



Efka Heder

Throughout my more than 30 years of professional experience in education policies, focused on TVET and entrepreneurship, my key interest was how human capital development can and must contribute to sustainable economic growth and development. Nowadays, fundamental for Industry 4.0/5.0 competent human capital, especially important for post-COVID reality and world of tomorrow.

For more than 15 years, as a Team Leader or Director, I focused on building smart entrepreneurially oriented TVET; placing cooperation and collaboration at heart of dialogue in order to enable us to build together one of the best practices in EU and worldwide.

The common denominator of the times we live in is transition/transformation towards Industry 4.0/5.0 and readiness to Think2 Act Entrepreneurially as the key elements for societies to cope with uncertainty and the speed of change. The connection and complementarity of EntreComp and GreenComp are like the palm and back of one hand.

I am convinced that Think2Act Entrepreneurially mindset is important more than ever, contributing to recovery and resilience. By putting gender and social inclusion at the centre of policy development, as I have done through my experiences with Entrepreneurial Learning, Women Entrepreneurship and Migrants Entrepreneurship in South East Europe, is contributing to green, digital and entrepreneurial transition needed for sustainable and inclusive future.

I dedicated my career to TVET and one of the key objectives of it is to equip youth with Think2Act Entrepreneurially and innovative skills ready for the World of tomorrow.

Currently working as the Team Leader of the TVET project in BiH funded by SDC and implemented by GOPA.

Recognition and awards:

- Global All Ladies Leagues – Member of the Global Advisory Council for Higher Education & Industry Connect – since March 2024
- EU4Dual Alliance – Advisory Board Member – since November 2023
- EU ENTRECOMP Champion – November 2022
- EU – TOP 100 Women in Social Enterprise in Europe - 2021
- GEN – Global Women Entrepreneurship Congress 2020 – Invited speaker to address the topic Entrepreneurship Education in Higher Education in Creating Entrepreneurial Society – November 2020,
- EUWomen4Future – special recognition by EU Commissioner Gabriel for extraordinary contribution to education and youth policies in EU – 2020 - <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/euwomen4future/efka-heder>
- World Business Angel Investment Forum – Senator for women entrepreneurship – May 2018 - 2019
- MIT Ambassador for Innovators under 35 – Europe, 2018 and 2019,
- Start Up Nation Global Entrepreneurship Network 2016 – finalist; TOP 5 in the World among 170 countries for Groundbreaking Policy Thinking
- “Developers for Centuries” 2014.g. – exceptional contribution in developing entrepreneurship in South East Europe: award committee composed of 200 eminent entrepreneurs in SE Europe;
- Regional Cooperation Council 2013 – “Champion of Regional Cooperation in South East Europe” for active and dynamic contribution also in preparation of SEE2020 strategy;
- The European Projects Awards IPA 2013 by EU Parliament,
- The Knowledge Economy Network (KEN) - Best Practice Award and special recognition for original and successful contribution to human capital development and systematic approach to teacher training.