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The Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts has started Get involved in EP4A: European Partnerships for Apprenticeships project

Zagreb, 26 October 2016 – The Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts (HOK) has started Get involved in EP4A: European Partnerships for Apprenticeships project. The project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

The specific objective of EP4A project is to promote apprenticeships through partnership building between intermediary bodies, companies, VET providers, public authorities and social partners from project participating countries. The key target group are trades and crafts, small and medium enterprises, especially those having no or limited experience in apprenticeship.

Project partners are RINOVA Ltd from the United Kingdom, RDA Senec-Pezinok from Slovakia, RRC Kraljevo from Serbia and Trades and Crafts Chamber for Munich and Upper Bavaria as an associated partner.

The overall project value is 460.181,00 EUR, consisting from the 80% of EU funding and the 20% of own funding.

Main project results, within the 24 month duration of the project, are building and strengthening partnership between businesses, VET providers and intermediary organisations together with public authorities and social partners with the aim that as much trades and crafts, small and medium enterprises as possible get involved in apprenticeship as well as raising awareness about the benefits of apprenticeship among targeted trades and crafts, small and medium enterprises through implementation of the awareness raising campaign.

Tackling labour force skill mismatches and increasing employability of young people, including via the expansion of apprenticeship places in trades and crafts, small and medium enterprises, is considered the common challenge shared by all project participating countries. Many trades and crafts, small and medium enterprises are reluctant to recruit apprentices due to various factors, including internal shortfalls, burdensome or incomplete regulatory frameworks and inadequate awareness of the real benefits of work-based learning (WBL). Therefore, all project participating countries have recently launched reforms aiming at further promoting apprenticeship programmes in line with the EU policies strategic goals, said Mirela Lekić, the Deputy General Secretary of the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts, for the media.

During the project lifetime, numerous activities will be held, i.e. workshops, study visits, designing of the Employers' Guide for Trades and Crafts, Small and Medium Enterprises, round tables and partnership building/strengthening meetings, apprenticeship awareness raising campaigns, opening of help-desk line for trades and crafts, small and medium enterprises which are taking apprentices, in all four countries, info days for trades and crafts, small and medium enterprises, and also, there will be designed a special trademark for trades and crafts, small and medium enterprises involved in the apprenticeships in Croatia, Slovakia and Serbia.