



DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Annual work programme for the implementation of the Pilot Project "A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market" for 2016

[Commission Decision C (2016)1267 of 3 March 2016]

SUMMARY

DG EMPL's 2016 annual work programme for the implementation of the Pilot Project "A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market" serving as financing decision

This Commission Decision constitutes DG EMPL's 2016 annual work programme for the implementation of the Pilot Project "A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market" serving as financing decision. It determines the essential details of the actions which will involve expenditure from the 2016 budget, and its purpose is to allow the selection procedures to be launched so that individual decisions on the award of grants and contracts could be taken from the beginning of 2016.

Commission decision covers the budget lines managed by DG EMPL in Direct Management mode under Pilot project.

This Commission decision relates to the budget lines 15 02 77 12

The appropriations available under this budget line will be used for:

- ✓ Calls for Proposals in EMPL's field of activities;
- ✓ Public procurement

The Annex to the Commission Decision sets out, for each budget line concerned, the details of the various actions scheduled by DG EMPL for 2016.

ANNEX

1.1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in legal basis mentioned under the different appropriations this work programme contains the action to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2016 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): EUR **1.800.000**
- for prizes (implemented under direct management (1.3.) N/A
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.4): EUR **200.000**
- for actions implemented under [insert management] modes (1.5): N/A
- for Financial instruments (implemented under indirect management) (1.6): N/A
- for other actions (1.7): N/A

Any action under this work programme shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Budget line:	15 02 77 12
Legal Basis:	Pilot project within the meaning of Article 54(2)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

1.2 GRANTS

1.2.1 – Call for proposals - A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market.

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The importance and positive impact of learning mobility (including apprentices) for career, skills and personal development has been underlined by the experiences with the Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus+ as well as the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. Promoting work-based learning in all its forms, with special attention to apprenticeships has been identified as a priority in the recently adopted new priorities under the strategic framework for European cooperation on Education and Training 2020. The Riga conclusions have been integrated in the Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on ET 2020 adopted in 2015¹. Vocational

¹ [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52015XG1215\(02\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52015XG1215(02)&from=EN)

training is also a priority in the Commission's Work Program 2016, which announces the launch of a New Skills Agenda for Europe.

The overall goal of this Pilot Project is to facilitate long-term (6-12 months) mobility of apprentices to enable youth to develop their skills thus enhancing future employability prospects and strengthening European citizenship. This will be done by testing different approaches for putting in place the necessary infrastructure (e.g. services including travel & accommodation, language courses, practical welcome information packs, coaching methods, insurance arrangements) to assist with the placement of the apprentices from departure to return.

Projects financed under this Call should set out to achieve the following results:

i) Develop sustainable cooperation structures between competent organisations to ensure quality placements of VET learners and apprentices and more generally develop innovative and sustainable schemes to overcome the impediments to VET mobility. Such networks should involve the following stakeholders:

- VET providers and their representative associations
- Labour Market actors (social partners, chambers of commerce, organisations representing professions or sectors, employment services and economic development agencies)
- Enterprises (including SMEs) and their representative associations
- Youth organisations and associations

ii) Improve and develop the linguistic skills of the apprentice in the language of the host country

iii) Enhance European citizenship through dedicated youth integration activities for apprentices

iv) Ensure the formal recognition and validation of learning outcomes acquired during the placement period of the apprentice

Priority will be given to applications involving relevant stakeholders at local or regional level (e.g. employer and employee organisations, relevant chambers of commerce or crafts or other professional organisations, public authorities) on both sending and receiving side so that actions can be focused, coherent and help put in place long lasting and sustainable structures for further cooperation in the field once EU funding ends. In addition, inter-regional, cross-border mobility and cooperation in sectors with job and growth potential is particularly encouraged.

