

3RD EP4A NEWSLETTER

Workshops | Help-desk lines | Info-days | CEDEFOP

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Information Open Days in Croatia

Within the attractiveness campaign of EP4A project, **info days** on **apprenticeship** in Croatia are organized. Info days will be held in October at the international business fair SASO in Split and in November in Rijeka within the European Vocational Skills Week.

Study Visit to Munich

The **study visit** to **Munich** will be organised during the international craft fair in March 2018. The study visit participants will be employers from Croatia, Slovakia and Serbia who will find about the experiences and motives for taking apprentices through the direct contact with German employers.



Advocacy training Workshop in Croatia

Advocacy Training Workshops held in Croatia and Serbia

In **May 2017**, **advocacy training workshops** were held in **Croatia** and **Serbia** with the aim to strengthen skills of key staff such as help-desk staff and VET experts. Participants were introduced to lobbying and advocacy, as well as models of successful communication, connecting and networking. Both workshops were adapted to the needs of experienced participants as well as participants without the experience in lobbying and advocacy. During the workshop in Croatian, participants had the chance to develop their skills through teamwork by working on subjects related to project activities, namely the organisation of info days and designing and preparation of apprenticeship partnership formation workshop. At the workshop in Serbia, participants worked on subjects such as establishing more efficient communication and building strategic relationships with all stakeholders in dual education. Besides that, the examples of successful cooperation and networking with schools, employers and other institutions were presented in detail. Workshop participants in



Advocacy Training Workshop in Serbia

Serbia were satisfied especially with concrete answers to relevant questions as well as detailed guidelines and suggestions for further strategic actions.

First apprenticeship partnership formation workshops held in Croatia and Serbia

One of two main EP4A project aims is establishing partnership between all key stakeholders in VET like ministries, agencies, chambers, VET schools, social partners and employers. After conducting country research on VET and employers' needs analysis and producing reports, next steps are concrete activities with the aim to formalize the



Apprenticeship Partnership Formation Workshop in Croatia



3rd Partners' Meeting

The EP4A project **3rd Partners' Meeting** was held on 18 and 19 September 2017 at the Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok in Bratislava. Partners from Croatia, the UK, Slovakia and Serbia discussed on the first half of project implementation and next steps. Besides that, partners shared their experiences at the meeting regarding organised advocacy training workshops in Croatia and Serbia as well as first workshops for apprenticeship partnership formation. Also, the Attractiveness Campaign Strategies and Action Plans were presented. Partners presented their dissemination activities and Exploitation Action Road Map implementation was discussed. Moreover, the Project Management Committee meeting was held at which partners discussed project implementation issues, and the Quality Assurance Experts meeting at which partners verified completed project deliverables such as country reports (Croatia, the UK, Slovakia, and Serbia), need analysis reports, Synthesis Report and Best Practice Handbook. All documents are available on the project web page.

work of apprenticeship partnership. Regarding the given aim, the workshops have been organised in Croatia (July 2017) and Serbia (August 2017). At the workshop in **Croatia**, Mr Mario Antičić, the State Secretary from the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, participated as well and pointed out how the quality VET in accordance with the labour market needs is the priority for the Croatian Government. During the discussion, workshop participants identified strong points and challenges in apprenticeship, suggested potential solutions and defined roles and responsibilities of apprenticeship partnership stakeholders. In that way, the template for further work of apprenticeship partnership formation was prepared, which will be continued at the second workshop on 12 October 2017 for Croatia.



At the workshop in **Serbia**, the representatives of local authorities, VET schools and enterprises participated. At workshop's end, the ceremony of signing the Agreement on conducting practical classes between the Engineering-technical school from Čačak and enterprises Weltex d.o.o., Tiffany Production and P.S. Fashion d.o.o. from Čačak for the period 2017-2020 was held. The agreement regulates the conducting of practical classes during the period of three years for the education of students for the qualification of fashion tailor.

In conclusions from workshops in Croatia and Serbia, the relevance of communication between all stakeholders in order to assure the quality of VET and apprenticeship was especially emphasized.

Help-desk lines in Croatia, the UK and Serbia

Within the EP4A, an introduction of specialised **help-desk lines** for employers interested in taking apprentices was planned.

Help-desk line in Croatia was introduced at the end of September 2017. One can receive general information on apprenticeship (benefits, reasons to take apprentices, occupations for which one can take an apprentice, legal provisions, etc.) and also information on issuing the licence for taking apprentices. Help-desk line in the UK was also introduced at the end of September, while the line in Serbia will be introduced at the beginning of November 2017.



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Participation at the first Policy Learning Forum on Apprenticeships organised by CEDEFOP

As a stakeholder directly involved in CEDEFOP's Thematic Country Review on Apprenticeships in Croatia, a representative of Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts participated in the first Policy learning Forum on Apprenticeships organised by CEDEFOP. The Policy Learning Forum took place on 7 and 8 September in Thessaloniki. The Thematic Country Reviews are in support of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships and aim to set up or improve national apprenticeship



systems, in cooperation with stakeholders. At the forum, country representatives presented the main findings of the TCRs in their countries and ways of improving the reviews as well as apprenticeship systems were discussed. The forum workshops examined apprenticeships' place in education and training systems, governance, training content and learning outcomes, participation of

companies and support to companies. Cost-benefit analysis of apprenticeships was presented and discussed the second day. The discussion at the forum showed that countries have similar problems. One of the main conclusions was that if there was no joint vision of all stakeholders – it is not possible to develop quality apprenticeship training.

In her closing word the Cedefop Deputy Director stressed the need for companies to be involved, noting that even the best-designed apprenticeship systems and governance structures will not work if companies do not buy in.

There have been three rounds of TCRs. The first round, in Malta and Lithuania, was concluded in 2015; the second, in Greece, Italy and Slovenia, finished in mid-2017; the third started in early 2017 in Cyprus and Croatia. As part of this round, Cedefop is also piloting a light version called flash TCRs in Belgium (French-speaking Community) and Sweden.

Contact us!

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