

**EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS**  
**MEMBER STATES – PLANNED REFORMS / INITIATIVES**  
**THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC (SVK)**

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

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

*The main objective of the reform of VET system in Slovakia is to introduce apprenticeships schemes through the new act of vocational education and training and enable the smooth transition from education to the labour market. Also it will provide the opportunity for the employers to enter the process of vocational education and training and be responsible for it by supporting employers with some financial incentives.*

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**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.**

*The new features of this act are the elements of dual education system so the pupils and employers can choose between the traditional path and this „new apprenticeship model“. Those elements include so called apprenticeship treaty between the employer and the pupil. In this treaty the employer agrees to provide the designated vocational training in agreed field of study and the employer will cover all costs of the training and will pay the pupil some remuneration. The general education will be provided by VET schools and will be financed by the state. There will be further tax benefits and compensation for investment of employers to the VET system.*

*Also, there is a national project which promotes the professional VET orientation of pupils of primary schools (Promoting polytechnic training in primary schools) in order to raise the attractiveness of VET.*

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**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.**

*Added value of this reform is in higher involvement of employers in the process of vocational education and training and strong connection of education and the labour market. The responsibility for performance will be on the shoulders of the employers in order to acquire a qualified workforce and also in order to support the competition on the labour market. The process of improvement of vocational education and training is a long term process and those introduced measures are only the first phase of the ongoing reform which started already in 2009. The second phase should be focused on small and medium size enterprises in accordance with the experiences from current planned phase of the reform.*

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

*At the national level there are all representatives of employers (chambers) involved in the process of coordination of VET system in Slovakia. At the bilateral level there is ongoing cooperation with Austria and Germany, mainly with Austrian and German employers in certain region of Slovakia concentrating on enhanced cooperation of all actors of VET in particular fields of study and occupations and pilot the elements of the dual education system. Also, there is an ongoing cooperation with German partners in accordance with the Memorandum on Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training in Europe signed in December 2012 in Berlin. All above mentioned projects are expected to show us practical point of view and possible solutions for a further advancement of VET system in Slovakia.*

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