Description of the activities to be funded

The consortium should implement at least the following activities:

- Identify the candidates for the placement in accordance with the needs of the hosting enterprises and the skills possessed by the apprentices
- Organise induction/welcome sessions and language courses as part of the apprenticeship experience in the host country
- Design and develop detailed learning agreements for the work placements of the apprentices, including relevant curricular content with clear learning outcomes
- Put in place specific activities to facilitate youth integration in the host town/city thus fostering a sense of European citizenship among the apprentices

- Ensure that a enterprises (preferably SMEs) are ready to host the apprentices for the entire duration of their stay

The project should carry out a thorough assessment and evaluation at different stages of the placement experience, allowing for the identification of success and enabling factors to:

- the participation of SME and apprentices in long-term placements in enterprises;
- the integration of long-term mobility into apprenticeship curricula and the recognition of its learning outcomes, in specific sectors and VET fields;
- the identification of outstanding obstacles to long-term mobility of apprentices across EU borders

The consortium should also:

- develop models for, and test, long-term exchanges of apprentices in enterprises
- carry out a regular evaluation of all aspects of the apprentices' stay abroad (namely: preparation, accompaniment, integration, relevance of the training and skills acquired, sense of European citizenship, foreign language development, quality of the teaching and learning environment including testimonies by the apprentices themselves) and foresee feed-back mechanisms to the Commission.

The grant will finance the activities indicated above and other the additional activities related to the setting up of the mobility action.

The grant will not finance the work placements of the students abroad themselves – this support should come from Erasmus+, subject to obtaining a grant under Key Action 1 VET mobility.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Essential eligibility

To be eligible, proposals must respect the following criteria:

- be submitted by a consortium of at least two nationally accredited VET providers, legally established and registered in two different EU Member States, with the sending organisation acting as lead applicant and with the receiving organisation(s) acting as co-applicant(s).
- include as associate organisations at least one host company (preferably SMEs) that is officially registered and that has experience in giving training to VET learners and employs a qualified in-company apprentice trainer.

Selection criteria

- Financial capacity: applicants must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary. (The verification of financial capacity shall not apply to public bodies).
- Operational capacity: applicants must have the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully complete the proposed

action, as well as the ability to implement it (in that sense, being holder of the VET Mobility Charter is an asset). Applicants must have a strong track record of competence and experience in the field and in particular in the type of action proposed.

Award criteria

- (1) Relevance of the proposal to the priorities, objectives and expected results
- (2) Quality of the project design and implementation, f.e. involvement of beneficiaries of Erasmus+ grants for VET learner mobility and holders of the VET mobility charter, who have already ensured the financing of work placements abroad; f.e. the willingness and capacity of the consortium to engage in effective long-term learning agreements;
- (3) Dissemination and potential impact, f.e. targetting trans-national networks of regions, sector-based trans-national networks of enterprises or networks along supply chains to ensure good expertise in the respective professional fields and thus impact.
- (4) – The financial quality of the proposal including a reasonable and realistic budget, as well as its sound cost-efficiency ratio.

Implementation: Directly by the DG

Maximum possible rate for co-financing of the eligible costs: 85%

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Date	Amount
2016-Q2	EUR 1.800.000

1.4 PROCUREMENT

1.4.1 - Implementation of "VET weeks"

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged

Background

The 2015 Riga declaration by the ministers in charge of VET committed to raising the status of VET and increasing cooperation to promote innovation and excellence in VET.

One of the main actions foreseen to do this in 2016 will be the organisation of a VET Week across different Member States. This will be part of the supporting activities to the Pilot Project requested by the European Parliament 'A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market'

Objectives and main features of the actions

The aim of this activity is to support the organisation of a series of events and conferences aiming to raise awareness encourage debate, develop, disseminate and exploit the main topics of the European VET policy agenda and to complement the Pilot Project requested by the European Parliament to the EC 'A European framework for mobility of apprentices: Developing European citizenship and skills through youth integration in the labour market'.

In 2016 the "VET Week" will aim at raising the attractiveness of VET through initiatives that put emphasis on excellence and quality in VET. These could for example include apprenticeship Europe-wide open days, a VET Business Forum, a conference with VET providers, the dissemination of best Erasmus+ VET projects, or the award of prizes for excellence in categories such as VET teachers & tutors, VET learners, or VET providers.

Implementation: Directly by DG EMPL. These activities and events will be implemented by using existing framework contracts under Erasmus +.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount:

Date	Amount
2016-Q2	EUR 200.000