

Stronger cooperation with teachers is a must to achieve quality VET and apprenticeship in Europe

20 April 2015

Today, on 20-21 April, the Director-Generals for Vocational Education and Training (DGVT), the European Commission and European-level cross-sectoral social partners are meeting at the invitation of the Latvian Presidency.

As one of the discussion topic of this event is the preparation of new policy priorities for 2015-2020 to improve European VET and apprenticeship systems. We would like to stress that it is necessary to focus on the quality of teaching and training provision and the role of the VET teachers and school / in-company trainers to achieve the objectives. In order to do so, it is essential to involve the teachers' trade unions on policy reforms.

This has been the 5th year that we organised a training seminar for national VET experts of teachers trade unions supported by European Trade Union Institution last week (14-17 April 2015) related to our [commitment](#) to implement the [European Alliance for Apprenticeship](#) .

[European Trade Union Committee for Education, ETUCE](#) and many of its member organisations have pledged for the European Alliance for Apprenticeship ([AOB, the Netherlands](#); [GEW - Germany](#); [LPSK and FLESTU; Malta Union of Teachers](#) ; [NSZZ Solidarnosc, Poland](#) ; [NASUWT, The Teachers' Union, UK](#); [UNSA-Education, France](#)). ETUCE used this training also to encourage other member organisations to commit themselves to the goals of the European Alliance for Apprenticeship via adapting it to national situations, and use the pledge as a tool of enhancing actions on improving teaching and training in VET and apprenticeship.

In order to fully deal with the topic, "*Improving competences of VET teachers and trainers*", we [visited Nestle factory](#) in Girona to learn about the new training programme of the company related to their [pledge](#) and what role teachers and trainers play in it. Teacher trade unions praised Nestle for this excellent commitment and regretted that this is still only one of the few corporate commitments in Europe for young people.

VET experts of teachers' trade unions from across Europe underlined that when policy makers talk about apprenticeship they tend to forget the essential role VET teachers, trainers, mentors and coaches play to build knowledge for students in work-based learning.

We believe that it is high time to face with the challenges for teachers and trainers to guarantee that quality is embarked in VET and apprenticeship systems. Governments should invest to update technologic equipment in VET schools to appropriately prepare the students for in-company practice and decrease skills mismatch. Teachers of VET schools should be provided with possibility to update their technologic skills in companies.

We call governments to improve social dialogue with educational social partners in order to provide a student-teacher-, and company-friendly environment to build sustainable quality VET and apprenticeship systems. "*Only through a stronger cooperation between social partners, governments, companies and all the sectors involved quality VET and apprenticeships could be delivered*", concluded Martin Rømer, ETUCE European Director.

Further information: Click [here](#)



The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) represents 131 Teacher Unions and 11 million teachers in all countries of Europe, 4.2 million teachers in the EU, from all levels of the education sector. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and a European Trade Union Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of **Education International**, the global federation of teacher unions.

e-mail: secretariat@csee-etu.org
Phone : +32 (0)2 224 06 92

Please do not reply to this e-mail
To unsubscribe from this email,
please follow this [link](#)

To support the work of ETUCE,
please [forward this message](#) to
your friends and colleagues.

To subscribe to this email visit
the [ETUCE homepage](#)