



## “EuroApprenticeship” project launched to support apprentices’ mobility

*Web platform announced at “Leonardo da Vinci” anniversary, online at [www.euroapprenticeship.eu](http://www.euroapprenticeship.eu)*

Brussels, 9 November 2010 – A project to increase the mobility of apprentices in Europe was officially launched today by UEAPME, the European craft and SME employers’ organisation, and by its French member APCMA, the Permanent Assembly of French Craft Chambers, at a conference organised by the European Commission to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Leonardo da Vinci” programme. The “EuroApprenticeship” project will create a “network of mobility networks” to link expertise and resources, spread coverage and develop services, in particular through a web-based platform. The goal of the project is to make placement abroad a realistic and feasible option for apprentices and other young persons in alternate vocational education and training (VET) in all EU Member States. Besides the network and the web platform, which is online as of today, project partners will provide a “toolbox” of best practices, set up a “European Observatory on Learning Mobility in VET” and promote apprentices’ mobility by increasing its visibility and by creating a label. The project, which is led by APCMA under the political coordination of UEAPME, is co-funded by the Commission and is scheduled to run until December 2012.

*“Europe will not be able to reach the goals of the ‘EU 2020’ strategy without the full contribution of its younger generation. Promoting learning mobility for all young people is therefore a key priority for action, as recently recognised by the ‘Youth on the Move’ initiative. However, despite the progress made in the last years, tertiary education students still benefit from a higher degree of mobility compared to apprentices and to other youth in vocational education and training. We believe that it is high time for both to be put on equal footing, and we hope that the project which we are launching today will contribute to this end”,* said Education and Vocational Training Policy Director **Liliane Volozinskis** at the EC conference.

The creation of the EuroApprenticeship **web-based platform** is only a first step, stressed Ms Volozinskis. The website will promote the benefits of mobility and act as information relay for enterprises, apprentices and training centres. It will also facilitate networking and encourage the establishment of sustainable partnerships between competent authorities and intermediary bodies supporting mobility of apprentices. Finally, the web platform will promote the role of craft enterprises and apprenticeship as a potential source of employment.

The second action line will be the promotion of a “**network of networks**”. This work will be based on already existing mobility projects, tools and networks that have been successfully implemented by project partners or associated organisations in the last years, explained Ms Volozinskis. Moreover, the project is designed to encourage the participation of all interested organisations, which can apply online to become members. It will also organise a series of peer learning activities and networking seminars to provide expertise, information, help and support to any learning mobility project in place.

For some intermediary organisations and competent bodies, getting information and tools on the web platform is not enough to easily deal with all the dimensions of mobility, continued Ms Volozinskis. Project partners will therefore develop a “**toolbox**” and provide **services** such as training for trainers, fund raising and partner research.

To develop and monitor its own activities, the EuroApprenticeship network will establish a “**European Observatory on Learning Mobility in VET**”, which will provide indications about the evolution of the “brand awareness” of mobility through a regular “**EuroApprenticeship Barometer**”. The Barometer will collect and analyse data on qualification systems and frameworks, alternated training systems and methods as well as on mobility programmes. To give more visibility to learning mobility and to valorise the role of VET providers and companies, the project will also create and disseminate a “**label**” for the intra-EU mobility of apprentices, providing specific communication tools such as the logo above.

*“The goal of all these actions, which will take place in the next two years, is to make learning mobility the rule for apprentices, rather than the exception as it is still the case at the moment”,* concluded Ms Volozinskis.

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**EDITORS’ NOTES:** UEAPME is the employers’ organisation representing exclusively crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 85 member organisations covering over 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner. For further information: <http://www.ueapme.com/>

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