

Revolution in education systems is vital to reduce youth unemployment

A revolution in national education systems, with a greater integration of workplace experience in academic curricula, is necessary to tackle rising levels of unemployment in many parts of the EU, especially among young people. Thus, Vocational Education and Training (VET) should be placed at the centre of the EU's jobs and growth agenda.

This was the key message delivered by EUROCHAMBRES today, during a high-level conference in the European Parliament. EUROCHAMBRES also called on policy makers to ensure that apprenticeship schemes and structured professional training are adequately reflected in the ongoing negotiations on the 2014-20 EU education programme 'Erasmus for All'.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, EUROCHAMBRES' Secretary General, commented: *"VET, especially effective apprenticeship schemes, is key to the employability of people. It is no coincidence that those countries like Austria, Denmark and Germany which have adopted robust and structured VET schemes have the lowest levels of youth unemployment across the EU."*

EUROCHAMBRES also highlighted the need to:

- increase significantly the proportion of 'Erasmus for All' dedicated to VET;
- channel the use of structural and cohesion funds (both the current and the post 2014 financing period) to support the establishment of effective apprenticeship systems across the EU;
- foster greater mobility among apprentices and promote VET as an attractive option that enjoys a parity of esteem and smooth links with full-time tertiary education.

Mr Abruzzini concluded: *"Education policy remains a national responsibility, but EU level actions can add considerable value, not only in relation to mobility, but also in promoting effective measures and supporting their delivery. VET must be a key element in delivering the growth agenda that rightly dominates EU leaders' discussions at the moment."*

EUROCHAMBRES' recommendations on Vocational Education and Training (VET) can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=4465



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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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