



INGENIUM
European University

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

WP8 – Entrepreneurial INGENIUM

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D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Table of contents

Document information	4
Document history	5
Definitions & Acronyms.....	6
Executive Summary.....	7
Description	8
Methodology	9
Entrepreneurship supports and Training	10
Supporting student entrepreneurship.....	12
Supporting staff entrepreneurship	13
Joint Academic offering in Entrepreneurship	13
Microcredentials.....	14
Summary of the new INGENIUM entrepreneurial initiatives - Delivery and impacts.....	15
Conclusion	18
References.....	18

List of tables

Table 1: INGENIUM Workpackage 8 Deliverables	9
Table 2: Extract of 2023 study of partner entrepreneurship supports	11
Table 3: Summary of progress and impact.....	16

List of figures

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Document information

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Description of the deliverable (3-5 lines)	This report provides a final overview of the current activity on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance. It also describes some of the entrepreneurial training initiatives, that have been developed over the course of INGENIUM.
Key words	Entrepreneurship; Entrepreneurship familiarisation; Entrepreneurship training, Entrepreneurship mentoring, entrepreneurial mindset and skillset, spin-offs, start-ups.

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

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25/10/2025	4	WP Lead	Final

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Definitions & Acronyms

Abbreviations

BMC	Business Model Canvas
D	Deliverable
HEI	Higher Education Institution
IEC	INGENIUM European Campus (WP4)
LMS	Learning Management System
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
TTO	Technology Transfer Offices (also known as Knowledge Transfer)
WP	Work package

Acronyms

HS	University of Skövde
HKA	Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences
MTU	Munster Technological University
MUS	Medical University – Sofia
TUIASI	Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi
UdA	University ‘G. d’Annunzio’, Chieti-Pescara
UNIOVI	University of Oviedo
UoC	University of Crete
URN	University of Rouen, Normandy
XAMK	South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Executive Summary

This report, *Deliverable D8.2*, provides an account of the entrepreneurship training activities developed under **Work Package 8 (Entrepreneurial INGENIUM)** of the **INGENIUM European University Alliance**.

The report builds upon earlier deliverables (notably D8.1, March 2024 and D8.4, June 2025) and outlines progress to date, achievements, and ongoing plans up to December 2026. Its focus is the delivery and impact of entrepreneurship awareness, training, and mentoring across the INGENIUM universities.

A detailed review of entrepreneurship supports across partner institutions revealed significant growth in collaborative initiatives, resource sharing, and institutional engagement. Notable developments include:

- **Launch in Q4 2025 of** the *INGENIUM Business Model Canvas (BMC)*, available online via the alliance's Learning Management System, and integrated with sustainability principles.
- **Expansion of the Student Innovation Challenge**, connecting interdisciplinary student teams with industry partners and promoting hands-on entrepreneurial learning.
- **Strengthening of staff and student entrepreneurship training**, through the newly established *INGENIUM Network of Technology Transfer Offices* and the design of a transnational *INGENIUM Accelerator Programme* to provide the skills required for staff spinouts and research-based ventures.
- **Development of academic pathways**, including a forthcoming *Joint BA Degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation* (led by MTU with partner universities URN, XAMK, and Ud'A)
- **Creation of the Soft Landings initiative**, offering cross-border incubation support for student and staff entrepreneurs.

Across partner universities, progress has been substantial: new incubators and entrepreneurship centres have been launched (e.g., Uniovi CREATI.UO, URN Entrepreneurship Centre), entrepreneurship is being embedded in curricula, and medical and technical universities such as MUS and TUIASI are integrating innovation-focused training for the first time.

By late 2025, the alliance had developed a cohesive strategy for advancing entrepreneurial culture across diverse institutional contexts, promoting innovation, and aligning with EU policy priorities on STEM skills, innovation, and competitiveness (COM/2025/89).

