



19 April 2016

*Letter of Endorsement*

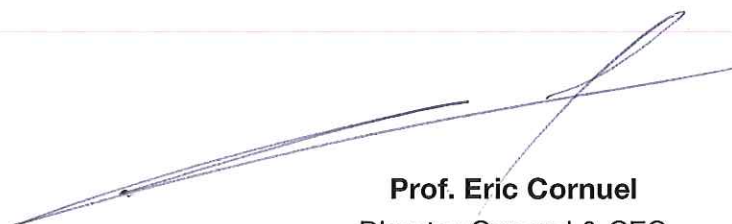
More entrepreneurs and a more entrepreneurial workforce mean more jobs, more innovation and more competitiveness.

**The Entrepreneurial Skills Pass® (ESP), associated with the JA Company Program, is a major step in this direction.** At this age, having such a unique international qualification will open doors to further opportunities for young people as well as help them make important choices well before they finish school. The ESP is also an important tool for teachers to better assess students' progress in entrepreneurial competences as well as their understanding of economic and financial concepts.

EFMD believes that entrepreneurial mind-sets and competences can be fostered through hands-on, real-world learning, and project work. Mini-company schemes such as the JA Company Program and ESP are a fine example of good practice for schools.

By saying that “every young person should have a practical entrepreneurial experience before leaving compulsory education” (Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan) and by recognising entrepreneurship as a transversal skill (Rethinking Education: investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes), the European Commission has emphasised the need to embed entrepreneurial skills and competences in all sectors. The European Parliament is backing the Commission’s initiatives with several reports stressing the necessity to develop entrepreneurship education further (e.g. Skills policies for fighting youth unemployment - 2016, Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship through Education and Training – 2015).

We agree that we need entrepreneurship education at all ages and across all subjects. EFMD supports more collaboration like this between the business and education communities.



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