

YOUTH@WORK

Youth Entrepreneurship Conference
of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme
Mersin, Turkey



YOUTH @ WORK

This conference brought together a cohort of social entrepreneurs, stakeholders, educators, employers, education providers, government officials and university staff. With an emphasis in building collaborative conversations around the subject of youth entrepreneurship, the conference sought to be a forum for discussion and perhaps a place for ideas to germinate. Ideas that, maybe, will provide the answers to the challenges of today.



Mersin and the surrounding region of Çukurova is an important hub for industry, culture, entrepreneurship, sports, education. And agriculture, of course!



CONTEXT:

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

As of 2019, the difference in youth employment between Turkey and the European Union is of around ten points. This number can be used as the starting point for conversations and collaboration to find out spaces in which improvements can be achieved.

On the whole, youth unemployment and inactivity levels are influenced by social, economic, and structural factors. Unsatisfactory outcomes in education, barriers to training, lack of social capital, biased hiring practices, lack of tailored support services for young people, and their relevant inexperience forcing them into precarious employment are all some of the things young people face when entering the labour market.



24%



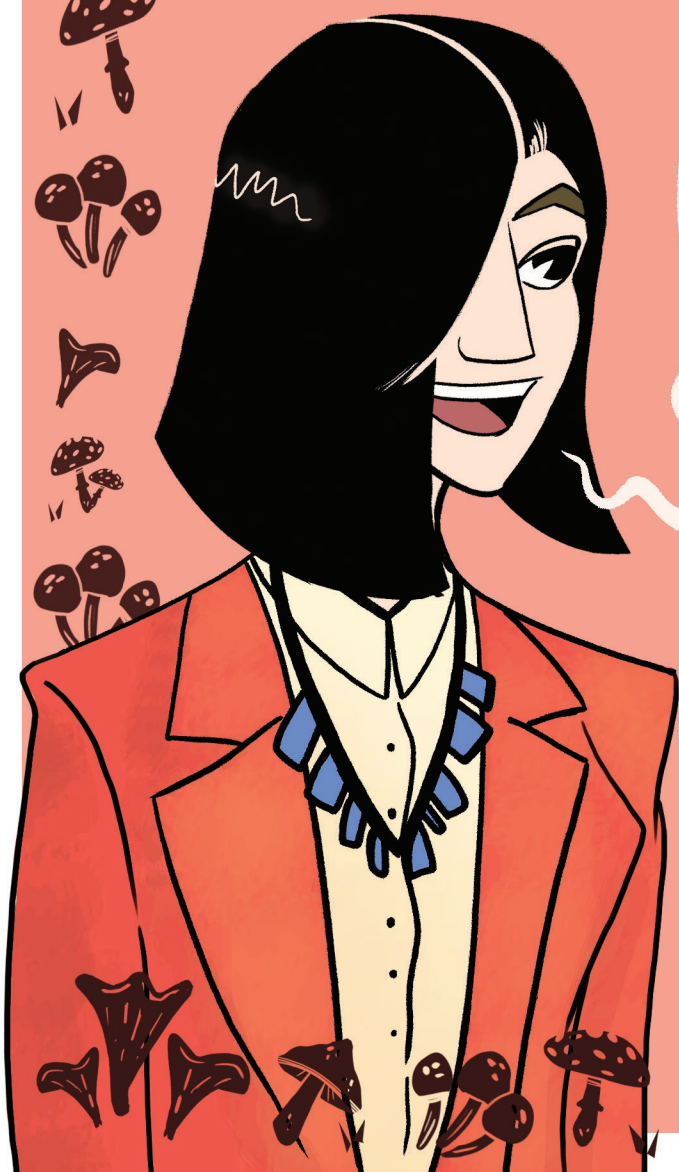
14%

IT IS ABOUT BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

The Turkish Erasmus National Agency has pulled in delegates from 30 countries. From the West Balkans to the Russian Federation, from the British Isles to the Nordic Countries.

From around the Mediterranean and deep into Europe. We are here to build partnerships, and to support our cohorts, as we make friends here.

Partnerships is the basis for effective, internationalist





TURKISH TEA
is KEY to
MAKING
CONNECTIONS



Entrepreneurship Talent in a globalized world

with Igor Tasic

Three important factors define an entrepreneur's journey:

WHO THEY ARE
(Drive, Approach to life, Interests)

WHAT THEY KNOW
(Skills, Knowledge)

WHO THEY KNOW
(Social Capital, Networks)



Entrepreneurs are closer in mindset to artists than businesspeople.



