

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

MEMBER STATES – PLANNED REFORMS/INITIATIVES

Considering the Council Declaration¹ on the European Alliance for Apprenticeships of 15 October 2013, **Hungary** will undertake the following measures to increase the quality, supply and attractiveness of apprenticeships.

Hungary has already undertaken, during the last years, numerous measures to establish the system of apprenticeships, as in the Hungarian context, this systemic change was a first stepping stone towards the apprenticeship-type VET system. Therefore, it is necessary to shortly describe these reform measures:

1. Reform of the national VET system. Since the government accessed to office in 2010, a major, systemic reform of vocational education and training started which aimed at strengthening the dual-type or apprenticeship-type model for VET. Policy debates and discussions were intense during 2010 and 2011, and concluded by a completely new Act on Vocational Education and Training fully entering in force as from 1st September 2013 (Act CLXXXVII of 2011 on Vocational Training). Before 2011, the Hungarian VET system was characterized mostly by school-based practical training, provided in school-based workshops. One of the major elements of the new act was that it enlarged the legal basis and the possibility for companies to receive apprentices with training contract. As formulated in the act: ‘at economic entities or other bodies or organizations authorized to provide practical training’. (The new act is available in English language in case it is required by the Commission.)
2. Support provided to companies receiving apprentices. As a first element of the support, financial aid is provided to companies receiving apprentices with a Training Contract. This financial aid is given in the form of a normative sum which has been even augmented during the past year. A second element of support is a change within the majority of the administrative process of receiving apprentices, in terms of disburdening the companies from the administrative tasks during this process.
3. Information-provision towards the different players on the apprenticeship scheme and on the advantages of the Training Contract. This task has been partly undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and has been realised in the form of direct contact information-provision towards companies, as well as in the form of media-campaign elements. A whole-scale national campaign is also run by the National Labour Office providing information on the dual system, on VET qualifications, on possibilities of the Training Contract towards the 3 following target groups: students, parents, employers at <http://dualis.hu/>.

¹ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lisa/139011.pdf

As for new, future policies, the following measure is expressly dedicated to enhance the supply and attractiveness of apprenticeships:

‘Guarantee by the Chamber’

This guarantee means an assurance provided by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for VET students to organise the practical training placement at a company.

Please describe in 1-3 sentences the **main objective** of this reform/initiative.

The main objective of this initiative is to increase the number of students undertaking their practical training at a company, through the apprenticeship scheme. At the same time, the role of VET educational institutions and their willingness to keep VET students within the school practical workshops is to be diminished. Altogether, the objective is to enhance participation in the company-based, apprenticeship-type VET scheme.

Please **describe the reform/initiative**, by providing an overview of the next steps to increase the supply, quality and attractiveness of apprenticeships, along the common guiding principles defined in the Declaration. (Max. 15 lines)

According to the present system, and legislation, ie. the Act CLXXXVII of 2011 on Vocational Training, it is possible to undertake the practical training of VET either in the training workshops of schools (or state adult education institutions) or at economic entities. The chamber of economy facilitates the conclusion of training contracts. In the Hungarian system, the training contracts are the legally prescribed formula of the apprenticeship-type VET, concluded between the student and the company. In the case that the contract is not concluded as a result of the involvement of the chamber of economy, the chamber informs the VET school and the school shall arrange the student’s practical training.

As the goal of the government is that the number of apprenticeships grows considerably, the reform named ‘Guarantee by the Chamber’ is aimed at giving the chamber of economy even more rights to intervene and to stimulate, assist students and companies to co-operate and to conclude a training contract. According to this reform, the chamber would guarantee for each and every VET student to find a placement for practical training at a company. In case this may not be possible, due to any real hindering facts, the chamber shall issue a certificate stating that at the present circumstances, it is unreal to provide the student with a practical training placement and training contract, therefore she/he may undertake practice at the school workshop.

What is the **added value** of the reform/initiative beyond business as usual? Please include information on expected outcomes, as well as targets or indicators of success if possible. (Max. 10 lines)

The added value of this initiative should be, of course, that apprenticeship-type VET education becomes more widespread as well as a long-term, real co-operation develops among the different players of the system. This would be, according to the government’s intentions, the success and the realization of the legal and policy framework already ‘in hand’. As an indicator, during discussions about this initiative, a target number of 20 000 VET students has been defined. These 20 000 VET students should receive the possibility to undertake their practical training at companies, by the conclusion of a training contract.

What **partners** will be involved in the reform/initiative at the national and the European levels?

As described above, the main partner in this initiative is the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Of course, companies being and becoming more active in receiving VET apprentices also play a crucial role; therefore they are also regarded as partners.

Contact information, date:

Ministry for National Economy, Department of VET and ALE

Katalin Zoltán (Ms)

katalin.zoltan@ngm.gov.hu

<http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-for-national-economy>

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