



# INTERNATIONAL DRAGONS' DEN: CONCEPT NOTE

## INTRODUCTION

At the **Social Enterprise Academy**, we believe social entrepreneurs play an essential role in changing the world, at all ages and stages of life. Since 2004, we have facilitated over 28,000 adult learners and 55,000 young people to help create fairer communities in over 30 countries around the world.

**Social Enterprise Schools**, created in partnership with The Scottish Government in 2007, enables every young person to step up, realise their potential, and create the change they want to see in the world. By giving young people a real-life experience of running their own social enterprise, this programme delivers transformational learning which impacts them, their school and their community. Our Schools programme is now being delivered by SEA teams in Scotland, London, Australia, Egypt and Malaysia.

Young people identify the environmental or social issue they want to solve and create a business to make that change happen. It has been shown to build individual confidence and wellbeing while developing core entrepreneurship, employability and global citizenship skills.

## BACKGROUND

To further develop our young people and enhance their skills as well as giving them access to new networks and feedback, we support them to take their social enterprises to **Dragons' Den** events, locally. Our Schools Facilitators visit participating schools to deliver an interactive workshop to the young people, help them develop their social enterprise ideas and work up a pitch. They then pitch their ideas to the Dragons in a safe space and receive valuable feedback.

With Dragons Dens being delivered locally through our programmes across the globe, we want to create an opportunity across our Schools countries, to connect young people and celebrate their achievements. This is where the idea for our **International Dragons' Den** came from – born out of the notion of amplifying our young changemakers voices and enabling them to share their remarkable stories both with one another, as well as with wider audiences across the globe.

## VISION

Our vision is to create a vibrant, diverse, and supportive annual **International Dragons' Den** event, celebrating our young changemakers across the globe. We will schedule this event to coincide with **Social Enterprise Day** each year, creating a unique opportunity to weave into social enterprise activity happening across the globe. We aim for it to be an exciting event in the calendar each year which young people, and teachers and youth practitioners alike, can look forward to.



Our vision is for this event to be innovative and fresh, connecting young minds across countries and continents. It will be a space for young people to convene to share ideas and learn from one another, supported and amplified by trusted partners and sponsors.

For our pilot year on **16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**, we will work with schools across our global schools network in Scotland, London, Australia, Egypt and Malaysia – two schools per country.

## THEMES

Each year, we will lead with a global theme for the International Dragons' Den event, with our inaugural theme being *Climate Change: Stewardship of Planet Earth, from our Future Leaders*.

We will work with our partners around the globe to bring the most imaginative and compelling initiatives from young people based around that theme, to the fore. The theme we select for each year will be relevant within a global context, and will allow the Dragons we work with at each event to bring relevant expertise to the table.

By taking a thematic approach, we will identify key sponsors and partners for that year, allowing us to target the most significant organisations to support our young changemakers.

## COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in supporting our International Dragons' Den, we would love to hear from you. We have collaboration opportunities for:

- **Potential Dragons:** Support our young changemakers by providing feedback at the event, as well as follow-on 1-1 coaching/mentoring support.
- **Sponsors:** Work with us to sustain this event annually.
- **Partners:** Organisations who work with young changemakers who might like the opportunity to present their ideas on a global stage.

Please get in touch with Jess Kemp, International Partnerships Manager, on [jessica@socialenterprise.academy](mailto:jessica@socialenterprise.academy) to explore further.