Focused on their goals, willing to experiment with ideas outside of their own wheelhouses.

Entrepreneurs are inherently creative natural problem solvers who thrive on having a variety of connections.

And you don't need to move to big international cities to make these connections.

Local issues still need solutions, and by accessing the advice of your community you can in turn have the best testing ground for revolutionary ideas.

Your local baker can become your first source of advice. And first client!



University education is about risk aversion. About security. About being in one place. It is essentially



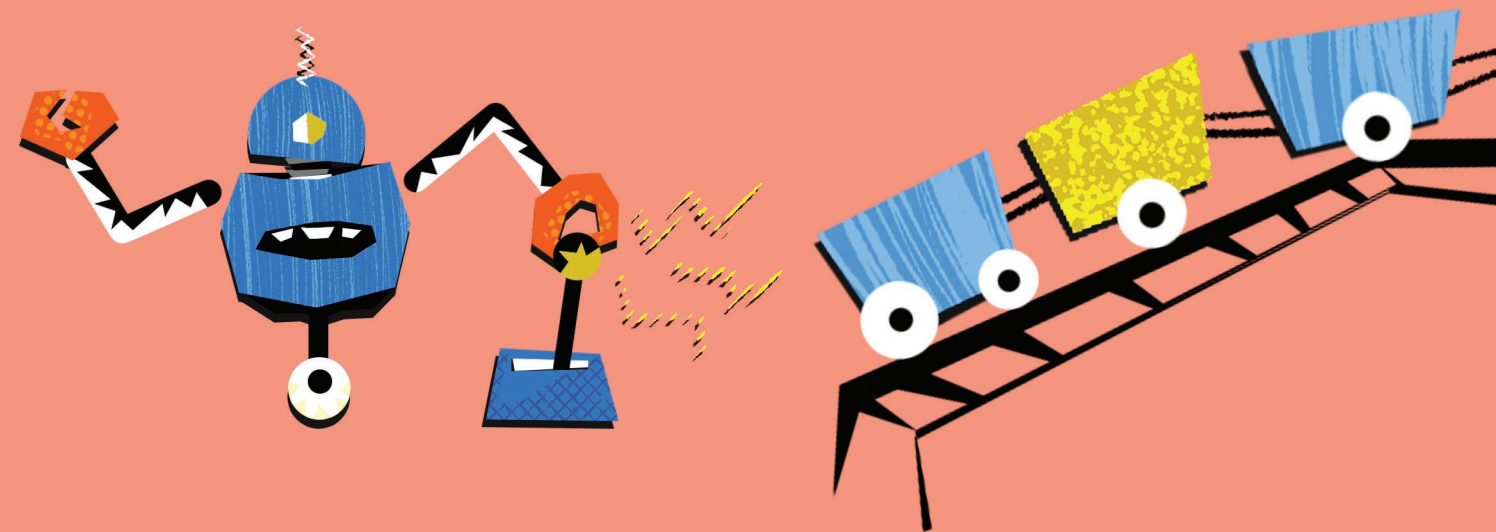
Changes brought about by automation, increase in precarious work,

reduction of worker's rights, consolidation of capital, climate catastrophe, reduction in living standards, etc are but some of the challenges facing higher education, both in effectively preparing citizens for the future, and in surviving as institutions.

Increasing costs and declining number of high-paying jobs* is making universities less attractive. The old model of training for particular industries or positions is no longer fit for purpose.

