

WORLD INNOVATION SUMMIT FOR EDUCATION ORGANISES HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BRUSSELS

Event Highlights the role of WISE in Global Education, Skills and Employment

Doha, Qatar, 5 April 2016 – The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) recently led a high-level event focusing on the role of entrepreneurship in the transformation of education and tackling youth unemployment in Europe. These topics have been identified by the European Commission as key priorities for 2016.

The panel and luncheon were hosted in Brussels by Martina Dlabajová, a Member of the European Parliament from the Czech Republic. Aiming to inspire an informed dialogue, the event brought together an audience of 30 key European policymakers and industry and civil society representatives. Participants shared their views on entrepreneurship education in Europe, and their experiences of initiatives designed to create a sustainable environment for entrepreneurs to thrive and grow.

Speakers included Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO of WISE; Rodrigo Ballester, Member of the EU Commissioner's Cabinet on Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport; Antonio Garcia del Riego, Managing Director for European Corporate Affairs at Banco Santander; and Tomi Alakoski, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Me & My City, one of the WISE Awards winning projects in 2014. The Finland-based initiative uses a 500-square metre miniature town to engage young students in basic social, civic and economic concepts.

Mr Yiannouka highlighted the opportunity for policymakers and educators to take action in transforming educational practices, by capitalising on the desire of young people to develop as entrepreneurs. "Although great numbers of youth are being shut out of the labour market due to the failure of education to provide them with relevant skills, young people are increasingly interested in entrepreneurship," he said.

The event produced several conclusions relevant to policymaking, which the speakers are expected to share with their respective collaborators and audiences through their work, given the growing interest in adjusting education to the needs of the labour market in Europe.

WISE is an initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). The Brussels event was a further opportunity for WISE to bring its global work as an international education organisation before a wider audience in support of QF's mission of unlocking human potential.

Image Captions:

Image 1: (L to R) Tomi Alakoski, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Me & My City; Stavros N. Yiannouka, CEO, WISE; Martina Dlabajová, Member of the European Parliament; Rodrigo Ballester, Member of the EU Commissioner's Cabinet on Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport; and Antonio Garcia del Riego, Managing Director for European Corporate Affairs at Banco Santander.

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About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE):

WISE was established by Qatar Foundation in 2009 under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate, and purposeful action. Through its authoritative research series and a range of on-going programs, WISE is a global reference in new approaches to education. As a testament to QF's commitment to a knowledge economy, WISE is building the future of education through empowerment and collaboration.

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Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>