

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

MEMBER STATES – PLANNED REFORMS/INITIATIVES

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

Main objective

As a part of implementing the Youth Guarantee, the Ministry of Education and Culture will start an action program aiming to renew the apprenticeships scheme as well as work-based learning of young people. The aim of the program is to increase learning by apprenticeships and to develop education models that combine both training institution –based vocational education and training and the apprenticeships. Also models combining flexible forms of vocational education and working are being developed for the young people. The actions are targeted to young people under 25 years of age, and without upper level vocational qualification.

For those aged between 20 and 29 who have completed only basic education before the Youth Guarantee takes effect, a Young Adults' Skills Program will provide better opportunities and training leading to a degree or other qualification. The program will be organized during the period 2013–2016. In the program, young people will be able to gain an upper secondary vocational, further vocational or specialist vocational qualifications.

Description

In order to increase and strengthen the apprenticeships and work-based vocational education, following state subsidies will be granted in 2014:

- development of a pre-period to apprenticeships: 5 M €
- training of apprenticeship trainers: 2.5 M €
- increased grants for employers: 5 M €
- development of assisted apprenticeships: 0,8 M €
- promoting work-based learning of the young people as well as flexible combination of work and education: 8 M €

Furthermore, accomplishment of parts of qualifications is being promoted via increasing the support granted for apprenticeships students by 2,3 M €.

Alltogether, additional financing for apprenticeships is 17,8 M € during the period of 2014-2015.

Most actions will be commencing in 2014. Increased grant for employers has already started 1.6.2013.

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

In the Young Adults' Skill Program, 1000 posts of apprenticeships will be resourced for organizing professional continuing vocational education in the form of apprenticeships for those aged between 20 and 29 who have completed only basic education.

Public employment and business services support employers in recruiting new personnel. Employer may be eligible for a pay subsidy when hiring an unemployed jobseeker also for apprenticeship training. A pay subsidy is always discretionary and based on the needs of the unemployed jobseeker. The TE Office will assess the extent to which work on a pay subsidy would improve the jobseeker's possibilities of finding work, professional skills, competence and labour market position. The TE Office will also make a decision on the amount of subsidy to be paid and the period over which it will be paid on a case-by-case basis. A pay subsidy may be granted for the entire duration of apprenticeship training.

Added value

Development projects financed by state subsidies have the following aims:

- to facilitate the apprenticeships form of education both for the students and the employers
- to facilitate the transition of the students between different forms of education
- to promote the accomplishment of parts of VET qualifications
- to develop counselling of young students in work-based learning
- to compensate the costs of the counselling and education of young apprenticeship students for the employer

Partners

All activities of the action program are being developed in close cooperation between the employer and labor organisations, educational administration, responsible ministries and providers of vocational education in Finland. All partner organizations are also involved in the implementation of the action programme

Contact information, date:

National ministry/authority, responsible official, email, website

Ministry of Education and Culture,
Ms Mari Pastila-Eklund, Counsellor of Education.
e-mail: mari.pastila-eklund@minedu.fi;
www.minedu.fi