In conclusion, Work Package 8 has established a collaborative foundation for an entrepreneurial European University, delivering tangible outputs in entrepreneurship awareness, training and mentoring through institutional cooperation. The remaining project period (to 2026) will focus on scaling specific initiatives ensuring sustainability and embedding entrepreneurial thinking as a defining feature of the INGENIUM Alliance.

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Description

INGENIUM European University - Workpackage 8 Entrepreneurial INGENIUM

The INGENIUM European University comprises of Higher Educational Institutions from around the European Union, (INGENIUM Partnership Map Figure 1), and brings together a diverse range of universities from all corners of the EU.

The constituent universities comprising INGENIUM are as follows:

UNIVERSIDAD DE OVIEDO, (UNIOVI) SPAIN, CO-ORDINATOR

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY SOFIA, (MUS) BULGARIA, PARTNER

PANEPISTIMIO KRITIS, GREECE, (UOC) PARTNER

HOCHSCHULE KARLSRUHE, GERMANY, (HKA) PARTNER

KAAKKOIS-SUOMEN AMMATTIKORKEAKOULU, FINLAND, (XAMK) PARTNER

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO DI CHIETI-PESCARA, ITALY, (Ud'A) PARTNER

HOGSKOLAN I SKOVDE, SWEDEN, (HIS) PARTNER

MUNSTER TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, IRELAND, (MTU) PARTNER

UNIVERSITE DE ROUEN NORMANDIE, FRANCE, (URN) PARTNER

UNIVERSITATEA TEHNICA "GHEORGHE ASACHI" DIN IASI, ROMANIA, (TUIASI) PARTNER

INGENIUM deliverable 8.2 is part of a series of four deliverables as shown in Table 1, addressing entrepreneurial awareness, training and encouraging a more entrepreneurial mindset among INGENIUM staff and students. D8.1 (the interim report March 2024) provided a detailed report on the delivery of entrepreneurship training to staff and students in the different partners across the Alliance including an evaluation of the training modules, materials, activities mentoring sessions delivered. This document 8.2 represents the final progress report and all modules and materials referenced will be made available to all INGENIUM students through the INGENIUM Learning Management System.

D8.4 (June 2025) sets out the ongoing actions and new initiatives in terms of transnational incubation and acceleration programmes that have been developed and planned for the INGENIUM university going forward. This D8.2 report focuses specifically on the training and mentoring delivered to date and the plans for the remaining period up to December 2026. As a result of the direction taken in the work package there is some overlap in the final reports of D8.4 and D8.2.

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Table 1: INGENIUM Workpackage 8 Deliverables

D8.1 – Interim Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance	M15	March 2024
D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance	M33	October 2025
D8.3 – Interim Report on Transnational Incubation and Acceleration programme	M12	December 2023
D8.4 – Final Report on Transnational Incubation and Acceleration Programme	M30	June 2025

Methodology

INGENIUM Work package 8 “Entrepreneurial INGENIUM” focusses the attention of all ten universities on the need to produce more entrepreneurial students and to support enhanced skillsets in university staff around spinning out new enterprises based on their research.

WP8 is aimed at enhancing the entrepreneurial character of the Alliance, building on the tradition and experience of the partners, to develop all aspects of the Entrepreneurial University.

As previously reported in D8.1, a comprehensive survey had been undertaken on how each member university addresses entrepreneurship awareness, training and mentoring. The survey was completed by the WP8 Work Group representatives on behalf of their university, following consultation with their own university colleagues. The D.8.1 interim report presented an overview of the relevant training activities currently being delivered across INGENIUM, including examples of best practice and training delivered during ten days in Q1 2024.

In addition to the survey, an initial assessment of partners’ activities in supporting entrepreneurship was undertaken in Q2 2024 through the HE Innovate self-assessment tool for entrepreneurship supports in higher education institutions. The self-assessment clearly demonstrated that all but one partner has some level of focus on supporting entrepreneurship and identified gaps to address in striving to be entrepreneurial universities. All partners have will have plan in place by Dec 2025 to address gaps identified.

