

# 5TH EP4A NEWSLETTER

Final Conference | Apprenticeship Partnership | Promotional Activities

*As we can consider the apprenticeship to be the diamond on the top of the vocational education crown, the EP4A project is the pinnacle of efforts by the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts to improve vocational education system. The project achieved exquisite results in Croatia, as well as in partner countries, especially in building apprenticeship partnerships and promoting apprenticeship among employers.*

Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts



## International expert conference concludes Get Involved in EP4A: European Partnerships for Apprenticeships project

On **12 September 2018** in Zagreb, the final conference for Erasmus+ project Get Involved in EP4A: European Partnerships for Apprenticeships has been held.

All participants were welcomed by Mr **Dragutin Ranogajec**, the President of Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts. After the welcoming speech, project activities in project countries were presented, which achieved two key results: partnership formation between key stakeholders in vocational education and training and raising awareness on benefits of apprenticeship through targeted attractiveness campaign. Ms **Irina Jemeljanova** from Cedefop presented novelties in vocational education and training at the European level as well as “Thematic Country Review on Apprenticeship in Croatia”. The research paper focused especially on the unified model of education, which has been recognized as the Croatian model of dual education, and during the panel discussion on the topic “**Cooperation and partnership for quality apprenticeship**”, which gathered vocational education and training experts from all project countries, Ms Jemeljanova concluded that the unified model of education is like “the Cinderella who needs more care and

*Through EP4A project activities, it became clear that linking Employers, with bodies such as Education Business Providers, and Apprenticeship providers who were not actively engaging with Policy and Decision makers was a real opportunity to offer something unique to the sector. There is now real scope to develop a sustainable and engaging Apprenticeship and VET partnership strategy.*

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*The EP4A project enabled networking and creation of focused partnerships of individuals and organisations relevant for the topic of dual education. During its implementation achieved increasing of knowledge, exchange of experience, building capacities and building partnerships of the intermediary organisations and other stakeholders, and also extended the reach out to the wider audience. Topic of specific conditions of crafts entrepreneurs and SMEs within the dual system was given higher priority in the national context, and it is very important that the work done has to be further developed.*

Regional Development Agency  
Senec-Pezinok

attention in order to become the princess”.

In the final part of the conference, **apprenticeship ambassadors** were presented, who have been awarded the “trademark” designed as the sign of quality for crafts, small and medium enterprises implementing the apprenticeship. “Trademark” was awarded to Ms Klaudija Fadljević Gomerčić, Mr Petar Klopota, Mr Slavko Petrinc, Mr Josip Ribičić, Ms Mirjana Šeb Čišmežija, Mr Tomislav Šimić, Mr Joško Tafra and Mr Miljenko Vuk. Also, ambassadors have signed the Statement of support to apprenticeship partnership.

The employer from Serbia, Mr Ivan Radovanović was also awarded a “trademark” by Ms Mirjana Kovačević from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Serbia.

The conclusion of conference was that all partners and participants will use project results in their everyday work in order to improve the vocational education and training in their countries. To this aim, all project partners have signed the Declaration of Intent to future cooperation in the area of apprenticeship, securing the sustainability of project results.

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Partners' Meeting



The final partners' meeting for the EP4A project was held on **13 and 14 September 2018 in Zagreb, Croatia**. At the beginning, partners' representatives expressed their satisfaction with the organised final conference, which not only presented implemented project activities and their impact in project countries but also gathered numerous experts in the area of apprenticeship making it a relevant expert conference. The meeting continued with the presentations on project activities implemented in each project country and partners shared information on the development of the vocational education and training in their countries. Also, the Project Management Committee meeting and the Quality Assurance Experts Meeting were held to discuss the quality of project results which have been

finished. The representatives from partner organisations expressed their satisfaction with the EP4A project and especially praised the project management by the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts. Also, they expressed their interest for future cooperation on projects in the area of vocational education and training.

*Because of the EP4A project, great success was accomplished in introducing and further developing the dual model of education in Raška and Moravica Districts. We're especially proud of the partnership we established with all stakeholders at the regional level, as well as the attractiveness campaign we conducted, which resulted in more employers getting involved in apprenticeships and more students enrolling in dual model of education.*

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Serbia- Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Moravice  
and Raška Administrative Districts

# The implementation of project activities in partner countries

## Apprenticeship Partnership Meeting in Croatia

**Apprenticeship partnership meeting in Croatia** was organised on **17 April 2018** at the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts. The aim of the meeting was to present activities conducted from areas of legal framework, financial and non-financial support, promotion and quality assurance and to discuss on future activities and partnership functioning after the project ends. It has been concluded that the next meeting will be organised in October 2018 and after it every six months.



