

JADE – the European Confederation of Junior Enterprises



Junior Entrepreneurship – the basic idea

JADE is a **student-run, pan-European network** representing about 20.000 young entrepreneurs in more than **225 local non-profit organisations**, called Junior Enterprises. By **running professional consulting projects** and **managing small- to medium sized enterprises**, the students add practical experience to their theoretical skills. JADE promotes the idea of Junior Enterprises throughout Europe, helps to set up new organisations and enables the **exchange of knowledge, as well as professional and managerial skills** between its members. Together with the affiliated Junior Enterprise Network in Brazil and several contacts to student consulting groups in non-member countries, the JADE Network is one of the largest student networks in the world.

What is a **Junior Enterprise**?

A Junior Enterprise is a non-profit association entirely managed by students, integrating up-to date knowledge from universities with practical business experience by running consulting projects for companies in various sectors.

Due to the distinctiveness of the Junior Enterprise work, students can distinguish themselves by using soft skills such as entrepreneurial spirit, team-working, creativity, presentation skills, public speaking, networking and intercultural understanding, work experience or project management, to name a few examples.

Members of Junior Enterprises perform business and technical studies for companies. Thanks to students from different backgrounds, Junior Enterprises operate in extensive fields of services, in varying sectors and for different kinds of companies: multinational corporations, small and medium enterprises, institutions, administrations, local communities, entrepreneurs, banks, etc.

Fields of consulting services include:

Marketing, Data Processing, International Development, Engineering, Business Start-up, Communication, Environment, Quality Management, Finance, Research and Development, Human Resources Management or Information Technology



Have you ever experienced the out-of-the-box thinking of a Junior Entrepreneur?

Get involved in a network of entrepreneurial students, pass-on your experience and contribute to the personal and professional development of engaged individuals in Higher Education.

Become a Business Volunteer!

The Role of the Business Volunteer

A Business Volunteer is an experienced entrepreneur or intrapreneur, who is willing to share his/her insights with the spirited and motivated students of the JADE network. This ultimately adds to the sustainability of student activities in Junior Enterprises and other network entities. The Business Volunteer is a source of inspiration and advice that ultimately makes the JADE network a better one and supports JADE initiatives on the local, regional and/or international level. JADE proposes four different ways to get involved: as JADE Enlargement Mentor, as Junior Enterprise Mentor, as Entrepreneurship Ambassador or as Executive Board Mentor (described beneath by the respective programs). By no means are these roles static – it is important to match the profile and interests of the Business Volunteer with the challenges and needs of JADE entrepreneurs and to let the role of the Business Volunteer evolve.

Involvement Possibilities for Business Volunteers

Enlargement Program

Description

The JADE Enlargement Project supports student initiatives and projects of member Junior Enterprises aiming for the establishment of new Junior Enterprises in countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Africa.

Your Role as JADE Enlargement Mentor:

The Junior Enterprise Initiatives in new member countries experience particularly difficult conditions, because they are the first to introduce the concept in the region. The JADE Enlargement Mentor understands this struggle, maybe more so, because he/she is experienced in setting up a business or businesses him-/herself already. He/she supports the initiative with advice and encourages entrepreneurial thinking through a can-do mentality. Furthermore, the provision of business contacts and tips for networking would be very useful for the founders of these Junior Enterprises, to secure the sustainability of their initiatives by finding appropriate clients.

Wanted: a can-do-mentality, inspiration, motivation, support in networking, willingness to share contacts, experience in the consulting industry can be of advantage.

For you the possibility to help motivated students in countries where students have little influence on the educational system and decide to create learning and development opportunities themselves. This is a possibility to support students that want to make a difference in challenging circumstances.

Target Locations (local level)

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Kosovo, Lithuania, Morocco, South Africa, Turkey.



JE Mentoring Program



Description

JADE consists of 225 Junior Enterprises that all find themselves in different stages of development. These Junior Enterprises, apart from being involved in their consulting activities, also have a responsibility for the strategic management of their entities and the development of events and projects for and by their organization.