Partners met frequently and chose a few key training initiatives.

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Entrepreneurship supports and Training

Table 2 summarises the different entrepreneurial related awareness raising and training operated by the partners. As can be observed in the original data provided in the interim report D8.1 (March 2024), all universities, apart from MUS, provided direct, or outsourced staff resources to support entrepreneurship in their universities. Similarly, the same universities provided introductions to entrepreneurship to all or some of their students.

In addition to the ongoing individual efforts, the INGENIUM partners are developing more joint initiatives with such initiatives accredited wherever possible. This approach is directly in line with policy objectives, as highlighted in the March 2025 Communication (COM 2025, 89) from the European Commission, entitled STEM Education Strategic Plan: skills for competitiveness and innovation. "The EU needs to develop top STEM talent also by nurturing entrepreneurs and helping them turn their ideas into profitable businesses. It is crucial to encourage innovators to manage their intellectual property and to advance cross-fertilisation of products and services in AI, semiconductors, cybersecurity, life sciences, blockchain, clean tech, biotechnology or advanced manufacturing. Transdisciplinary education and training, together with stronger ties between education and training institutions, research organisations and industry can accelerate the transition from creative ideas to market products and services."

Under the heading of "*Level Up*" the communication references European University Alliances and suggests they "Provide dedicated training on innovation, entrepreneurship and IP management to 200 000 STEM higher education students, academics and staff by 2028, building on the EIT Higher Education Institutions Initiative in synergy with the European Universities alliances and the EIT knowledge and innovation communities."

It is important to also note that since 2023, the Medical University of Sofia (MUS) has been actively addressing the issue of building an entrepreneurial awareness and training offering for its staff and students. Their enhanced involvement in Entrepreneurial INGENIUM as of 2025, can be seen in Table 2 where MUS has made progress in two key areas; 1. an entrepreneurship accelerator programme for students and 2. participation in national funding for students to set up their own enterprise.

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Table 2: INGENIUM entrepreneurship training and supports for staff and students (updated 2025 for MUS, XAMK and URN)

Partner University	UNIOVI	MUS	UoC	HKA	XAMK	Ud'A	HS	MTU	URN	TUIASI
<i>Entrepreneurial Training Facilities</i>										
On-campus incubator facilities available to students	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO (but nearby facilities are available operated at national level)	NO
Entrepreneurship accelerator programme for students	YES	NO (YES (at national level in few months))	YES	NO	YES (1 campus location)	NO	YES	YES	YES (at national level)	NO
Organising Hackathons	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Organising student enterprise competitions	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Providing financial assistance to students to set up their own enterprise	YES	NO (YES (at national level in few months))	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES
Students access to university staff and researchers for advice and technical knowledge	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Supporting student entrepreneurship

During WP8 partners have piloted some training initiatives which are now set for mainstreaming across INGENIUM. In that context, it is noted that online, accessible education through the INGENIUM Learning Management System (WP3 Digital INGENIUM led by UOC) is essential to reach a large number of staff and students across INGENIUM.

The Business Model Canvas is a key component of the Lean Start Up Methodology and is used internationally for training and developing entrepreneurs. The rollout online of an **INGENIUM Business Model Canvas (BMC)**, in Q4 2025, to all students as a digital learning resource, provides the opportunity for all INGENIUM students to propose some business idea (real or token) and then by following an established methodology, to research key components of bringing that idea to market. The BMC, hosted on the INGENIUM Learning Management system (LMS) (<https://ingenium-university.eu/resources/digital-ingenium/e-learning-platform/>) will also provide successful participants with a Digital Badge, acknowledging their new skillsets. Links to WP7's Sustainability courses, which are also available on the LMS, are highlighted in the BMC to encourage participants to incorporate the SDGs into their business models. Work is also ongoing in cooperation with WP4, the INGENIUM European Campus (IEC) led by HKA, on providing suitable academic accreditations for all students completing the BMC.

