

**Executive summary**  
**The Opinion of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies**  
**Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European Framework**  
**for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships**  
**COM (2017) 563**

The Chamber of Deputies of Romania has taken note of the European Union's response to the need for a quality framework for apprenticeships and welcomes the commitment thus expressed to ensure young people the best education and training, as well as jobs across the continent.

Welcomes, in this context, the importance of the mobility of apprentices, to employers from other Member States, support of apprenticeships through the Erasmus Plus programme and publication in EURES, from 2018 onwards, of the apprenticeship contracts, of interest for young Europeans and especially those in Romania. It also notes the need to include in the offer of employment, available for graduates of apprenticeships, areas which by their nature require a high level of qualification, such as serving the aerospace industries, high capacity computers and such others, given that a significant number of research and production capabilities in these areas is achieved through European cooperation.

Although young people are the main target of European policies in relation to the traineeship and other age groups can and should benefit from the recommended framework, having in regard the increased need for participation to the process of lifelong learning and retraining, and this can only be achieved through a strong partnership between all key actors directly involved in the planning, governance and implementation of apprenticeship schemes.

The Chamber of Deputies recommends that policies related to enhancing the positive impact of harmonising the framework of apprenticeships in the Member States to take into account the specific problems of rural areas, those whose level of development is below the general average for the Union, marginalised and mountain communities and the obtained results by the European Alliance for Apprenticeships to be included in a database kept up to date, accessible to European citizens, in all EU languages.

At the same time, draws attention to the fact that the establishment of quality standards for apprenticeships to be supported from the Union budget must not constitute a bureaucratic or formal barrier for access to EU funds.

Apprenticeships also present a social impact directly beneficial both individually and on communities, impact that is facilitating the entry of young people joining the labour market and career development of adults. For this reason, information is required on the effectiveness of the European Qualifications Framework, as regards the transfer of skills to apprentices and barriers that may arise in its comparison of Member States as well as to the European Commission's plans to support the mobility of apprentices.

The Chamber of Deputies considers that the Youth Guarantee, as regards entry into apprenticeship or a traineeship within 4 months of becoming unemployed or no longer participate in formal education, should acquire a European dimension as a result of the application of the European framework for quality and effective apprenticeships, and recommends analyzing opportunities for interconnection schemes at Member State level. At the same time, the start-ups, the work of self-employed, agricultural and innovative activities present a useful potential to guide apprentices to highly qualified jobs, with high reputation; in this

respect, recommends employers to organise apprenticeships, through exchanges of experience at Union level.

The Chamber of Deputies recommends that the European Commission explore the possibility to realise, in the long term, of a voluntary harmonisation among Member States, in terms of organising preliminary training programmes for citizens who do not fully meet the requirements for registration in a traineeship. Also, recommends, be established in the future a European regulatory framework to ensure Union-wide portability for the function of instructor in the undertaking, for apprenticeships.