



ETUCE

Press Release



ETUCE: Strengthen social dialogue on the professional development of VET teachers and in-company trainers

13 October, 2014

ETUCE, the European-level social partner in education, the trade union organisation, which represents 11 million teachers and trainers in Europe (including non-EU countries), welcomes and supports the focus of the today's and tomorrow's discussion of the *Director-Generals for Vocational Education and Training (DGVT)* of national ministries in Rome on the professional development of the VET teachers and in-company trainers via partnerships.

Initial Vocational Education and Training should be further improved to be the first choice for more young people in Europe, and to lead also to tertiary education.

"All forms of VET deserve the best-qualified teachers and trainers." –said Martin Romer, European Director in relation to the DGVT meeting. He underlined that *"Involvement of teachers' trade unions in the design, implementation, development, and improvement of the EU and national VET policy is imperative and still requires further progress"*.

As the pace of technological change quickens and workplace practice constantly changes, VET teachers need access to continuous up-skilling throughout their careers. Teachers need the support of school heads and companies to keep these skills updated.

Thus, continuous personal and professional development courses should be available free to the teachers, which should be taken during the working hours. ETUCE suggested to the European Commission [in its response](#) to the [public consultation on EU2020 Strategy](#), that further European-level targets could be made, such as: *"Minimum 10 % of the working time of teachers in all education sectors should be spent on continuous professional development."*

Finally, Martin Romer highlighted: *"The role of partnerships between schools and companies, with the essential involvement of the trade unions, in particular of the teachers' trade unions, is indeed an important factor in the professional development of VET teachers and trainers. All partnerships should be built on effective social dialogue and with the involvement of the social partners in all levels (European, national, regional and local)."*