



European
Commission

The renewed European Alliance for Apprenticeships

The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) aims to strengthen the supply, quality, image and mobility of apprenticeships. Since its launch in 2013, 36 countries have made national commitments under the alliance; these include the 27 EU Member States, all 5 candidate countries and all 4 European Free Trade Association countries. Also, 332 pledges have been made by various apprenticeship stakeholders. Since 2013, companies, employers and intermediaries have pledged to provide over 900 000 apprenticeship and other training or first-job opportunities to young people.

In order to give a renewed boost to apprenticeships across the EU, the Commission's Youth Employment Support package of 1 July 2020 announced a renewed EAfA. The renewed alliance calls for new commitments on digital and green apprenticeships, focusing on the economic sectors that will be at the front line of the transition to a climate-neutral Europe.

By bringing together governments, social partners, businesses, chambers, regions, youth organisations, vocational education and training (VET) providers and think tanks, the renewed EAfA will unlock decisive actions by all actors.

In particular, it will involve:



- Encouraging commitment among Member States and companies to quality and effective apprenticeships, by fostering national apprenticeship coalitions;



- Incentivising support to small and medium-sized enterprises providing a stable supply of quality and effective apprenticeships;



- Mobilising local and regional authorities as catalysts for apprenticeships within the local business environment;



- Strengthening social dialogue through more active involvement by national social partner organisations;



- Proactively engaging European sectoral social dialogue committees on apprenticeships, with a view to obtaining agreement on joint sectoral pledges;



- Supporting the representation of apprentices in the Member States by relaunching the European Apprentices Network.

In addition, the renewed EAfA will continue to secure current pledges as well as encouraging new ones, and it will address important horizontal issues such as gender, social inclusion and internationalisation of VET.

The renewed Alliance will be embedded in the Pact for Skills as part of the European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience.

The Commission's Youth Employment Support package of 1 July 2020 includes the following:

- The **Commission Communication on Youth Employment Support: a Bridge to Jobs for the Next Generation** sets out steps for averting a new youth employment crisis. It proposes a reinforced Youth Guarantee, a modernised VET policy, a renewed focus on apprenticeships and a number of additional investment priorities to help young people. The communication also clarifies the vast array of EU funding instruments that can be mobilised to this end.
- The **Commission Communication on a European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience** puts forward 12 EU actions aimed at supporting partnerships for skills, upskilling and reskilling for jobs and empowering people to keep learning throughout their lives. A major deliverable will be a new Pact for Skills, to be launched in November 2020 during European Vocational Skills Week. It sets ambitious quantitative objectives at EU level and outlines how the EU will support investments for skills.
- The **Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Bridge to Jobs – reinforcing the Youth Guarantee** provides a fresh look at our most established labour market intervention. It broadens the target group to those aged 15-29 and reinforcing support for those who are hardest to reach. The reinforced Youth Guarantee also steps up the skills dimension by preparing young people for an increasingly digital world of work, with targeted trainings of short duration.
- The **Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience** provides the recipe to make sure VET equips young people and adults with the skills necessary to support both the recovery and the green and digital transitions while also ensuring inclusiveness. It also puts forward EU-level actions to support VET reform and provides clear quantitative objectives.