

Apprenticeship helpdesk for SMEs

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 CYPRUS

Timeline

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Completed

ID number 28073

Description

From October 2016 to September 2018, the Erasmus+ project Apprenticeship helpdesk for small and medium sized enterprises in Cyprus (and Poland) aimed to build the capacity of key intermediary bodies to support those SMEs (small- and medium-sized enterprises) offering training places for apprentices. The need for this project derived from past experience, when the lack of support structures for enterprises deterred SMEs from offering apprenticeships. The main project goals were to:

- set up a national apprenticeship support service for SMEs, offered by intermediary bodies (such as chambers of commerce and professional and trade associations);
- provide training to appointed staff acting as apprenticeship facilitators;
- set up a national online apprenticeship resource centre as a central office providing support to SMEs and apprenticeship facilitators;
- raise awareness about the benefits of apprenticeship schemes among the SMEs and other national stakeholders.

A set of recommended quality indicators for SMEs taking on apprentices has been developed and focus groups with SMEs and key stakeholders have been formed in order to identify their needs. Toolkits for employers have been developed, to support offering quality placements for apprentices, with necessary information about apprenticeship. Training workshops took place targeted at trainers and officials in this service. A leaflet and two newsletters have been prepared. The project's website has been developed, including an online toolkit to support SMEs, facilitators at the intermediary bodies, and learners/apprentices.

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Completed

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth (MoECSY) (until 2022)
- Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) (until 2019)

Target group

Learners

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Entities providing VET

Companies
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Optimising VET funding
Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

Subsystem

IVET

Related policy developments

2020 Completed

The 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training

A strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training was approved in April 2015 (2015-20). It aims to reform the public VET system.

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2018 Completed

Developing the apprenticeship system

Based on the 2015-20 strategic plan for technical and vocational education and training, a proposal for upgrading the apprenticeship system, in cooperation with the apprenticeship board, was approved in August 2015. The reform affects both the preparatory and core programmes;

 CYPRUS

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Apprenticeship helpdesk for SMEs: Cyprus. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28073>