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Issue 2

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Refining HE Apprenticeships
with Enterprises in Europe

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

*Do you know of any
programmes that fulfil
four or more of these
characteristics?*

Contact us by email at
apprent@eucen.eu

We want to hear about
your experience!

Welcome to the second ApprEnt project Newsletter!

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. Full details of its objectives and expected outputs are available in the [project website](#).

Collection of case studies

The **ApprEnt** partners have collected existing good practices of “HE apprenticeship¹ 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. A total of 38 case studies were collected so far, according to 4 main parameters:

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

The transversal analysis of the case studies is ongoing and will be available by September 2018. 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

¹ For a definition of HE apprenticeship, please have a look at [this](#) page.

National focus group discussions

The **ApprEnt** partners are organising this month their national focus learning group discussions. The focus groups are organised collectively by the national partner university and the Chamber of Commerce/SMEs Association. They are national dialogue spaces where HEIs and enterprises exchange impressions and views about (a) the collected Case Studies and (b) the **SWOT analysis**, with the intention to find ways of improving the apprenticeships system and the University-Business collaboration from different points of view: policy at different levels, planning of programmes, mentoring, etc. The outcomes of the discussions will be summarised in short national reports that will be key for better defining the next project steps, design the needed changes and write the policy recommendations.



Learning Workshop in Brest (FR)



In May 2018 the **ApprEnt** consortium met in Brest (FR) to participate in the Learning Workshop hosted and organised by the University of Western Brittany (UBO), partner in the project. Since apprenticeship has grown significantly in French higher education over the past 15 years, UBO is a leading partner in **ApprEnt**. During the Learning Workshop, we met with all the main professionals involved in the design and implementation of

higher education apprenticeship schemes in the Region of Brest, including university pedagogic supervisors and in-enterprise mentors who presented their experience and illustrated the key role played by mentors and supervisors in ensuring high quality apprenticeship programmes. Three



apprentices currently participating in apprenticeship schemes at the UBO and at the University Institute of Technology of Brest also took part in the activity, presenting their direct experience of what being a university apprentice is like!

Practices were also shared from outside the French context: Jon Talbot, from the University of Chester (UK) and external expert for **ApprEnt**, presented



how apprenticeships work in the UK and how these programmes were developed and are currently implemented at his university.

Based on this learning experience, the partners will now work in country pairs on the organisation of national workshops, with the aim of discussing the thoughts and ideas shared in Brest with a group of external stakeholders (i.e. mentors from different environments - enterprises, VET and/or HE, university programme coordinators or other possible stakeholders). The main tasks of these meetings and activities will be to collect feedback and inputs from the participants to help us design a generic prototype model of training course for in-enterprise mentors and higher education supervisors. Keep following us – our prototype will be available in the coming months!

ApprEnt presented at international events

On 8 June, the workshop **“ApprEnt – Refining Higher Education Apprenticeships with Enterprises in Europe. Supporting Collaboration and Learning by Using the ePortfolio Approach”** was held by Isabell Grundschober (Danube University Krems) within the 3rd International Congress on Vocational and Professional Education and Training, organised in Winterthur (CH).

Approximately 100 people participated in the **workshop!**

On that same day Francesca Uras, **eucen**, was presenting **ApprEnt** in plenary session during the 50th **eucen conference** in Bergen (NO) **“Times of transition – the role of ULLL”**. With a total of 145 participants, the project raised interest amongst the participants.



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

Next partner meeting

The partners of **ApprEnt** will meet in Barcelona on 20-21 September to discuss the project state of play and the next steps to follow, in particular the organisation of the national workshops aimed to finalise the design of the generic prototype course for in-enterprise mentors and higher education supervisors.



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

eucen (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)