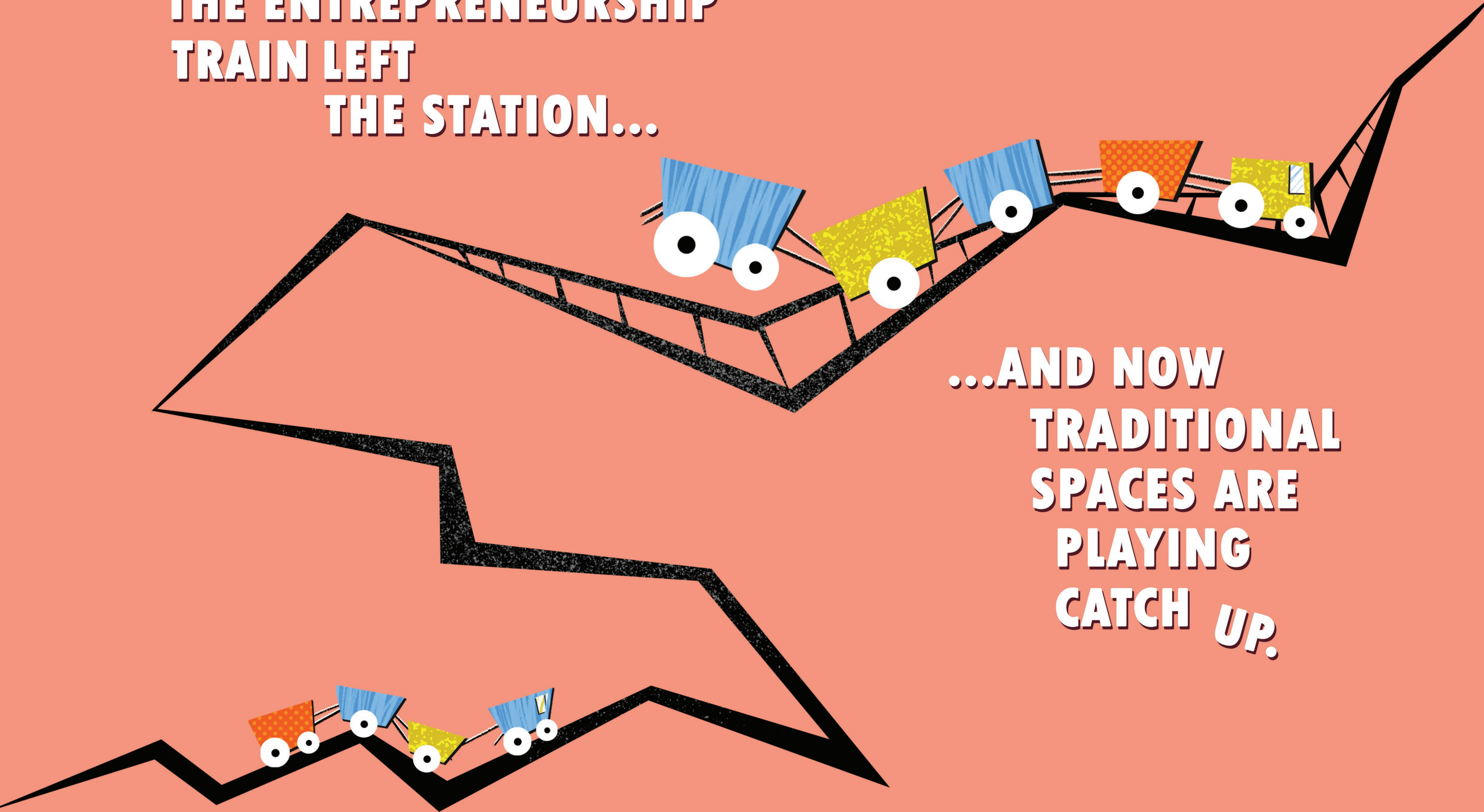
Now, and more so in the future, workers will need to continually learn and update their skills in order to stay relevant. With disruption becoming the new normal in society, non-linear career paths will be a familiar experience to most. In order to navigate the many forks, twists and jumps in this road, life-long learning, rather than rigid structures, is what should be considered.

Entrepreneurship, everyone being a nomad, is a way, a return to our hunter-gatherer roots" and we have to educate in this regard. Information-based education is making robots, and they will take over our jobs."



10 YEARS AGO

**THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
TRAIN LEFT
THE STATION...**



**...AND NOW
TRADITIONAL
SPACES ARE
PLAYING
CATCH UP.**

LOCALFACTS

MERSIN

This is a conversation about brain drain in the local context of the City of Mersin. We wonder if entrepreneurship as a possible solution to this issue.

To try and mitigate the ongoing brain drain in Mersin, and indeed any city, we need to create awareness about entrepreneurship.

Many things slow down innovation:

- Lack of resources.
- Outdated modes of education.
- Not looking for the available tools you can use.

It is imperative to integrate an entrepreneurial culture with the National Culture to start solving these issues.

