



# European Alliance for Apprenticeships

09/03/2015

Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee on Education

Presentation by Sigve Soldal Bjorstad, DG EMPL



## Youth (15-24)

unemployment **22%**

- 5 million young unemployed
- 1 in 3 long term unemployed
- 7.5 million young NEETs (neither in employment nor in education or training)

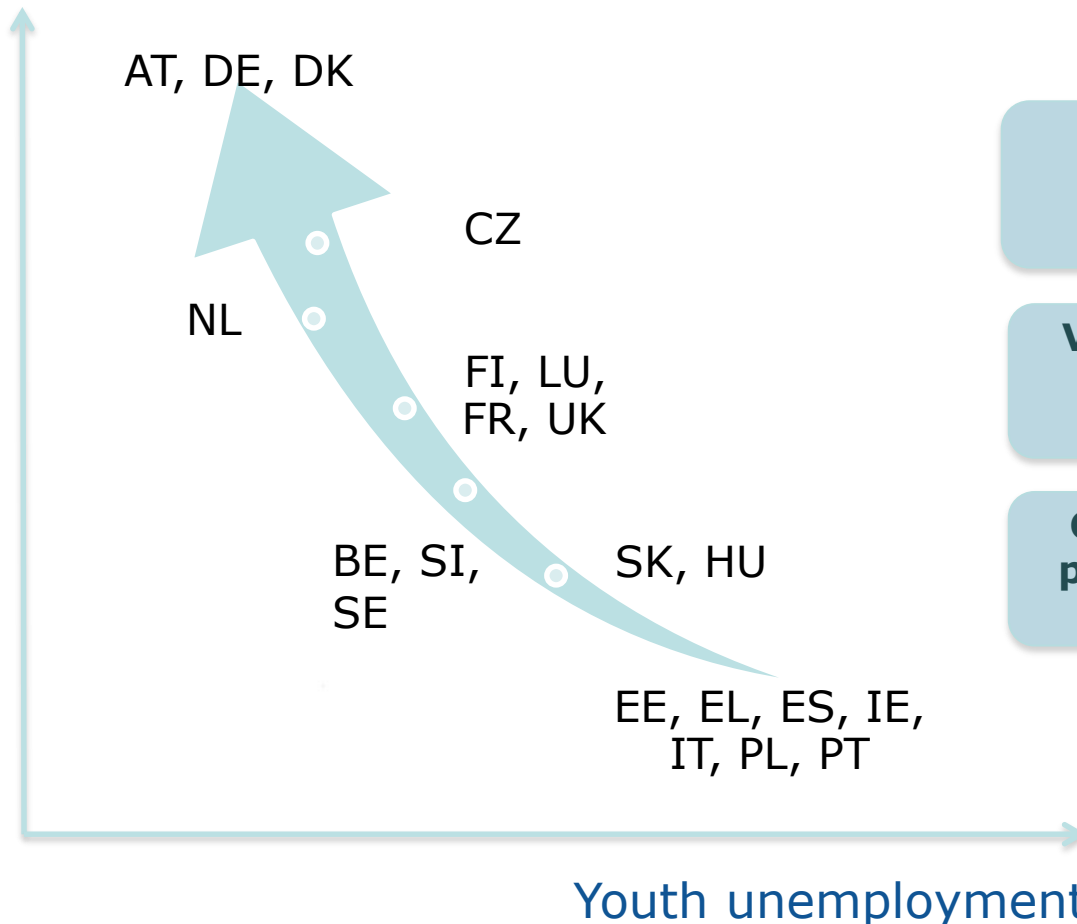
>40%

Greece, Spain, Italy, Croatia

<10%

Germany, Austria, Netherlands

# Work-based learning in VET **Apprenticeships lead to skills that lead to jobs**

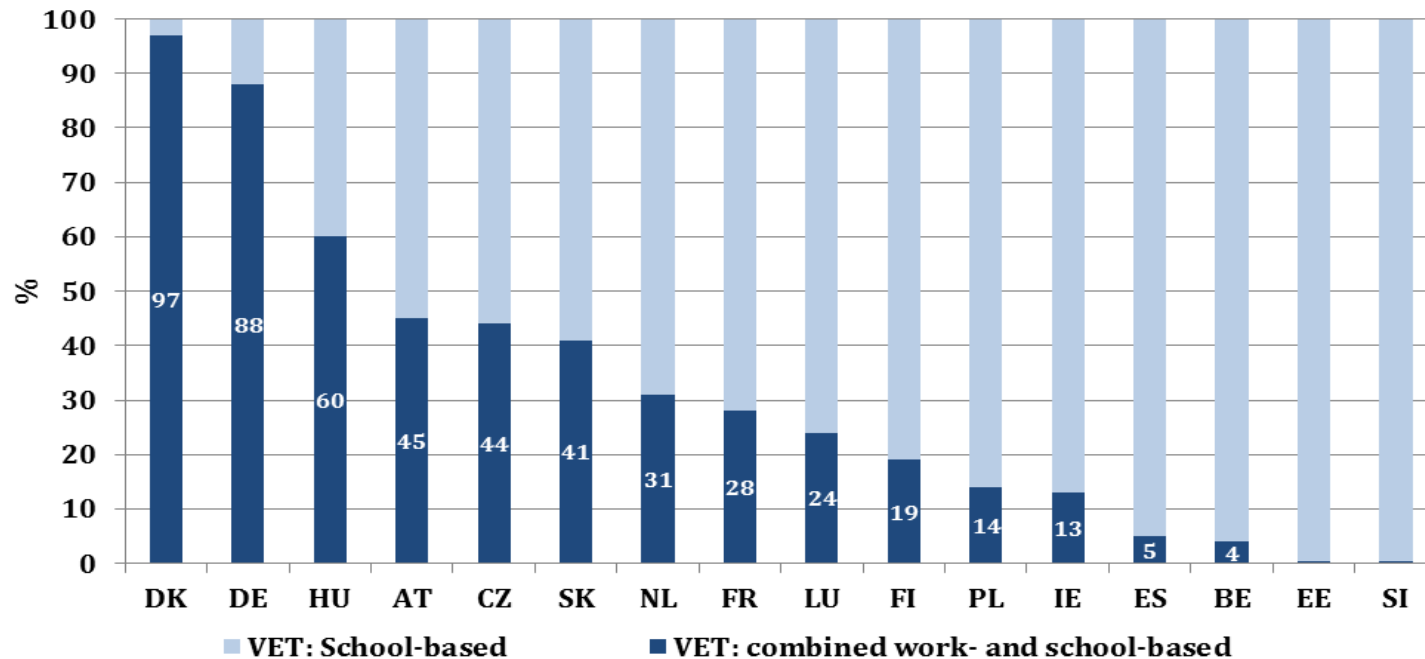


