

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

MEMBER STATES – PLANNED REFORMS/INITIATIVES

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

Main objective

Slovenia commenced the reform of upper secondary vocational and technical education and training in 2006 and fully implemented it in 2011. The system is designed to include about 60% of professional content and 40% of general content; the professional content is related to the professional field. The system is evaluated and monitored and continuously adapted to employers' needs and the labour market, respectively. The programmes are modularly designed and valued by credit points, with 20% of the open curriculum that schools can adapt to the needs of their professional fields. Such openness facilitates a flexible response to labour market requirements and rapid reactions to needs for new content.

At the moment, in the period of recession, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that provide work-based learning for upper secondary students have been completely exhausted by the crisis and face great difficulties in the implementation of such learning, so attention and activities have had to focus on three aspects:

- 1) employers and the possibility of provision of work-based learning;
- 2) promotion and popularisation of vocational and technical education and training;
- 3) integration and coordinated work of responsible sectors and social partners.

Description

1) To encourage the work-based learning of upper secondary students further incentives are foreseen, and resources for them are earmarked in the framework of ESF.

Inter-company training centres (ICTC) that are quite well distributed across Slovenia (19) will be assigned certain new tasks to strengthen links between employers and schools, and new tasks in the field of training for the unemployed, employees and upper secondary students.

2) Because of the great decline in enrolment in upper secondary vocational and technical education programmes, the activities will continue to focus on the promotion of professions, especially those in which the young are not interested, but are in strong demand in the labour market, and rare professions.

The activities include the maintenance of the existing counselling centres and counsellors in basic and upper secondary schools that are under the authority of the ministry responsible for education, and the establishment of career centres under the auspices of the ministry responsible for employment, with the aim of providing comprehensive information and counselling services to pupils and upper secondary students in the process of choosing their

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

profession and career development.

3) In order to improve the cooperation and integration of social partners as well as different sectors, the establishment of Coordination working group for vocational and technical education and training is foreseen that will include social partners and other sectors involved in vocational and technical education and training.

We will also draft an initiative for the amendment of the act regulating the status of upper secondary student/apprentice in work-based learning with the aim of considering apprenticeship as employment and including it in calculating years of service.

Added value

1. Appropriate support for verifications of work-based learning jobs; support for the training of mentors in the work process and cooperation of competent chambers will provide support to employers in overcoming personnel shortage in undertakings and provide an appropriate number of quality work-based learning jobs in undertakings reserved for upper secondary students and unemployed persons. In addition, ESF resources will continue to provide incentives to employers aimed at including young people in practical training. Inter-company training centres will be assigned new tasks to facilitate the attainment of additional qualifications and re-qualifications for unemployed and employed persons. The centres will oversee the attainment of general and professional competences for the further education of employed and unemployed persons. We will qualify them for the recognition and confirmation of professional competences, also with the aim of further education. They will also provide practical training, especially to cover areas that cannot be ensured by employers.
2. We will promote cooperation among educators, employers, regional services of the Employment Service of Slovenia, as well as the local communities in which individual inter-company training centres are located, with the aim of fulfilling the local needs of the economy.
3. Intersectoral coordination will provide a uniform policy and the coordination of all stakeholders in the system of vocational and technical education and training and in developing work-based learning

Partners

Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, employers (Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia and Slovenian Chamber of Commerce), trade unions, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training, Employment Service of Slovenia and others.

Contact information, date:

Slavica Černoša

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport,

The Secondary, Higher Vocational and Adult Education Directorate

Masarykova 16

1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

e-mail: slavica.cernosa@gov.si

tel: + 386 400 53 76

14 January 2014