ecosystem and the profile of an entrepreneur

Duration: 90 min

Materials: List of 8 myths about entrepreneurs

Activity Room: A big circle of chairs and 2 chairs inside the circle

Description: To understand how entrepreneurs think, the participants first need to drop a few myths or stereotypes built around them. Given the media's ongoing love affair with entrepreneurs, it shouldn't surprise you that these myths have grown up around them and influence the decisions of the young people. For this activity, I suggest you to use the fish battle methodology. If you are already familiar with the fishbowl activity, think that, Instead of the typical 3-6 seats in the middle for the talking participants, I propose a 1-on-1 debating the pros and cons of the given subject. Participants outside the dueling group tend to take one side and when they want to enter the battle they gently tap the shoulder of the duellist – civilised fishes we are!

How does it work: You create 2 teams: the YES team and the NO team. 2 people will enter in the fish battle: 1 from the Yes team and 1 from the NO team. As facilitator of the battle , you will read the myths one at a time. The participant from the YES team will have to bring arguments why the myths are true and the participants from the NO team will have to say why the myths are false. I recommend 2 minutes for the initial arguments of each side and then 1 minute for final remarks. Afterwards you move on with the next myth with new participants in the fishbowl. This is a great opportunity for the participants to practice active listening, to think from different perspectives and to bring logical and emotional arguments to the other team.

The list of 8 myths about entrepreneurs.

Myth 1: Entrepreneurs are high risk takers

Myth 2: Entrepreneurs are born

Myth 3: Entrepreneurs are mainly motivated to get rich

Myth 4: Entrepreneurs give little attention to their personal life

Myth 5: If my product or service is good, I'll be successful.

Myth 6: Entrepreneurship will give me back complete control over my schedule.

Myth 7: Early on, I need to do it all myself.

Myth 8: The more clients, the better.

Debriefing: I share with you my top 3 questions to be used in the debriefing:

- What have we discovered today about entrepreneurs?
- How the myths around entrepreneurs can influence the young people?
- How can we contribute to share the reality of entrepreneurs with the young people?

Resources: not needed

