

Belgium: Fresh Start

Introduction

Title: Fresh Start
Country: Belgium
Type of tool: Platform
Type of provider: University
Target group: (Potential) entrepreneurs with an international background
Potential transferability: Easy to copy

Organisation and description of the tool

UCLL, together with LSBU (London South Bank University, UK) and Hogeschool Zuyd (NL), co-creates an **entrepreneurship course** for refugees and immigrants or entrepreneurs with an international background. UCLL focuses on highly qualified refugees. Although UCLL specialises in formal education for bachelor students, this course is offered outside the regular courses.

The assessment tool combines self-assessment, peer evaluation and experts' feedback. At the beginning of the 12-week course participants develop a **digital story** highlighting the main challenges they discovered while creating their entrepreneurial selfie through the lens of the EntreComp Framework and the CARAP framework, while creating the first draft of their Europass and while musing over the questions posed by the Aalto learning diary. They formulate a possible path into employment, either as a volunteer, employee or self-employed.

Having uploaded this digital story, they obtain their first **open badge**. Next they integrate sessions on networking, access to finance, legal issues and business mores in Flanders, thus obtaining three more open badges, to present their final digital story in which they reflect on how they fine-tuned their goal and achieved it.

This assessment fits the overarching approach of transformative pedagogy monitoring the shift in thoughts, feelings and actions.

Implementation

Fresh Start has created a **virtual learning environment** combining face-to-face environments with a portal site, an e-learning course, mentors and experts. The open badges describe which competences are achieved and can be linked to their Europass.

Description of the target group

Fresh Start organises this course for **refugees** who have obtained their qualifications in their home countries and fled these countries due to political changes.

We recognise the enormous emotional impact the flight has on refugees and we work with art of hosting circles to give space to these feelings. Yet, to optimally profit from this learning opportunity, we ask for a high level of future-readiness from refugees. This means they can start thinking about a new future.

Policy context

The EU envisions **entrepreneurship** as a preferential way to integration for refugees and migrants.

Impact for assesses

They have learnt a way of finding new opportunities and can self-teach themselves to put these opportunities into action.

Link

<https://www.freshstartlim.com>

