

BUILDING A SKILLED EUROPE: APPRENTICE LEARNING MOBILITY AT A CROSSROADS

***24 September 2025
Spinelli 7H1-European Parliament***

BACKGROUND

Apprenticeships are widely considered as an important driver for skills development and economic competitiveness. They offer excellent employment prospects and contribute to social cohesion and economic prosperity. Although the exact number of apprentices across Europe is difficult to determine, it is generally assumed that apprentices make up a significant part of VET and that their total number has grown over the past years (see CEDEFOP: "What is new in IVET", 2025).

The growing importance of apprenticeships has been accompanied with an increased attention to their specific features. The Recommendation "Europe on the Move" (C/2024/3364) called for learning mobility for everyone and provided a policy framework for apprentice mobility. Actors involved in apprenticeships face specific challenges in following these recommendations. Integrating learning periods abroad can be complicated as apprenticeships include an employment relationship with a training company and require a finely calibrated balance between work and school-based learning.

Thanks to the strong commitment of various stakeholders, the overall number of mobile apprentices has nevertheless increased. Several factors have contributed to this. To make their training offer more attractive, VET providers have reinforced internationalisation strategies. There is more awareness that learning mobility during apprenticeships is possible and that it brings huge benefits. Similarly, some European companies have identified learning mobility as a means to attract talents.

The uptake of apprentice mobility would, however, not have been possible without dedicated support initiatives. The systemic integration of VET and apprentice mobility requires the active involvement of companies, VET providers and institutional actors. Mobility support bodies, such as the members of the European Coalition for Apprentice Mobility, have played a crucial role in this respect.

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The event will bring together representatives of EU institutions and members of the Coalition to discuss how the positive dynamic of VET and apprentice learning mobility can be maintained and reinforced.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- Reaffirm the political commitment of EU institutions to apprentice learning mobility as a pillar of the European Education Area and the Union of Skills.
- Highlight achievements and lessons learned from projects supported by the European Coalition for Apprentice Mobility.
- Discuss remaining barriers and solutions, including support for SMEs, mobility coordinators, and recognition of learning outcomes.
- Frame apprentice mobility within EU priorities, including competitiveness, the green and digital transitions, and social inclusion.
- Advocate for reinforced EU support, in particular through a stronger Erasmus+ budget, targeted ESF+ measures, and synergies with other EU programmes.

FORMAT AND PARTICIPANTS

9:30-10:30 – High-level meeting

- Opening remarks: Valérie Hayer, President of Renew Europe and
- Keynote: Jean Arthuis, president of EAM
- Keynote: Roxana Minzatu, EVP for Skills and Education
- Exchange with MEPs and members of the Coalition

Coffee break

10:45-12:00 – In-depth working session

1. Opening remarks: Nicolas Schmit, former Commissioner and Brigitte van den Berg, MEP
2. EU initiatives for VET and apprentice mobility presented by DG EMPL and DG EAC
3. Current issues, perspectives and expectations of the members of the European Coalition for Apprentice.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ★ A political signal in favour of strengthening apprentice mobility in the upcoming EU skills and budgetary agenda.
- ★ Greater visibility for mobility support bodies and VET providers as essential drivers of Europeanisation in vocational training.
- ★ Concrete recommendations for policy and funding measures, including the recognition of mobility coordinators, reinforcement of Erasmus+ and ESF+, and engagement of SMEs.
- ★ A strengthened coalition of partners and stakeholders committed to reaching the objectives set by the Council of the EU for VET and apprenticeships.

EUROPEAN COALITION FOR APPRENTICE MOBILITY

FACTS

The European Coalition for Apprentice Mobility brings together eleven organisations in Vocational Education and Training (VET) from eight EU member states. The members of the coalition and associated partners represent 2,000 VET providers, which trained 1,000,000 apprentices and organised more than 20,000 apprentice mobilities in 2024, notably through Erasmus+.

APPROACH

Systematically incorporating exchanges into VET curricula requires the active involvement of companies, VET providers and institutional actors. This boosts the skills of learners and contributes to attractive quality VET. The European Coalition for Apprentice Mobility unites publicly recognised organisations, which act as accelerators of learning mobility in their respective VET systems. As a network of mobility support bodies, we foster both operational and institutional cooperation, such as:

OBJECTIVE

Learning mobility plays a significant role in promoting skills development, economic prosperity and social cohesion. While international learning experiences have become a standard practice for students in Higher Education, VET learners and apprentices still have fewer opportunities to spend part of their education and training abroad. The European Coalition for Apprentice Mobility has the objective to enhance VET and apprentice mobility and to contribute to achieving the 12% target of mobile VET learners set by the Council of the European Union by 2030.

- **Designing** comprehensive mobility projects within interconnected networks focusing on sector-specific needs and recognising learning outcomes;
- **Exchanging** good practice among mobility support bodies to improve the training of mobility coordinators and increase the involvement of employers;
- **Lobbying** national and European institution for legal frameworks, funding schemes and policies facilitating learning mobility.

PARTNERS



ROC Midden Nederland: Large VET provider in the centre of the Netherlands offering over 200 vocational qualifications in most sectors to more than 19,000 students in 16 different locations.



Generalitat de Catalunya - Departament d'Educació: Regional Ministry of Education of the Government of Catalonia.



International Young Workers Exchange: Service association in the field of apprenticeship mobility, supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy and Labour, the Austrian Economic Chambers and the Federation of the Austrian Industry.



Euro App Mobility: VET network organisation supported by the French Ministry of Labour and cooperating with the main French VET providers.



Lukasiewicz Research Network - Institute for Sustainable Technologies: Public research institute focused on technology transfer and continuing vocational education that develops systems, models and tools supporting and integrating education with innovative economy and labour market.



Scuola Centrale Formazione: VET association recognized by the Italian Ministry of Labour supporting a network of VET providers.



Institute for School Quality and Education Research: Branch of the Bavarian Education Ministry coordinating the network of VET providers in the state.



EU-Geschäftsstelle Wirtschaft und Berufsbildung der Bezirksregierung Arnsberg: EU Affairs Office of the District Government of Arnsberg, regional public authority with a network of VET providers and representing the working group on VET of the German-Polish Intergovernmental Commission.



UMIH Hauts-de-France: the Federation of the Hospitality Industry and Associated Professions in the Hauts-de-France region, a professional organisation representing 5000 companies

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS



Agence Erasmus+ France Education et Formation: French public body in charge of implementing the Erasmus+ programme in the areas of education and training.



Czech National Agency for International Education and Research: Publicly funded organisation under the competence of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

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