**MS with more work-based learning have less youth unemployment**

**VET graduates tend to find a job faster than those with general education\***

**Graduates of work-oriented programmes spend less time without work\***

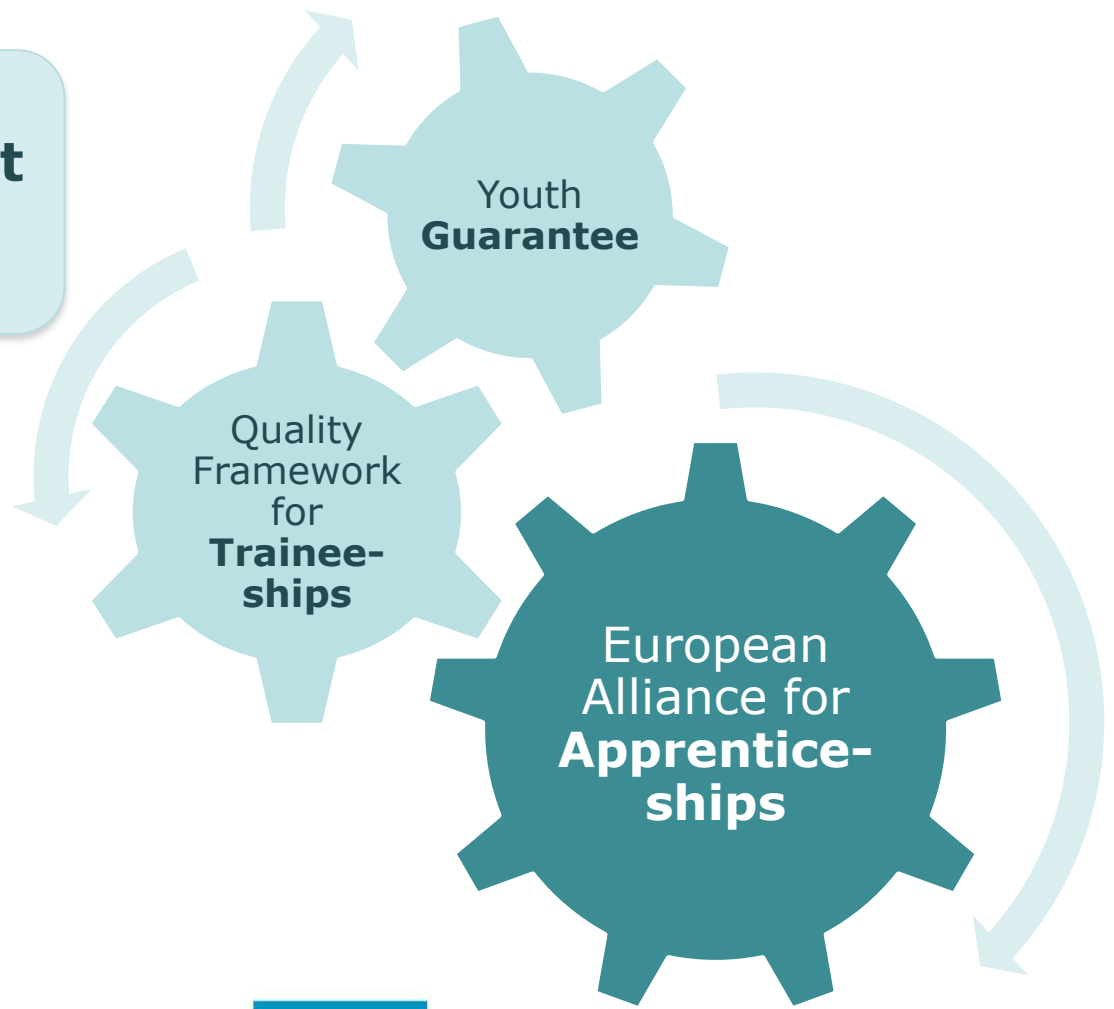
## Work-based learning is still an exception



Proportion of VET students enrolled in combined work- and school-based VET, as a % of all students in upper secondary VET (2010)

## Background

Part of the  
**Youth Employment  
Package**  
December 2012







# European Alliance for Apprenticeships

## Multi-stakeholder initiative

European Commission, EU presidency, Social Partners, VET providers, Chambers, Companies, Youth Organisations...



Photo: European Commission

## Definition

### What is an apprenticeship?





## Benefits of apprenticeships

- Skills
- Pay and independence
- Work experience
- Shorter way to employment

### Learners

### Companies

- Recruitment
- Influence on curricula/skills
- Contribution to production
- New ideas and innovation

- More youth employment
- Skills in line with labour market needs
- Connecting education with work

### Society



# Bridging education and work

- **74 % of education providers believed their graduates were prepared for work**
- **but only 38 % of youth and 35 % of employers agreed.**

