

## **European Alliance for Apprenticeships**

### **Member states – planned reforms/ initiatives**

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

1. Please describe in 1-3 sentences the **main objective** of this reform/initiative.

In Latvia the apprenticeship initiative (work-based learning scheme) is being implemented as part of the overall VET reform. The main objectives of this initiative are: 1) to improve the quality of practical training in the national VET system through its better matching with the labour market demand; 2) to improve the relevant skills of young people and promote their employability; 3) to ensure a comprehensive approach and involvement of social partners – the education institutions, employers/ employers' organisations, the employees organisations and public administrations at national and local level to secure closer links between education and work also in future.

2. Please describe the reform/initiative, by providing an overview of the next steps to increase the **supply, quality and attractiveness of apprenticeships**, along the common guiding principles defined in the Declaration. (Max. 15 lines)

1) In Latvia in 2014 a pilot project in work based learning has been initiated in 6 VET institutions, with the involvement of 29 enterprises in 17 different programs (qualifications). It is planned to expand the activity, involving more VET institutions and encouraging national partnerships with social partners (also through the sectoral expert councils) in the design, implementation and governance of apprenticeship schemes, together with other relevant stakeholders.

2) In order to ensure conformity of person's professional and social skills for living and competitiveness in work environment, EU funds support in the programming period 2014-2020 for apprenticeships will be allocated for VET programmes. In cooperation with social partners and businesses new or improved practical training schemes in VET will be introduced with support from EU funds. Development of work based learning, experience and practice based studies in VET will be ensured by developing cooperation with businesses and upgrading skills of VET personnel and study programmes.

3) In cooperation with the Ministry of Welfare discussions are being conducted on possibilities to use apprenticeships as one of the options in the implementation of the Youth Guarantee (YG) schemes. The YG scheme in Latvia aims at a comprehensive approach to education, training and employment. It focuses on those who have insufficient levels of education or qualifications to meet the employers' demands. This implies returning of those young people to the education system, mostly VET. Quality apprenticeships within the VET system are highly important for the success of the scheme. However, Latvia is among those member states where apprenticeships outside the education system are not implemented, thus avoiding labour market segmentation based on different forms of employment contracts.

3. What is the **added value of the reform/initiative** beyond business as usual? Please include **information on expected outcomes**, as well as **targets or indicators** of success if possible. (Max. 10 lines)

Better links between education, training and employment, improved VET attractiveness and the quality of practical training. As a result of the analysis of the implementation of the pilot projects in work-based learning, discussions with social partners will be continued on the possibilities to introduce WBL at systemic level. With the support from EU funds, the planned outcomes are as follows: the number of VET students taking part in practical training schemes or apprenticeships with ESF support is 18 500 VET students in 2023. As for the YG scheme, the set of indicators is part of the ESF common indicators – the aim is to provide a broad and sufficient information on YG participants and their success on the labour market after participation in different measures.

4. What **partners will be involved** in the reform/initiative at the **national** and the **European levels**?

At national level comprehensive approach is being implemented for education, training and employment. The involved parties are: the Ministry of Education and Science (to a certain degree also the Ministries of Welfare, Economy, Agriculture and Finance), the Employers' Confederation, the Free Trade Union Association, the local governments, the VET providers. At European level the involved parties will be: The Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany. Partners from other countries, e.g. Austria.

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## Contact

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