

Joint ETUCE and EFEE Statement on improving Vocational Education and Training in Europe

23 November, 2017

The European Social Partners in Education, EFEE (European Federation of Education Employers) and the ETUCE (European Trade Union Committee for Education) are committed to improve the attractiveness and image of Vocational Education and Training (VET).

Strongly believing that VET is a vital part of the education sector and that appropriate measures are needed to make it more attractive for both students and adults, ETUCE and EFEE welcome the second European Vocational Skills Week and highlight the prominent role of teachers, trainers, school leaders, other education personnel, education trade unions and education employer organisations in achieving its aims. Acknowledging the work done at cross-sectoral level and committed to improve the quality of vocational education and training, EFEE and ETUCE build on the experience acquired through discussions and exchanges within their European Sectoral Social Dialogue in Education (ESSDE), i.e. in the framework of the ESSDE [Work Programme 2016-2017](#), and of the [joint pledge](#) (2015) on improving apprenticeship systems as supporting the goals of the [European Alliance for Apprenticeships \(2013\)](#).

EFEE and ETUCE recognise the vital need for high quality VET and apprenticeship systems and are committed to undertake jointly further measures to make VET more attractive to society and the school community as a whole, including teachers, trainers, other education personnel, school leaders, students and their families with a view to:

- Improving the role and status of VET teachers, trainers school leaders and other education personnel;
- Contributing to high quality learning outcomes for VET and apprenticeships to better prepare students for life, further education, and quality jobs, by ensuring that students are supported both in the pursuit of their studies and during apprenticeships by qualified teaching professionals and trainers with up-to-date and appropriate skills;
- Promoting the implementation of the Riga Conclusions (2015) and the goals of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships.

The European Social Partners in Education therefore invite the European Union institutions to support member states to:

- Improve the quality of VET institutions to enhance learning environments that are free of gender stereotypes for students and work environments for teachers, trainers, school leaders and other education personnel;
- Promote further investment in the VET systems in particular to teaching, workshops and equipment of VET institutes to keep up with technical developments and provide quality education and training to the students and education personnel;
- Promote fair partnership between VET institutions and companies in order to create more and high quality apprenticeships;
- Enhance the professional technical training and upskilling of VET teachers, trainers, other education personnel and school leaders;
- Focus on improving the recruitment, retention and status of VET teachers, trainers and VET school leaders, including their high quality working conditions and remuneration;
- Promote the involvement of social partners in the development of high quality apprenticeships and work-based learning schemes.

This statement has been adopted by the ESSDE Plenary on 23 November 2017.

Brussels, 23 November 2017.

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Susan Flocken
ETUCE European Director

Handwritten signature of Daniel Wisniewski in black ink.

Daniel Wisniewski
EFE General Secretary