

<http://apprEnt.eucen.eu>

Issue 1

February 2018



Refining HE Apprenticeships
with Enterprises in Europe

Welcome to the first issue of the **ApprEnt** project Newsletter!

But, what is **ApprEnt**? **ApprEnt** is a EU-funded project that addresses the challenges of high youth unemployment and the shortage of skills required by employers. It aims to bridge the gap between the world of education and business, enhancing partnerships that involve companies, HEIs as VET provider and other relevant stakeholders such as public bodies and learners, with the aim of promoting work-based learning and apprenticeship.

Its main objectives are:

- ▲ Strengthen and expand UCE-activities in cooperation with the regional economy
- ▲ Foster knowledge transfer and experience based learning
- ▲ Maximise peer-learning, transnationally and within each partner country
- ▲ Implement staff development workshops for in-enterprises trainers/supervisors and for HE tutors/trainers, designed to support them in working with apprentices and based on an existing successful model
- ▲ Promote regional pilot projects in close cooperation with enterprises and regional partners
- ▲ Document and compare the different approaches and results
- ▲ Share and discuss roadmaps at national / European conferences with experts of Vocational Training, Professional and Higher Education as well as other umbrella organisations

The expected outputs of **ApprEnt** are:

- ▼ Generic prototype of training model
- ▼ Template model agreement
- ▼ Advocacy pack including lines of action addressed to 4 different target groups: education stakeholders, enterprises, public authorities, learners
- ▼ Policy paper with recommendations

FACTS AND FIGURES

*Programme: ERASMUS+
Support for Policy Reform*

*Action: KA3 VET-Business
Partnership
Apprenticeships/Work-
based learning*

Call: EACEA-40-2016

Starting date: 16 Oct 2017

Ending date: 15 Oct 2019

A definition of HE Apprenticeship

From the point of view of University-Business collaboration, in the context of **ApprEnt**, “HE Apprenticeship” is understood as programmes that have all or a minimum of four characteristics out of the six listed below:

Do you have programmes that fulfil four or more of these characteristics?

Contact us by email at apprEnt@eucen.eu

We want to hear about your experience!



1. Learning alternates between a workplace and an educational or training institution



2. The programme has a strong tutoring/mentoring aspect both at work and in the HEI



3. The programme is part of formal and/or continuing education and training



4. On successful completion of the programme, learners acquire a qualification or a part of a qualification and receive an officially recognised certificate



5. Apprenticeships are based on a contract or formal agreement between employer and learner but, sometimes, can be based on a contract or formal agreement with the HEI



6. Apprentices are contractually linked to an employee and to a HEI and receive remuneration in the form of wage, allowance or similar for their work

State of play

In November 2017 the **ApprEnt** consortium held its kick-off activity in Barcelona: A Peer Learning Seminar. In preparation for this activity, the consortium partners reviewed the existing policy and implementation of apprenticeships available at their organisational, regional and/or national level and discussed the findings between the universities and their pair business partners and Associate Partners.

The summaries of the state of the art of the findings and collaborative conclusions were used as background papers for the peer learning event and to set the basis of the project development.

You can access the national summaries of the countries involved in **ApprEnt** [here](#).

SWOT Analysis

One of the main results of the **ApprEnt** Peer Learning Seminar held in Barcelona is a detailed analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of University-Business cooperation, with a special focus on the specific needs and features of small and medium enterprises.



The analysis spotted several key points of University-Business cooperation, among which the fact that:

- ▲ Transfer of knowledge is not a one-way process: it needs to be both ways
- ▲ A major problem are the different languages existing in the sectors.
- ▲ SMEs need contact persons and trust to bring about closer communication and cooperation
- ▲ SMEs need to know what kind of services HEIs can offer and how SMEs can approach universities if they don't know about it. Some sort of transparency is needed.



For a full account of the analysis, you can access the SWOT report at [this](#) page of the project website, along with all the other project tools and outputs available so far.

Upcoming outputs

The **ApprEnt** partners are currently collecting existing good practices of "HE apprenticeship programmes" or of other (non-HE apprenticeship) programmes that could be directly relevant, easily transferable or useful for HE apprenticeship level programmes in European HE institutions. The case studies that we collect need to cover 4 main parameters:

- ▲ relevance
- ▲ transferability
- ▲ impact
- ▲ potential for standardisation.

Should you be interested in submitting a sample of best practice that you think it is of relevance for HE apprenticeships, please get in touch with us by writing to apprEnt@eucen.eu

ApprEnt aims to engage and have an impact on several different target groups such as:

- ▼ Workers, managers, employers of SMEs
- ▼ Trainers within enterprises and VET institutions
- ▼ Teachers of VET
- ▼ Lecturers of HE
- ▼ Public bodies
- ▼ Learners

Contact us

Interested in **ApprEnt**? **Send us** a request letter to join us as Associate Partner: you will be the first one to be informed about our results and will be invited to participate in some of our activities! Download the attached **template** and use it as model for your request letter!

Consortium

euцен (BE)

Université de Bretagne Occidentale (FR)

Danube University of Krems (AT)

Tallinn University (EE)

University of Aveiro (PT)

University of Turku (FI)

University of Catania (IT)

Universidad Complutense de Madrid (ES)

Chambre Commerce Industrie Brest (FR)

SENAT der Wirtschaft Österreich (AT)

Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (EE) |

Associação Industrial de Aveiro (PT)

Federation of Finnish Enterprises, Southwest region (FI)

Camera di Commercio di Catania (IT)

Asociación de empresarios del Henares (ES)

Fundació Bosch i Gimpera (ES)

External Evaluator

Professor Peter v. Mitschke-Collande