Your Role as Junior Enterprise Mentor:

The role of the JE Mentor on a local level is to support the students enabling them to sustain the activities of the Junior Enterprise. This would be in the role of an “advisor”, but also as a network friend, who is in touch with the organization and, in addition, offers support to Alumni that are interested in starting their own companies. For this role the JE Mentor needs, above all, the soft skills and sufficient time to be present at JE events.

Wanted: empathy, soft-skills, energy, young spirit, time.

For you a possibility to become involved with Junior Entrepreneurs, foster entrepreneurial spirit, motivate, inspire and advise talented young people with the potential to become leaders of tomorrow.

Target Locations (local level):

JADE’s member countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom.

Entrepreneurship Ambassador Program



Description

On a national level, there are confederations that represent the Junior Enterprises of a specific country (e.g. JADE Austria). These confederations consist of a team of Junior Entrepreneurs that organize events and congresses on national level. During these events, strategic points of the network are discussed, and workshops and keynote speeches are held.

Your Role as Entrepreneurship Ambassador:

The role of the Entrepreneurship Ambassador on the national level of the JADE network is to give a workshop and/or a speech aimed at awakening the entrepreneurial identity of the network’s members. Although the students of the JADE network are indeed entrepreneurs, it is important to raise this entrepreneurial spirit. Business Volunteers can support this undertaking by giving inspirational speeches or relevant workshops that foster the motivation to further develop entrepreneurial skills or start a new business.

Wanted: public speaking, testimonials, workshops, entrepreneurial spirit (!).

For you a possibility to become occasionally involved in events organized for an enthusiastic network of Junior Entrepreneurs. Your chance to express the importance of an entrepreneurial mind-set and leverage your message by speaking to a large number of Junior Entrepreneurs and/or a selected group of Junior Enterprise leaders.

Headquarters Improvement Program



Target Locations (local level):

Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom.

Description

At the head of our network is the JADE Executive Board. This board consists of student volunteers from the network. It manages all European affairs and coordinates international activities across the network. As the environment of our organisation and our organisation itself is constantly changing, the Improvement Program targets the implementation of long-term goals and constant improvement within our organisation and our network. At the top of this large organization, the JADE Executive Board deals with fundamental problems and inefficiencies in the day-to-day business as well as challenges in the management of this large network due to a lack of experience with the high level of complexity at the international level.

Your Role as Executive Board Mentor

The Executive Board Mentor would help structure challenges at the JADE headquarters and give advice on specific fields, such as Sponsoring and Lobbying. The Executive Board running the JADE network welcomes coaching in the strategic development of activity centres. Further, the Executive Board Mentor can get the opportunity to be a speaker on international JADE events that take place about five times a year.

Wanted: discretion, know how in a specific field (e.g. Accounting, HR, PR, Sponsoring, and Lobbying), willingness to share experience and insights, time.

For you the possibility to gain insight into the running of an international umbrella organization and to be in contact with a small group of ambitious students in key positions of the network (contact to eight to ten persons including the Executive Board). Further, this offers you the opportunity to attend international JADE events and experience the JADE spirit and the connection to a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Target Location: Brussels

Contact Information

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The role you can play in our organization is not a static one.

We believe that the expectations and experiences of Business Volunteers need to be matched with the needs and abilities of Junior Entrepreneurs.

Please do not hesitate to talk with us about ways in which you see yourself contributing to youth entrepreneurship and the personal & professional development of our students.

We look forward to involving you in this passionate association of smart, energetic and enthusiastic Junior Entrepreneurs!

JADE Executive Board 2008



f.l.t.r.: Frederik de Pont, Vice-President; Natalia Pawluczuk, Secretary General; Valentina Gradoli, Senior Project Manager; Tanya Muller-Borges, President; Filip Roelandt, Treasurer.