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**Emne:** Short summary EAfA meeting, Brussels 22nd February

**General remarks**

* The 10th EAfA stakeholder meeting took place on 22 February 2018 in the premises of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Brussels.  The meeting focused on four items: Updates by EFTA including Liechtenstein and other newcomers joining the Alliance, the results of the 3rd EAfA survey, the European Apprentices Network position paper on Key priorities for quality apprenticeships, as well as a thematic focus on incentives for apprenticeships.
* Around 70 participants attended the meeting in Brussels, in addition to over 150 connected via live web streaming. There were also active social media posts in particular on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/EU_Social/status/966603952753127424) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanYouthEU/posts/1599461503423216) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5026659).

**Main content of the meeting**

* The **introductory session** included a presentation on the European Economic Area and Norway Grants Youth Employment Fund by the EFTA-Financial Mechanism Office.  A special welcome was given to Liechtenstein, which explained its national commitment bringing the numbers to 36 national commitments under the EAFA – 27 MS, and all EFTA and candidate countries have joined.  During the session, the region of Catalonia, the Autonomous Province of Piemonte, Unioncamere Piemonte and Kulturlife gGmbH also joined the EAfA. The total number of EAFA pledges is now at 236 including also newcomers, such as SAP SE and ImproveAway.
* The Commission presented the results of the **3rd EAfA survey** organisedsince its launch in 2013.  Overall progress in implementation of the pledges was noted with particular mention of the activities by the **Cornwall Marine Network**, **APCMA,** **OAED** and **CONFEBASK**.
* There was a range of **contributions and updates from EAfA stakeholders**, including from the **Fundación Bertelsmann**, on the Spanish National Alliance for Dual VET, the **Swedish National Education Agency** outlining recent reforms on apprenticeships, information by the **German Federal VET Research Institute** on the Jobstarter programme supporting companies in apprenticeships as well as the education chains initiative, updates from **Nestlé** on the 'Alliance for YOUth' pledge with extensive activities in the context of the 2nd European Vocational Skills Week and **WorldSkills Norway** presenting the Norwegian Vocational Skills Year 2018.  Comments of participants included information by **Don Bosco International** on a new brochure 'Job Labyrinth' as part of an Erasmus project on inclusive integration to work through VET.
* The Commission informed about the **latest EU level policy developments,** e.g.the **European Social Pillar of Rights**, which includes an education and training dimension, the proposal for a **European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships** and the **apprenticeship support services** to be launched in November in Vienna.
* Members of the **European Apprentices Network** presented their position paper on Key priorities for Quality Apprenticeships and launched their new website.
* The **ILO** presented the first volume of the **Toolkit for Quality Apprenticeships** as a resource to improve the design and implementation of apprenticeship systems and programmes which was developed with financial support of the European Commission.  It provides a comprehensive set of key information, guidance and practical tools for policy-makers and practitioners who are engaged in designing and implementing Quality Apprenticeships.
* On **incentives for apprenticeships**, **Cedefop** presented a Study of Financing apprenticeships / dual VET in the EU, while the **OECD** presented its report on incentives for apprenticeship. There was large consensus that financial and non-financial - and sometimes non-financial even more - are important issues to encourage in particular employers to get engaged in apprenticeships.
* On **apprenticeship updates from other services of the European Commission** two examples were presented.  Visionary Analytics elaborated on a study commissioned by DG GROW on the Monitoring of the learning commitment in the construction sector. Around 1 in 4 EAfA pledges are from the construction sector and notably SMEs. DG HOME presented the 'Employers together for integration' initiative as one of the actions in the field of integration of migrants and refugees in the labour market.

* Finally, the Commission gave an update on the **EAfA Roadmap** **for 2018** with various key events (Dublin meeting with a focus on trade unions: 16-17 April; Rome meeting in close cooperation with the EAfA award winning company ENEL: 21-22 June; Tirana meeting in close cooperation with the European Training Foundation on the progress in candidate countries: 24-25 September) including the 3rd European Vocational Skills Week in Vienna on 5 to 9 November 2018.*Affaires*

**Follow-up**

* A recording of the meeting will be available until May with the PowerPoint slides of the presentation under the following link: <http://europa.clients.telemak.com/140739/stage.php>
* Information about the next upcoming EAFA meetings will be sent out in due course, with reimbursement opportunities for EAfA members.

The EAfA Team