A second initiative supporting student entrepreneurship is the participation of INGENIUM students in the **Student Innovation Challenge**. The challenge involves groups of interdisciplinary students competing to address real-world challenges posed by industry. All participants receive basic Design Thinking training and receive mentoring throughout the process by innovation and entrepreneurship experts. Students from across INGENIUM have successfully participated as team members in the MTU led 2024 and 2025 Innovation Challenges and participants also receive a Digital Badge for their efforts. This initiative is very much in line with Com 2025, 89 as earlier referenced as it facilitates students' direct engagement with industry. The transnational nature of the teams and challenges enhances the value of the programme and topics with an SDG focus are prevalent within the thematic areas addressed.

The organisation of **Hackathons** by partners individually or jointly and as part of the staff academies and INGENIUM Junior and Senior schools will continue to offer entrepreneurial training opportunities for students and staff, including skill development, networking opportunities, and exposure to real-world problem-solving. The hackathons provide dedicated training opportunities and continue to foster collaboration and innovation among multidisciplinary international student teams and provide a practical application of academic knowledge. Participants navigate the process of defining problems, developing solutions, fostering their entrepreneurial spirit, and presenting their work through impactful pitches. They foster creativity, teamwork, and provide a fun, engaging environment for learning and innovation. To date 250 INGENIUM students have participated in these hackathons.

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Supporting staff entrepreneurship

All partners have now completed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of an **INGENIUM Network of Technology Transfer Offices**. The memorandum, which was signed by each university in September 2025, provides for ongoing close collaboration on matters related to staff entrepreneurship and engagement with industry and society;

- Support training and workshops on innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry engagement.
- Enhance professional development opportunities for staff.
- Enhance entrepreneurship and innovation training and education opportunities for post graduate researchers

To encourage a greater level of staff spin outs, the framework for an INGENIUM **Accelerator Programme**, has been jointly designed by a working group including staff from MTU, UNIOVI and UOC. Elements of the accelerator programme were piloted in 2025 by UNIOVI through their *RadarLab* programme co-organized with CEEI for the Asturias region of Northern Spain and involving five participating enterprises. (<https://www.ceei.es/radarlab/>). The accelerator includes practical training on entrepreneurship, business models, finance, legal frameworks, and communication (in depth detail provided in D8.4). The programme will offer wide and relevant networking opportunities. Additional inputs to the programme were provided through MTU's 'EXXCEL' programme for female entrepreneurs. (<https://rubiconcentre.ie/start/>). The accelerator programme will be piloted in 2026 with 12 participants initially. (Detailed description available in D8.4, June 2025)

Joint Academic offering in Entrepreneurship

INGENIUM has launched a call for the development of joint academic offerings, inviting faculty from partner institutions to collaborate on programmes that enhance student mobility and include interdisciplinary learning. This call encompasses:

- [Pathway Programmes](#) – Development of flexible curricula that integrate seamlessly across INGENIUM institutions, allowing students to customise their learning journeys.
- [Flagship Programmes](#) – Create joint degree programmes that leverage the strengths of INGENIUM partners and provide a truly European education.

The INGENIUM Alliance Council identified 5 priority areas for the initial joint degrees to be offered by the INGENIUM University, one of which is Entrepreneurship and Innovation. MTU in collaboration with URN, XAMK and Ud'A is leading the development of the Joint BA Degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation as an INGENIUM Flagship Programme with the first

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

intake of students planned for a standalone Year 3 in 2026 with emphasis on advanced methodologies, innovative and sustainable business models, and a project-based approach that encourages a mindset considering broader impacts and long-term viability. Intake for Year 1 is expected in 2027.

Microcredentials

INGENIUM has committed to the creation of several micro credentials (up to 10) which should be ready by December 2026. The possibility of Micro credential accreditation for the INGENIUM Accelerator Programme and the Business Model Canvas will be assessed in 2025/2026.