*McKinsey Report 2014 for Europe*

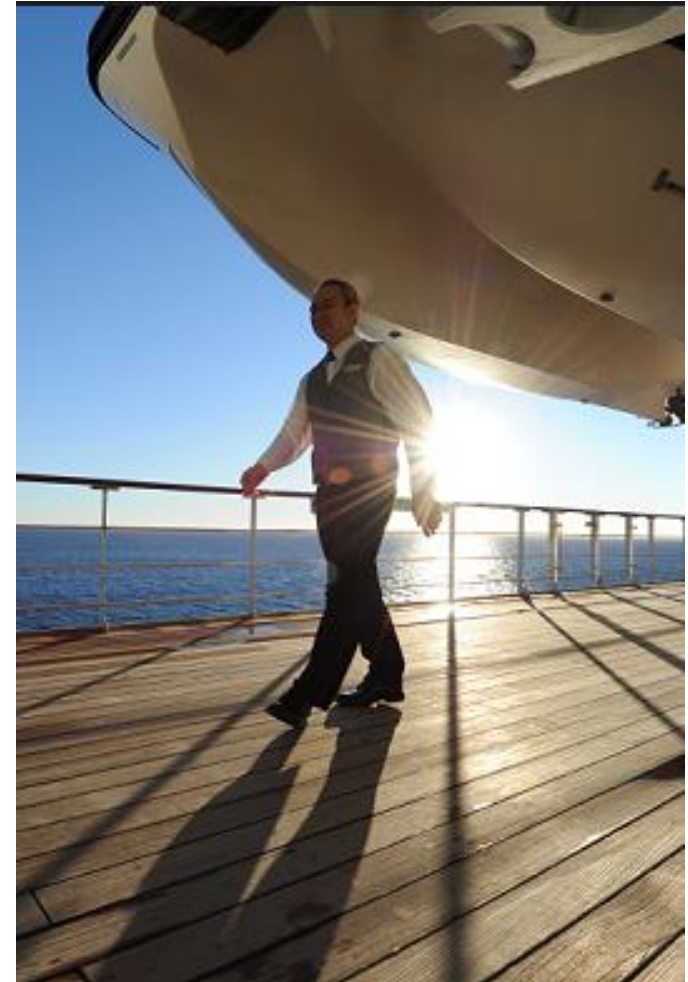
[http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/social\\_sector/converting\\_education\\_to\\_employment\\_in\\_europe](http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/social_sector/converting_education_to_employment_in_europe)

# EaFA's Objectives

Strengthen the

**Quality  
Supply  
Image**

of apprenticeships



## Focus areas

### Strands of action



Targeted knowledge transfer and support for reform of apprenticeship systems



Promoting the benefits of apprenticeships



Erasmus-

Making smart use of EU funding and resources

## Commitments and pledges

### Member States

- Council Declaration 15.10.2013
- 23 Member states commitments

### Social partners

- Joint Declaration with Commission and Presidency
- Individual pledges and projects

### Business

Alliance 4Youth

- Some 150 companies
- To provide 100,000 jobs, apprenticeships and traineeships for young people

### Others

VET providers, Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Crafts, youth organisations, regions

# Social partners pledges

European level joint pledge in the **food and drinks sector**

*Promote apprenticeships, readiness for work programmes, knowledge sharing, research project*

## Teachers trade unions

ETUCE, France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Malta, Netherlands, (Norway), UK

*Promote apprenticeships, cooperation with enterprises, social dialogue, quality teaching and training*

**VET**  
**Priorities**  
**for the period**  
**2015-2020**



**Work-based learning** in all its forms  
(including **Apprenticeships**)



**Quality assurance**, feedback loop between  
LM needs and VET provision



Access to training and qualifications for all in  
a LLL perspective (**C-VET**)



Strengthen **key competences** in both I- and  
C-VET



Professional development of **VET teachers and  
trainers**





# **New boost to the European Alliance for Apprenticeships**

High Level Presidency event (Riga, 22 June 2015)

## **Engaging with businesses/SMEs**

Mobilise companies/SMEs with quantitative targets and a counter of progress  
Business advisory group  
Redesigned EAfA webpage  
Kick-off event with exhibition space and networking

## **Real-time exchange of apprenticeship offers**

New on-line platform  
Common space for public and private stakeholders to advertise their offers  
Tool for young people to find apprenticeship opportunities

## **Operating framework**

Steering role of the Commission  
Strengthened support by Cedefop  
Enhanced involvement of social partners  
Annual Presidency events

## **Review of support mechanism**

Increased support of cooperation, partnerships and alliances at sectoral and at local, regional, national, European and international level  
Increased mobility of apprentices  
Through ESF, EASI, Erasmus+, EIB loans

# European Alliance for Apprenticeships

<http://ec.europa.eu/apprenticeships-alliance>