

# Setting up a European quality framework for apprenticeship and work-based learning

Apprenticeships are recognised as one of the most effective ways of enabling young people make the transition from school to the world of work.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) has recently coordinated a project entitled 'Towards a European quality framework for apprenticeships and work-based learning, which led to the production of a booklet<sup>1</sup> and a resolution with a set of recommendations discussed and approved by its Executive Committee.<sup>2</sup>

The ETUC is now engaged in the next stage of this process and, together with the Trades Union Congress (TUC), is coordinating a project entitled 'Setting up a European quality framework for apprenticeship and work-based learning'.

One of the objectives of the project is to produce a study which would investigate the following themes:

- National obstacles which trade unions encounter in terms of the implementation of apprenticeship strategies and what can be done to improve the situation in terms of availability of apprenticeships and of trade union involvement
- What can be done to support national unions in their participations and implementation of the European Alliance for Apprenticeship and the ETUC resolution?
- How can the use of the EU tools (EQF/NQF, EQAVET/NQAVET, ECVET, Europass) help to implement the European Alliance for Apprenticeship at national level with the involvement of social partners?
- What can be done to improve the quality of apprenticeships, and what should be included in a 'European Quality Framework for Apprenticeship'?

The study will draw on the experience of social partners (trade unions and employers' organisations), and national agencies dealing with EU initiatives (EQAVET/NQAVET, ECVET, EQF/NQF and Europass).

The Trades Union Congress has commissioned Dr Jeff Bridgford, Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Education and Professional Studies, King's College London, to carry out visits to 20 EU Member States as a basis for the preparation of this study.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.etuc.org/publications/towards-european-quality-framework-apprenticeships-and-work-based-learning#.VLd-L3ugtUF>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.etuc.org/documents/etuc-resolution-improving-quality-apprenticeship-and-work-based-learning#.VLd-unugtUE>