What we really have to focus on is **PROBLEM SOLUTION**.

And whatever that solution is, do it as soon as possible - timing is key.



Selahattin Ciritci
Mersin University



Osman Kiper
TOBB Mersin Young Entrepreneur Council



Özgür Dormaz
Mersin Technopark



Murat Kaplan
Çurokova Development Agency

BRAIN DRAIN

Is the emigration of well-educated, skilled professionals from their home area to another. Often from one country to another, it can also happen within nations, like the migration from rural to urban areas.

In less-developed countries, brain drain is much more common and the loss more substantial.

This can take place because of several factors.



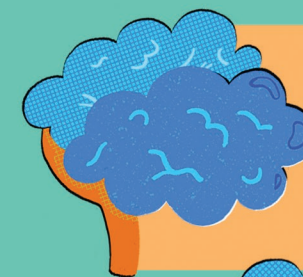
The most obvious is the availability of better job opportunities in the new city, region or country.

But other external factors can force people to move: conflict, violence, health risks, material inequalities, and political instability.



The area that experiences brain drain suffers a loss of possible innovators, workers, capital they could've attracted or generated, and the fragmentation of existing communities and families.

As it is often the better educated who look for opportunities abroad, this has other long-term consequences:

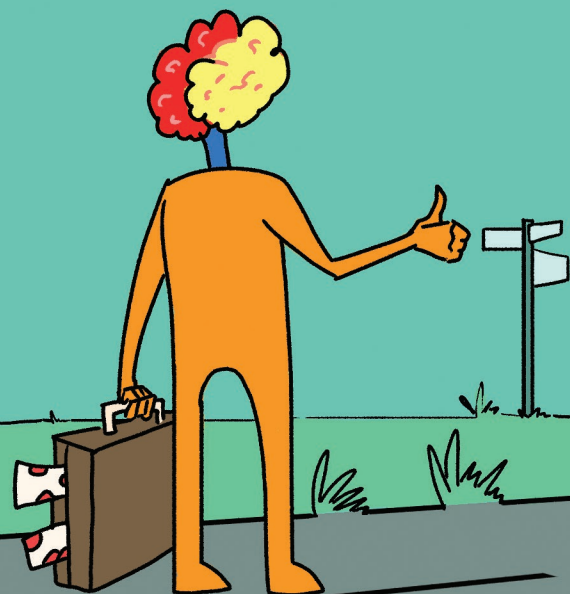


Loss in education, as one educated generation doesn't remain to educate the next.

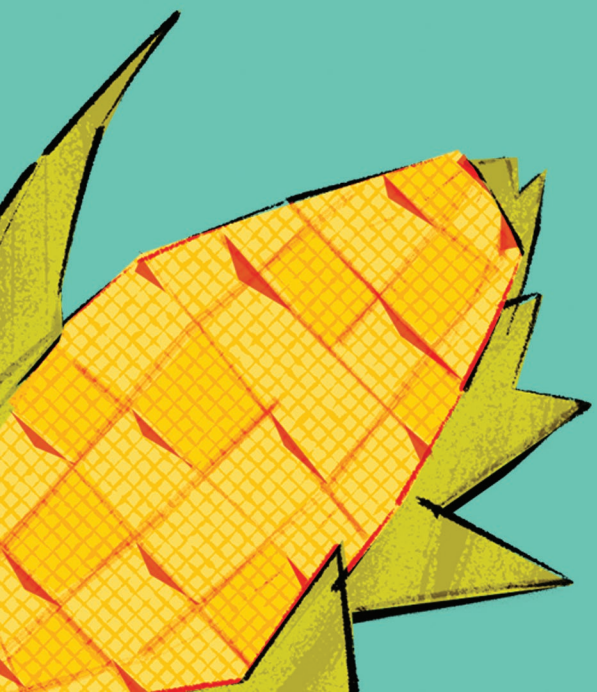


Profound emotional and cultural consequences due to uprooted social relations.

YOU ARE
LEAVING
HOME



**WE MAY HAVE
NOT SOLVED THESE
ISSUES, BUT THE
AMAZING FOOD
REALLY HELPED TO
BUILD NEW
CONNECTIONS...**



**...and it's those
connections which
might lead to the
ideas and solutions
of the future.**

THIS IS AN INDEPENDENTLY
PRODUCED VISUAL SUMMARY



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