

Employability must be central to Erasmus for All

In a letter sent to members of the Education & Culture Committee of the European Parliament prior to tomorrow's hearing on the "Erasmus for All" programme, EUROCHAMBRES underlined the pivotal role of Vocational Education and Training (VET) in tackling rising levels of unemployment in many parts of the EU, especially among young people.

Explaining the letter, EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General Arnaldo Abruzzini commented: *"VET, especially apprenticeship schemes, is key to the employability of people leaving full-time education. It is no coincidence that those countries like Austria, Denmark and Germany which have adopted robust and structured VET schemes, combining academic study with workplace experience, have the lowest levels of youth unemployment across the EU."*

While welcoming the overall rise in the EU budget allocation for education and training tabled by the Commission, Chambers urge the Parliament and Council to increase significantly the proportion of the Erasmus for All programme dedicated to VET.

"We call for at least one-third of the Erasmus for All programme to be allocated to VET-related activities," said Mr Abruzzini.

No business perspective

EUROCHAMBRES also expressed its surprise at the exclusion of business representatives from the European Parliament hearing on "Erasmus for All".

"I am sure that MEPs share our desire to ensure that the new programme stimulates jobs and growth. We would have been happy to reflect with them on how this might be achieved during the hearing tomorrow, but it seems that they do not consider the business perspective a priority. We hope that MEPs will nonetheless see sense and give their political backing to ambitious EU level VET actions for the post 2014 budget period," concluded Mr Abruzzini.



Chambers of Commerce are key players in raising skills

Every year:

People receiving training qualifications from Chambers	2,600,000
Apprenticeships managed by Chambers	900,000
People following Chamber distance learning courses	40,000
Chambers cooperating with education and training institutes	81%
Chambers involved in governance of national vocational education and training (VET)	75%
Chambers directly delivering VET	60%

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