Summary of the new INGENIUM entrepreneurial initiatives - Delivery and impacts

As noted, INGENIUM WP8 has documented the entrepreneurial supports and training available for students and staff within each partner university. The working group has undertaken a wide range of meetings and workshops addressing the sharing of good practices and innovative ideas; and has also facilitated specific training events. Going forward a range of supports and training have been identified:

- INGENIUM [Business Model Canvas](#) to be launched in Q4 2025 (500 learners up to Dec 2026)
- Wider participation in MTU [Innovation Challenge](#) 2026, which has strong focus on industry engagement (30 INGENIUM students -non MTU)
- The [INGENIUM Accelerator](#) for staff training on spinouts activity, has been designed and planned for pilot, transnational delivery in 2026 (12 staff)
- THE [INGENIUM BA Degree in Entrepreneurship and Innovation](#) is currently in its development phases and will be rolled out partially in 2026 and fully in 2027
- The [INGENIUM Soft landings](#) initiative is in place, offering students and staff led entrepreneurs with a global agenda, their potential first steps into the international marketplace.
- The [INGENIUM Technology Transfer Office Network](#) provides an organisational structure on which to base future cooperation in supporting innovation related activities across INGENIUM including staff entrepreneurship training and support.

Table 3 shows a summary of progress and impact to date in terms of entrepreneurship awareness, training and mentoring within the partner Universities.

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Table 3: Summary of progress and impact to date of INGENIUM entrepreneurship awareness, training and mentoring.

University	Follow-up and transformational impact
1. UNIOVI	<p>Included entrepreneurship module in new ERASMUS MUNDUS Application (STEPS). The application was finally granted, expected 1st edition of the module will be set for Jan-March 2027.</p> <p>Participation in Innovation challenge (entrepreneurship mentoring and challenge based learning)</p> <p>Launch of Uniovi Empreende, a new university-wide programme that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship between students. It supports idea development with mentoring, specialized training, and the chance to compete for cash prizes and incubation opportunities. Participants get visibility, practical resources to transform concepts into viable projects and connect with entrepreneurial ecosystem.</p> <p>Launch of Uniovi CREATI.UO Hub (Resource and Support Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Innovation at the University of Oviedo), a strategic initiative aimed at promoting university entrepreneurship and facilitating the creation and consolidation of Knowledge-Based Companies (Spin-Offs) and startups. The centre is structured into two operational units: IncUOba, a university incubator, and cUO-working, co-creation spaces that energize the innovation ecosystem. In addition, CREATI.UO will coordinate institutional support for both KBCs and university startups, in accordance with their recently approved (2025) specific regulations.</p> <p>Addressing current institutional barriers</p> <p>A number of relevant micro credentials in development</p>
2. MUS	<p>No entrepreneurship activity in MUS prior to joining INGENIUM</p> <p>Participation in WP8 has increased awareness and strategic discussion on entrepreneurship</p> <p>Recognition of innovative capacity of medical professionals and potential for tailored entrepreneurship training</p> <p>Exploring partnerships with local innovation hubs and incubators to support student entrepreneurship</p> <p>Increased faculty and administrative engagement in discussions on integrating entrepreneurship in medical education.</p> <p>Benchmarking activity with INGENIUM partners' insights (MTU, XAMK, UNIOVI) on supporting entrepreneurship in non-traditional fields.</p>
3. UoC	<p>Good entrepreneurship ecosystem in UoC and exploring expansion of entrepreneurship modules and training opportunities to non-business students. Member of core team designing INGENIUM Transnational Accelerator.</p> <p>New knowledge transfer office being established and will participate in INGENIUM network of Technology Transfer Offices</p>
4. HKA	<p>Some entrepreneurship and technology transfer resources with potential to participate in all WP8 planned programmes and initiatives.</p> <p>HE Innovate self-assessment identified gaps and challenges that can be addressed by participating in BMC/Transnational Accelerator/ Innovation Challenge,</p>

