

## **PGF Business Services**

ICT Consulting Services  
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### **VINGE Project: Virtual Incubator of a New Generation of Entrepreneurs**

#### **Abstract**

*Within thirty years, we will have the technological means to create superhuman intelligence. Every time our ability to access information and to communicate it to others is improved, in some sense we have achieved an increase over natural intelligence.*

—"The Coming Technological Singularity" by Vernor Vinge, 1993<sup>1</sup>

Youth unemployment rates are soaring worldwide. That rate recently reached up to 15% in the EU area and much higher numbers in other countries where economic growth and opportunity have long failed to keep pace with the growing number of young people entering the labor force.

However, youth unemployment rates don't have to translate into catastrophe for that generation and those it sustains: in economies characterized by low labor demand and high rates of youth unemployment, entrepreneurship training has the potential to enable youth to gain skills and create their own jobs

Education will have to meet the fast changing needs of society, focusing on creating the right environments for the development of entrepreneurial ways of thinking, behaving, communicating, organizing and learning, the innovative potential of individuals and organizations will be greatly enhanced.

The project will develop ways in which closer business collaborations with higher education institutions will deliver tangible outcomes to firms and organizations and encourage the development of more entrepreneurial attitude in universities, presenting experimental evidence on a new entrepreneurship track that provides business training and personalized coaching to university students, staffs and practitioners.

The project will try to build a new innovative entrepreneurship track in HEIs, clearly identifying their possible impacts on labor market outcomes and showing effectiveness in increasing self-employment; to accomplish that goal, the program will foster new business skills, expanded networks, and will affect a range of behavioral skills.

Furthermore, the projects aims to push at the boundaries of university- business collaboration and to explore if new approaches can be followed: it will establish new partnerships between enterprise, "entrepreneurial" universities and multi-national businesses, at the same time intending to facilitate long-term active exchange and collaboration between HEI and business to increase entrepreneurship and innovation.

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<sup>1</sup> **Vernor Steffen Vinge** (born October 2, 1944) is a retired San Diego State University (SDSU) Professor of Mathematics, computer scientist, and science fiction author. He is best known for his Hugo Award-winning novels and novellas *A Fire Upon the Deep* (1992), *A Deepness in the Sky* (1999), *Rainbows End* (2006), *Fast Times at Fairmont High* (2002), and *The Cookie Monster* (2004), as well as for his 1984 novel *The Peace War* and his 1993 essay "The Coming Technological Singularity", in which he argues that the creation of superhuman artificial intelligence .

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The project aims also to support innovative methods of teaching and learning by creating new programmes of formal/informal education, as well as supporting creative and ‘non-creative’ occupations through the use of creativity techniques. Within this strategy, the methods adopted will support lifelong learning and social inclusion by developing new skills and employment aspirations, definitely helping fill the gap between education and the labor market.

Mobility activities will not constitute the main activity of our Knowledge Alliance; in fact, the project will make heavy use of e-learning and distance interaction between project stakeholders, building an extensive e-network of Incubators and businesses, matching qualified business ventures with quality e-Incubators and other services at a European level. The e-Incubator will assist students, faculties and alumni in new business ventures . trying to provide them with the processes and ideas on what they will need to get right in order to succeed as entrepreneurs, finally helping them starting an online business within the project scope.

Students, practitioners and College staffs will attend consulting sessions and receive coaching on their business venture ideas, at the same time using a variety of tools and processes for entrepreneurs, customized for developing and launching a new business. The e-Incubator will be a living, breathing repository of ideas and information to be exchanged between different entities, geographically spread over Europe.

On the other hand, the e-learning platform will implement modern, concise learning modules for each goal of the education program. These modules will provide concepts, resources and innovative approaches to both universities and enterprises, basing on designed curricula for experimental programs aimed at building entrepreneurial skills.

Enterprises will operate in almost every industry of the business world; some of our partners are local economic development clusters, actively promoting local economies and focusing on encouraging and supporting sectorial (and geographic) agglomerations of inter-connected companies, services and institutions. They cover plenty of targeted sectors and are available to offer wide development potential to the consortium: each stakeholder will be able to choose in which business sector to gain knowledge and experience, according to his attitudes, natural inclination and aims.

Within the project, businesses and incubators are equally situated in Western, Central and Eastern Europe. The transition of Central and Eastern Europe towards a market economy will afford new opportunities to new entrepreneurs; exchanging specific knowhow, the project will constitute a chance to know each other’s business and market peculiarities, putting the basis for educating a new cross national management class and definitely contributing to build a future cross-border co-operation between East and West.