## Apprenticeship Partnership Meeting in the UK



In **July 2018**, Rinova, organised an **Apprenticeship Partnership Meeting in London, UK** with key stakeholders representing a variety of VET and Apprenticeship bodies. The partnership meeting aimed to build a foundation of strategic partnership working between: Apprenticeship Providers; Education Business Partnerships; Employers; and wider sector focused organisations with an interest in the Apprenticeship industry and the sustained development of Apprenticeships and VET on a local, regional, national and European level. The Apprenticeship Meeting included an overview of the successes of Erasmus+ EP4A, and how specifically we could launch a UK network which would add real value to the sector in the UK. A range of discussion points were included on the agenda and also focused on future partnership and action strategy for the next 24

months. The meeting discussion points included partnership networking, collaborative model of apprenticeship, education business partnerships and apprenticeships, promoting the UK apprenticeship model to other countries, linking employers and apprenticeship providers, linking employers and apprenticeships. The Apprenticeship Meeting subjects, fed into partners' wider interests and strategic development focus. A key decision of the meeting, was to continue to connect, liaise and hold future partnership meetings focusing on Apprenticeships and VET in the UK and build relations with chamber of commerce and other business bodies.

## Attractiveness Campaign and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in Slovakia

In Slovakia, from **26 to 27 April 2018**, the "Young Creator 2018" event was held. The main aim was not only to offer support to high schools but also to support dual education system by offering equal opportunities for both sides – students and employers. Also, at the event, **Open Information Day in Slovakia** was organised. At the info-stand of the Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok one could get all the information on the dual education as well as ways and main advantages of entering into the



dual education. Also, participants could get info materials and the Employers' Guide through the Dual Education System was specially promoted. Besides, the **“follow-up” dual education partnership formation workshop in Slovakia** was organised. Apart from presenting EP4A project aims, participants discussed legislative changes. After workshops, **the apprenticeship partnership in Bratislava region** was established. Regional apprenticeship partnership is based on the Memorandum of Understanding connecting keys stakeholders – intermediary bodies – the Craft Chamber of Slovakia – the Regional Chamber Bratislava, the Regional Development Agency Senec-Pezinok, the Regional Chamber of Economy Bratislava and the State Institute of Vocational Education in Slovakia, which is the main coordinator for dual education in Slovakia. **The Memorandum of Understanding in Slovakia** went in force by the date of last signing, i.e. **29 June 2018**. Signatories have agreed that they will support each other in activities for the development of dual education, share information, contacts and experiences and further develop initiatives for the improvement of the dual education in Slovakia. On **24 September 2018**, the signatories held the **Apprenticeship Partnership meeting** in the premises of the State Institute of Vocational Education.



## Apprenticeship Partnership Formation in Serbia



On **15 May 2018** in Čačak, Serbia the **Memorandum of Understanding for Apprenticeship Partnership Formation** has been signed between the town of Čačak, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Serbia – Regional Chamber of Moravice and Raška Administrative Districts, Economics and Engineering schools and two enterprises from Čačak, P.S. Fashion and Tiffany, as the continuation of project activities. After that, the **meeting of Serbian apprenticeship partnership** was organised on **31 May 2018** in Čačak. The **second Memorandum of Understanding** was signed on **18 August 2018 in Kraljevo** between the town of Kraljevo, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Serbia- Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Moravica and Raška Administrative

Districts, 5 vocational schools and 7 enterprises from Raška district.

### Novelties in the area of vocational education and training

- The National Curriculum for Vocational Education and Training published (July 2018)
- The dual model of Education in Croatia finished (July 2018)
- Novelization of the Act on VET in Slovakia introduced new measures enhancing the incentives to join the Dual System for employers and VET schools (September 2018)

### Employers Guides for Apprenticeships

[Croatia](#)

[Serbia](#)

[Slovakia](#)



# Concluding remarks

*Rinova has really enjoyed being part of the Erasmus+ EP4A project, meeting partners - especially their networks who visited Rinova in March 2017 as part of the Capacity Building activity. We very much hope we can continue to work together in promoting Apprenticeships to SMEs, while also promoting Apprenticeships and wider Work-Based Learning opportunities in the UK, Croatia, Serbia and Slovakia in the years to come.*

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*The EP4A project confirmed that making partnerships and creating synergy is crucial for functioning apprenticeships, that need for partnerships is often declared, but in practice can be quite complicated and requires a lot of dedicated effort and focus over longer periods of time. We aim to sustain the energy invested in the partnerships created within the EP4A, and maintain and develop achieved results together with our current and maybe future partners.*

Regional Development Agency Senec- Pezinok

*The project enabled not only the further development of the newly introduced dual model of education, but also the collaboration with partners from different countries, from whom we learned a lot. We hope that we will continue to collaborate in the future and work toward the development of the dual model of education.*

Chamber of Commerce and Industry Serbia- Regional  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Moravice and Raška  
Administrative Districts

*For the Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts, it has been an honor to lead the EP4A project. We succeeded in accomplishing all project goals and even more. Apart from the apprenticeship partnerships we developed in the project, we built a consortium partnership and we hope that we will continue to work together to our goal- improvement of the vocational education and training in our countries.*

Croatian Chamber of Trades and Crafts

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