

Launch of a European Network of Cities4Apprenticeships

European Alliance for Apprenticeships – Online meeting

— 11 June 2020 (10:00 – 12:00)

The idea of a network of cities for the promotion of apprenticeships originated during a European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) event in September 2019. Since then, the European Commission and the Metropolitan City of Rome have been working together to kick-start the network's activities. The first meeting of the European Network of Antwerp Oslo Cities4Apprenticeships was held online on Thursday 11 June 2020. The meeting brought together about 14 European cities and marked the first step towards the Amadora Lyon Wiesbaden creation of the network. The initiative is spearheaded by the Metropolitan City of Rome (Italy) and supported by the European Commission within the framework of the EAfA. The meeting aimed to present the network to the participants, including its goals and aspirations. It was also an opportunity to engage with the participating cities, putting together ideas and contributing to shaping the network and its activities.

A new building block in the EAfA architecture

During the online event, Virginia Raggi, Mayor of the Metropolitan City of Rome, reiterated the strong support of the city to the network. The mayor stressed the importance of sharing ideas and experiences and translating them into concrete actions. She also shared the vision of a network able to collaborate with the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions, channelling proposals and new ideas. Among others, the network can fuel the consultative process for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and have an impact on the European policies implemented during the new programming cycle 2021-2027. This vision was supported by the European Commission. At the meeting, Norbert Schöbel, DG EMPL, highlighted how the experiences of local and regional authorities can bring useful insights for the development of new policies like the Skills Agenda, Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Support. He remarked that the role of the network will become even more important ahead of the challenges that European cities will face in the post COVID-19 phase.

Role of the cities

More than 70% of the European population live in European cities, a share that is expected to grow to up to 80% by 2050. Cities and municipalities can be catalysts for the development of apprenticeships by bringing together key players across several levels: local, regional and national. One of the primary goals of the network will be to raise awareness of the potential that the cities have to support apprenticeships. Ultimately, through the network, cities will be able to learn from each other, collaborate, develop tools, share good practices and provide and receive technical and policy assistance.



European cities participating at the event



"The launch of the European Network of Cities represents an important moment for European cities to reflect on challenges, such as the transition to a green and digital economy" - Mayor of Rome, Virginia Raggi

European Network of Cities4Apprenticeships aims and objectives:

- Involve and activate stakeholders in innovative and/or high social impact actions at local level;
- Strengthen the policies and interventions of metropolitan cities, creating a link between active labour policies and sustainable development in the territory;
- Encourage the development of green skills as well as digital skills in apprenticeships;
- Develop and implement redevelopment courses capable of responding to often very rapid job market changes with a view to improving working and social life;
- Support training as a driver for innovation and sustainable and fair urban development.



European
Commission

Existing practices

At the meeting, three cities' representatives showcased existing experiences contributing to the promotion of apprenticeships through collaboration with local actors.



City of Lublin Connecting apprenticeships and local development

The city of Lublin works to provide local and international students with opportunities to find suitable apprenticeships. To do so, the city works closely with businesses and key stakeholders to increase the number of opportunities for apprentices and overcome some of the existing challenges (i.e. language barriers, ensuring achievement of learning goals within established apprenticeship durations, developing IT digital solutions for remote learning experiences).



Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur Pedagogical continuity during the COVID-19 outbreak

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Metropolitan City of Nice made learning management one of its priorities. Given the disruption to in-person learning, the city has focused on a multidisciplinary approach to training while developing digital solutions for remote learning. In doing so, city authorities brought together students and employers to identify innovative solutions to the unprecedented challenges, leveraging opportunities in the development of new learning methods.

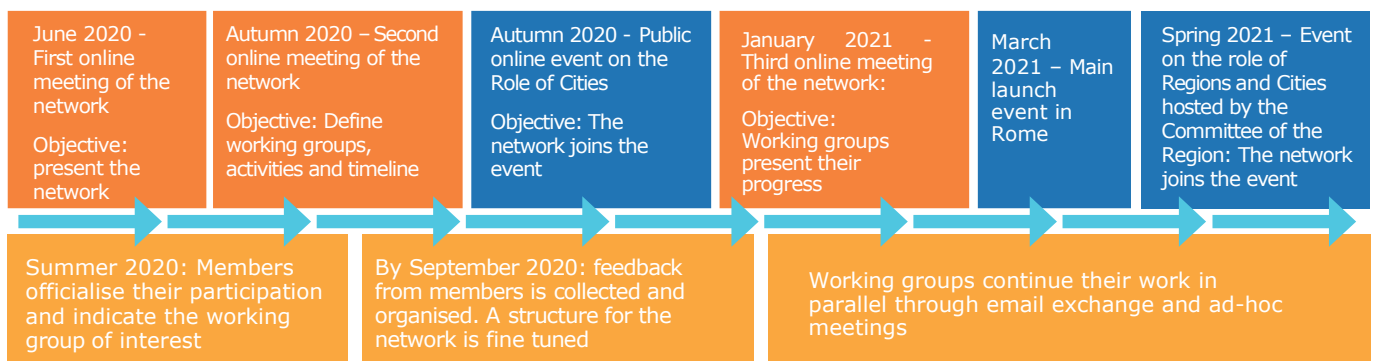


Grand Lyon Promoting skills excellence: The WorldSkills competition

The city of Lyon will host the WorldSkills competition in 2023. In view of this event, the city has launched an ambitious plan to ensure the strategic planning of the event in line with the area's public policy priorities in education and employment. The plan includes an ambitious partnership building objective with local companies and Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers with an aim to increase the region's attractiveness for apprentices and promote the image of VET professions and training.

Network organisation and next steps

The activities of the network will be coordinated by the Metropolitan City of Rome in collaboration with the EAfA. At the meeting, Maria Fabiani, Advisor of the Metropolitan City of Rome, provided an overview of the network's work plan. The first step will be to create different working groups where network members can come together and work on green skills, digital skills, non-financial measures to support apprenticeships and enhancing cooperation between cities, among others. The progress made in the working groups will be presented at the network's meetings (the next one planned for autumn 2020). The roadmap below provides an indicative overview of the overall plan.



For more information, please contact the Cities4Apprenticeships Secretariat at cities4appren@cittametropolitanaroma.it

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