

YEP INCUBATORS AS THE PASS TO UKRAINE'S INNOVATIVE FUTURE

Nowadays, one of the main problems of our country is the migration of the best young and clever graduates to some other countries where they see the prospects of building a successful career. It happens so, because the students of universities are certain about Ukraine's disability in providing them with the innovative technologies they want to study and work with. That is why, they usually get hired abroad and the country loses the perspective, smart and creative potential specialists all along. [1, c.77] But what would happen, if we could change this situation and not by creating some special machines and mechanisms, but making the consciousness of entrepreneurs in our heads?

There are business incubators and accelerators that allow students make start-ups without interrupting their study. [2, c.4] One of several business incubators in Ukraine is called YEP and it works at 10 or more universities all along the country, including Zhytomyr State Technological University.

It started as a small idea, but turned into the big motion. An abbreviation YEP stands for Youth Entrepreneurial Partnership, which means that the purpose of founding your own start-up within an incubator is to establish communication with students, professionals and business advisers. Moreover, the whole idea of YEP is about challenging yourself to start your own business and gain a success.

People, who take part in the whole program, get educational lectures and workshops, mentor speed-dating, consulting from modern entrepreneurs and practice in doing their own businesses. The most pleasant thing is that YEP residents get all of it for free, giving their free time in return. So, they don't have to search for a job somewhere, because they already establish their own space of creativity using resources of the university they study at. In my opinion, it is an amazing possibility.

The second half of business incubator activities is organizing the whole process of study. This part is also accomplished by students. People who take the responsibilities of holding the program are called the operational teams. They learn how to be a functional team and work as a single organism to provide the YEP residents with lectures, space and any help needed.

The operational team members learn how to manage the projects. They go from zero knowledge to absolute self-confidence in their moves. They use modern methodologies, innovative technologies and soft skills to be able to run an entire community, which YEP ZSTU is about to become. Therefore, one of the biggest reasons why a person should do this is getting experience in dealing with problems and solving them. And this is also the job people get well-paid for.

I joined the YEP incubator this autumn as a member of an operational team. My job was to organize all the lectures and events and look after our start-ups' education. There were three of us in the team, and I am very proud of what we have done. Together we have managed to establish a new community inside the university, although it was a very difficult job.

This winter two other members of my team left, so I had to start the new season of the incubation called YEP Starter on my own. The preparation had a lot of tension, but I am still very much satisfied with results. Today YEP Starter includes three developing start-ups, a few independent residents and a new amazing operational team. We do our best to engage more students and to unlock all the potential that this programme gives us.

Actually, YEP ZSTU has a lot of benefits to propose. This activity already counts an internship or practice that all the students have to pass. The residents of the incubator have a right to claim for rector's scholarship and operational team's members have a very high chances of getting an actual job. We also strive to accomplish our own co-working space, which we all think about. And this is just about a half of advantages that YEP ZSTU can give our students.

The bottom line is that you don't have to move to another country to become happy and find your true definition on this planet. In fact, you can stay where you are and become even more successful than you thought you would be. That demands using all the possibilities and potential you have, of course, the result is worth it.

You never know, until you try. And YEP is specially made for those incredible people who have the courage to try something fresh and new. For those, who are ready to get up, start working and never look back, until their dream comes true.

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