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

5. XAMK	<p>Participated in INGENIUM international entrepreneurship events and will be participating in BMC and transnational accelerator.</p> <p>New XAMK unit for Innovation Services which includes Student Entrepreneurship Services, as well as innovation services for research-based innovations (staff).</p> <p>Focus will be on Flagship BA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation and micro credentials.</p>
6. UDA	<p>Excellent student representation in Innovation Challenge</p> <p>Between January and June 2025, UdA advanced WP8 through key actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dissemination & awareness – collected baseline data and engaged students, staff, and stakeholders. 2. Challenge-based training – delivered 8,000+ learner-hours producing prototypes and market-oriented concepts. 3. Structural consolidation – progressed the design of the <i>C.NEXT Abruzzo</i> incubator to ensure post-grant sustainability.
7. HS	<p>As a result of INGENIUM developed <i>Level Up</i> accelerator programme in partnership with Science Park Skövde incubator with plans to increase awareness and encouraging students to consider entrepreneurship</p> <p>Implemented 4 hackathons based on good practice demonstrated in MTU 10 days</p> <p>On line event with WP 9 on female entrepreneurship</p> <p>Plan to engage with key University Stakeholders to address barriers to implementation and embed internally. Supported by Drivhuset Skaraborg foundation also.</p>
8. MTU	<p>Good practice identified through site visit to HKA being implemented through BMC DLR which will improve capacity to reach more students (currently reaching approx. 1000 first years per annum)</p> <p>Internationalisation of student entrepreneurship through the Innovation Challenge</p> <p>National education award and recognition received in May for Innovation Challenge and its international dimension through INGENIUM, Murang'a University of Technology (Kenya) and Endicott student participation.</p> <p>Enterprise Intern added to capacity for student entrepreneurship activity enabled class visits across the campus, promoting student entrepreneurship opportunities. Also enabled over 1,000 first year students to take part in the Business Model Canvas training.</p> <p>Will be implementing all recommendations in D8.4</p>
9. URN	<p>Created URN Entrepreneurship Centre in Jan 2025-3 dedicated staff recruited.</p> <p>Modular spaces planned and awareness raising and supports for staff and students</p> <p>Active participation in flagship BA in Entrepreneurship & Innovation</p> <p>Planned to strengthen doctoral training in entrepreneurship</p>
10. TUIASI	<p>Very mature entrepreneurship ecosystem</p> <p>Developing a five year strategy on Innovation and Entrepreneurship</p> <p>New position: vice-rector for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Partnerships</p> <p>Organizing the CRAI conference in Iasi – the Conference of the Romanian Network for Entrepreneurship and Innovation</p> <p>Organizing an Innovation week in June 2025</p>

D8.2 – Final Report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance

Conclusion

A significant level of work has been completed in the delivery of WP8. A large part of this work was the cataloguing of what was already being delivered by individual Universities and determining how that work could be drawn together to form more coordinated entrepreneurship awareness and training at the level of the INGENIUM European University.

INGENIUM partners now have a foundation on which to further build-out shared INGENIUM level entrepreneurship supports to both students and staff.

WP8 places a strong focus on the tangible and measurable outputs of the overall work package. It has identified and developed initiatives focussed on students, which are being rolled out to support more entrepreneurial mindsets and is also focussed on staff for the realisation of a more entrepreneurial mindset to encourage an increased level of spinouts and research valorisation.

References

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS A STEM Education Strategic Plan: skills for competitiveness and innovation, COM/2025/89 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0089>
Accessed 02/07/2025

Deliverable 8.1 Interim report on the delivery of INGENIUM entrepreneurship training courses to staff and students at all universities in the Alliance <https://ingenium-university.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/8.1-Interim-R>

Deliverable 8.4 Final Report on Transnational Incubation and Acceleration Programme <https://ingenium-university.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/D-8.4-Delivered-30-June.pdf>

<https://ingenium-university.eu/ingenium-staff-academy-call-for-proposals/iec-faculty/ingenium-joint-programmes-2/>