

Social Innovation Relay Factsheet

About

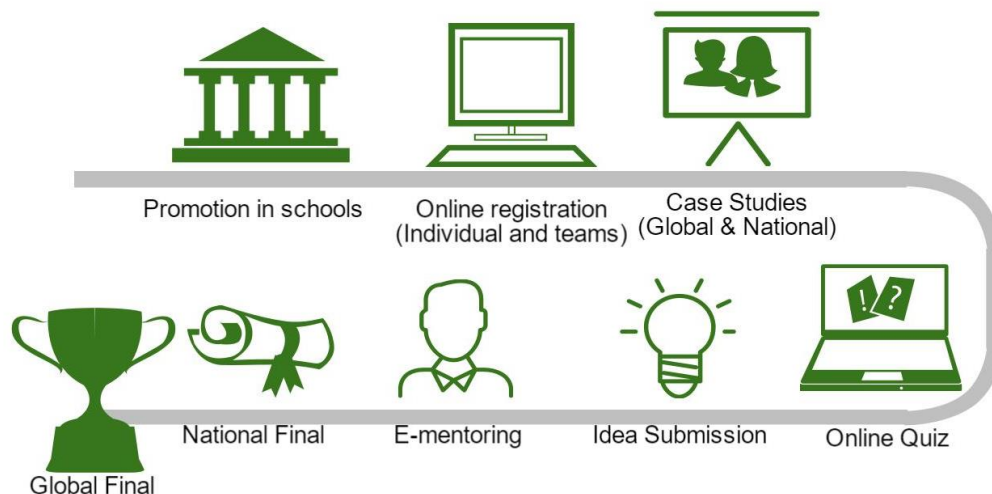


The **Social Innovation Relay (SIR)** is a global competition organized in collaboration with Nationale-Nederlanden (NN) that challenges secondary school students to develop an innovative business concept that addresses a social need. SIR provides young people with the hands-on skills and entrepreneurial expertise needed to start a successful career through a combination of virtual and face-to-face mentoring by experienced executives. Social Innovation Relay is part of an umbrella

programme of JA Europe, focused on social innovation and social entrepreneurship, Social Enterprise 360.

The best 20 teams (2-4 students) in each participating country, are paired with business volunteers. The volunteers use the latest online learning tools, to help students develop concept papers that can be turned into feasible business ideas.

Steps



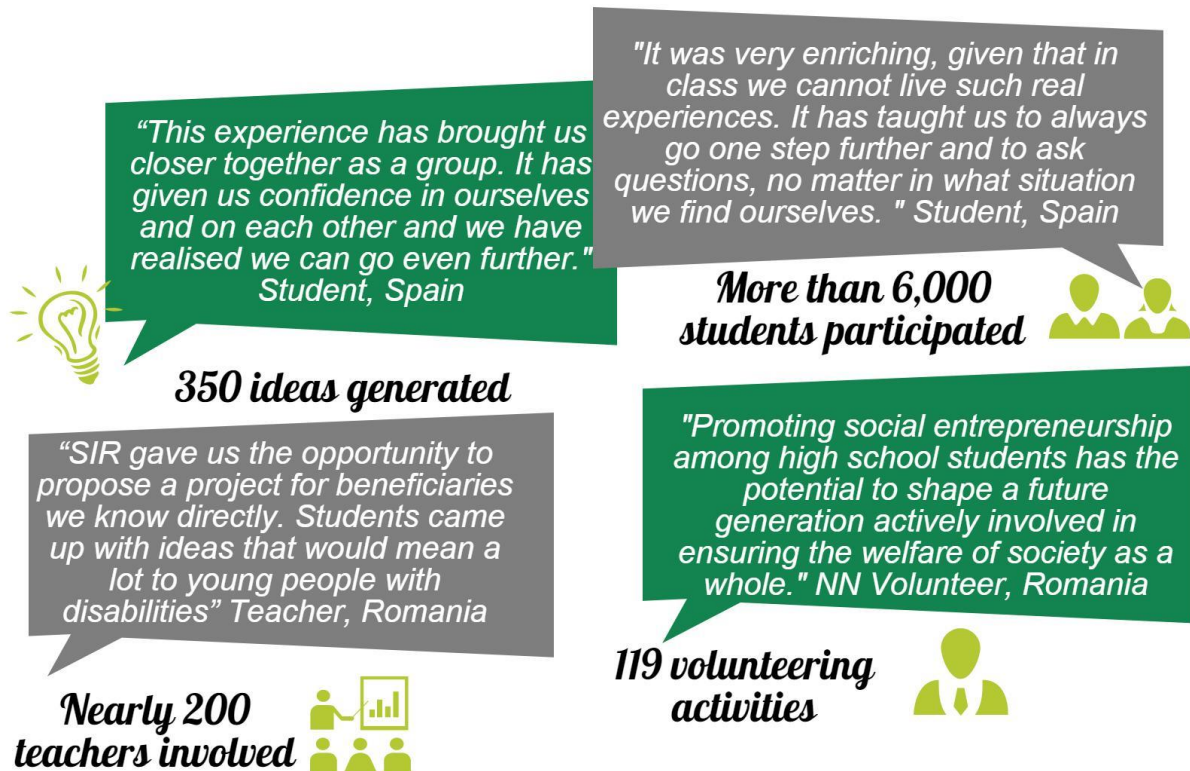
E-mentoring benefits

E-mentoring is a key component of SIR and throughout the year enables volunteers to perform their function more effectively, and consequently benefit more students. Due to online tools, volunteers could:

1. **Have more frequent interaction** – 2 out of 3 mentors (69%) had more frequent and more efficient meetings with their mentees;
2. **Have access to students in rural areas** – 68% of the mentors could easily access students from rural areas to whom they would normally not have access;

e-mentoring vs traditional mentoring – 64% of the volunteers reported that e-mentoring had enabled them to develop relationships with students just as well or better than traditional 'in person' mentoring.

2014-2015 Results



Learning outcomes and skills acquired

The Centre for Education & Industry from the Warwick University has conducted an evaluation on the learning outcomes of students and volunteers for the last three years of implementation. The evidence in this third evaluation report reinforces that the SIR delivers valuable gains in skills sets for students and volunteers. Students acquire the following skills valued on the European labour market:

Entrepreneurship – 82% are confident that they are able to start a social enterprise;

Creativity – 87% developed their creative-thinking;

Online educational learning – 83% agree that ICT made their learning fast and easy;

Social awareness – 86% are more aware of the social challenges in their communities.

For more information visit www.sir.jaeurope.org