

# 2<sup>ND</sup> EP4A NEWSLETTER

## State of Play Analysis | Capacity Building | Dissemination

### EP4A project presented at the 7th meeting of European Alliance for Apprenticeship

Within the European Vocational Skills Week, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 at the 7<sup>th</sup> EAfA stakeholder meeting on "Making apprenticeships attractive", the General Secretary of Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts Ms Violeta Jelić presented the EP4A project on the *Policy panel on attractiveness of apprenticeships - Examples of good practices from different stakeholders*.



## State of Play Analysis

At the beginning of the EP4A project, project partners decided to conduct the state of play analysis in the area of apprenticeships in all project countries (Croatia, the United Kingdom, Slovakia and Serbia). The analysis was based on the methodology designed by partners from Slovakia (RDA Senec-Pezinok). The methodology comprised of the following elements:

**state of play analysis** based on **desk research**, **needs analysis** through **surveys**, **interviews** and **focus group meeting**, and a **good practice examples** template.

Desk research analysis involved contextual research from the specific country with regards to the labour market, economic sectors, the size of enterprises and especially the VET system. A special segment of the research was related to the apprenticeship system in project countries; its characteristics, legal framework, learning content and outcomes, key stakeholders cooperation, financing mechanisms, quality assurance and finally, challenges, strengths and recommendations. Surveys, interviews and focus groups allowed the EP4A partners to engage with employers, especially SMEs to learn about their view

	Surveys	Interviews	Focus Group
Croatia	759	250	5
United Kingdom	42	5	5
Slovakia	23	1	8
Serbia	31	65	4

point on apprenticeships, the wider apprenticeship sector, identified obstacles in the sector and how to overcome these obstacles.

The research has shown that project countries are all facing similar issues in relation to apprenticeships and SMEs. The following recommendations have been highlighted:

1. *To secure the continuous apprenticeship provision in the economy, with the sufficient number of hours and with approved learning outcomes;*
2. *To empower partnerships on local, regional, national and EU level;*
3. *To ensure methods to inform employers about the benefits of apprenticeship and available incentives;*
4. *To secure the administrative support for employers regarding apprenticeship by providing expert facilitators between the education sector and employers;*
5. *To ensure the recognition of employers offering apprenticeship;*
6. *To ensure financial support for training mentors in the economy;*
7. *To ensure incentives for buying materials and equipment necessary for employers who are offering apprenticeships;*
8. *To promote vocational education in order to increase the interest of young people for enrolment in vocational programmes.*

The research results will be compiled in the final Synthesis Report.

Furthermore, partners completed a good practices research activity in their countries as well as in selected EU Member States (Germany, Austria, Poland, Denmark, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Bulgaria, Romania and Greece). This research will be compiled and published in the EP4A Good Practice Handbook.

Both documents will be published at the beginning of May 2017 in digital format on the project website, social media and partners' websites.



## 2nd Partners' Meeting

The meeting was held in pursuance of the Study Visit to London. Among other things, partners participated in presentations and discussion about WP1 research results and reflected on the Synthesis Report and Good Practices Handbook. Partners' representatives discussed planned and conducted activities for every work package. Also, during the meeting, the Project Management Committee and Quality Assurance Experts meetings were held.

## We are online!

EP4A project website and social media platforms were officially launched in January 2017. **EP4A website** offers information about project aims, objectives, partners, activities and expected impact, as well as latest news and events. Here you can also find a gallery of photos from our events, EP4A factsheets and you can sign up to receive our newsletter. There is also a contact form for all questions concerning the project and apprenticeships in project countries.

You can follow us on our **Facebook** page, **Twitter**, **Google +**, **Linkedin** and **Youtube**.

## Brief info

From 1 January 2017, the Regional Chamber of Commerce Kraljevo merged with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (CCIS), the national intermediary body, which made the Regional Chamber one of the regional branches of CCIS. The new title of the Chamber is the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia – Regional Chamber of Commerce of Moravice and Raška Administrative Districts. Since CISS became the universal legal successor of the Regional Chamber of Commerce Kraljevo, it acquired all rights and obligations from the Regional Chamber, which includes also the participation in the EP4A project.

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## Disclaimer

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# Capacity Building Study Visit in London

The EP4A Capacity Building Study Visit was held from the 27th March 2017 to 31st March 2017. The Study Visit was hosted by Rinova Ltd, EP4A project partner from the UK. 19 participants took part in the Study Visit: 7 from Croatia, 6 from Slovakia and 6 from Serbia. The objectives of the Study Visit were: to enhance current skills and knowledge of relevant human resources in Croatia, Slovakia and Serbia; to support the building and workings of Apprenticeship Partnerships; and to enable delegates to effectively reach out to SMEs. Study Visit participants had the opportunity to visit and hear presentations from different organisations which offer apprenticeship related services, such as **15billion-ebp**, **MiddletonMurray**, **CareerWise**, **FashionEnter** and **Mr Jamie Stevenson**, director of **Business Partnerships** at **South Thames College**.



The UK apprenticeship system is different from the apprenticeship system participants were acquainted with, so within the Study Visit, they have acquired numerous insights in how to approach SMEs and apprentices in order to increase the number of apprenticeship places. The participants had lots of questions which were answered readily by experts. Participants will apply and further enhance acquired insights at planned workshops. The participants will further enhance their knowledge through national Advocacy Training Workshops, which are planned for May 2017, and will use this knowledge for future Apprenticeships Attractiveness Campaign activities, especially for their work on help-desk lines, as well as planned workshops, round tables and meetings with the aim to establish Apprenticeship Partnerships.

