

Reaction to OECD report on education: vocational training must be alternative to university

Today's OECD report "[Education at a Glance](#)" identifies a high percentage of young people as neither employed, nor in education or training (NEET). This confirms an alarming trend across the EU.

The OECD seems to emphasise the importance of encouraging more of these NEETs to pursue a university qualification, but Chambers also stress the importance of effective vocational education and training (VET) strategies in reducing youth unemployment.

"Acquiring skills through apprenticeship schemes may be more beneficial to youth employability than purely academic qualifications," argues Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES.

EUROCHAMBRES thus urges Member States to place Vocational Education and Training (VET) at the centre of the EU's jobs and growth agenda and to allocate EU structural funds to putting in place VET delivery mechanisms. As a further measure to encourage the development of skills and competences Chambers also highlight the need for greater recognition of informal and non-formal learning.

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