The role of University of Messina in Boosting Entrepreneurship Education

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UniMessina at a glance

- 23,316 Enrolled students
- 535 Cooperation agreements with foreign universities
- 500 Students on international mobility every year
- 150 International students enrolled every year
- 87 Degree programmes
- 53 Visiting scholars
- 12 Departments
- 8 Degree courses in English
- 5 Double degree programmes
Premise

• University may play a central role in boosting an innovative ecosystem including firms, institutions and potential entrepreneurs.

• University of Messina wants to be…more entrepreneurial!!!
Entrepreneurial University

New Tech Firms

Existing Firms

incubator

SPIN OFF

COLLABORATION

PATENTED

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Some starting points...

- Entrepreneurship courses are included in master programs in Engineering and Economics Departments.
- Seminars are also addressed to PhD students.
- BUT, it is hard to attract students and young researchers with no incubators and/or Contamination Lab.
- Partnering with local companies to launch entrepreneurship courses is also hard.

How to boost entrepreneurial mindset in local ecosystems?
Case study: #SmartMe

- **#SmartME** is an initiative of UniMessina able to link digital technologies, talents and innovation

- The goal is creating a sustainable entrepreneurship-based learning community (ELC) able to provide an experiential environment
What we are doing at UniMessina

#SmartME intends to integrate digital technology into learning and instruction to support innovation and new sustainable business models on ICT industries.

#SmartME includes three steps:
- Building a sustainable ecosystem
- Providing a digital platform
- Shaping a learning community
How?

• We uploaded the project at Eppela, an Italian crowdfunding website

• We doubled our goal

• 84 donors (more than 20 companies) => our community
1° Building a Smart Ecosystem...

Citizens

Companies

#SmartME

DHLabs srl
Linino.org
2° Digital platform

http://smartme.unime.it
2° http://smartme.unime.it
2° Air pollution Monitor

The Arduino Yun (Release 5) is a board based on the ATmega32u4 microcontroller and the Athezos AR9331 processor.
2° City Mobility and Parking
2° City Touristic Point
STEP 3°: Entrepreneurship community
STEP 4°: Entrepreneurship community in Mediterranean Area
Questions (Issues) Covered in this presentation?

• What is the nature of the relationship between universities and their communities?

• How is technology transfer related to the innovation and growth performance of a specific region or country?

• How university governance may be crucial to the emergence of entrepreneurial and sustainable ecosystem in specific regions?
“Linking Big Data, Entrepreneurship and Education!

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