

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

NATIONAL COMMITMENT

Contact details:

COUNTRY	Iceland
Ministry	Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
Contact person, title:	Björg Pétursdóttir, Head of Division
Email:	bjorg.petursdottir@mrn.is
Website:	https://eng.menntamalaraduneyti.is/

Short description of the **ministry / ministries involved**

The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is responsible for policy and legislation at all school levels from pre-primary, primary, upper secondary education to higher education. Vocational education and training (VET) in Iceland is organized at upper secondary level and takes place both in school and in apprenticeships based on contracts between learners and companies. The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture issued a White Paper on Education Reform in 2014 which carries provisions on actions to be taken to enhance and strengthen VET and apprenticeships in order to make VET more appealing to young learners and to support quality in work-based learning.

Focus of this commitment – tick relevant box(es)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supply | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Image | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility |

Short description of the **reform(s)/initiative(s)**

The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture will work towards improving quality in work-based learning by encouraging companies to provide responsible apprenticeships and by introducing log-books as a guide for students while studying at the workplace. It is of utmost importance that companies sign apprenticeship contracts with their students right at the outset of the training period, but this commitment has been somewhat lacking in Iceland. Furthermore, work on the implementation of log-books for work-based learning will commence and be finalised during this initiative. The aim is to secure the quality of the education and ensure that the education goes hand in hand with developments in the field. An on-line log book will include descriptions of the tasks of the job and assessment of training as it progresses. It is also planned that it includes e.g. templates for contracts with the workplaces, lists of workplaces, diplomas, etc.

Added value of the commitment

The added value of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) initiative will hopefully contribute to a more focussed learning in the workplace, more active involvement and responsibility of the companies and the trainers in the training of apprentices which will make

The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) is a multi-stakeholder initiative to strengthen the supply, quality and image of apprenticeships. The commitment will be published on the EAfA webpage.

Web: ec.europa.eu/apprenticeships-alliance

Email: empl-eafa@ec.europa.eu

sure that the time in the company will be well spent and benefit the learner in reaching the prescribed competences.

On-line logbooks - 2017- 2020

More and structured cooperation between schools and the companies is foreseen and a more structured VET system. On-line logbooks are furthermore foreseen to be a tool to aid in the validation of former work and training in the workplace for people with little formal education. The initiative will improve the overall quality of the vocational education and training programmes, make them more attractive so that students choose a vocational career at a younger age.

Partners involved in the initiative:

The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture will involve stakeholders in the work to secure successful implementation. Stakeholders from the upper-secondary school level will include representatives from administrators from the Upper-Secondary School Association (SMÍ) and from VET teachers. Representatives of social partners will also be involved coming from SI - the Federation of Icelandic Industries, Federation of Icelandic Labour and from IDAN - Vocational Education and Training Centre. VET Occupational Councils will also be involved in the work as well as a representative/s from The Directorate of Education. Furthermore, we will include representatives from the Upper Secondary Students Union and guidance counsellors.