



CEDEFOP

European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training



Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme

Workshop II: Empowering young people for education-to-work-transitions

The Council of the European Union in its recent communication *An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment (2010)* emphasises the need to ensure that young people, graduating from secondary and tertiary education, possess the skills and competences needed to make a rapid and successful transition to employment. By 2011, a new benchmark on education for employability will be proposed in order to stimulate a new focus on preparing young people for the transition to the labour market⁽¹⁾.

The duration of education-to-work transition in 19 out of 27 EU countries is in general very long (63 months in average) and varies greatly by country, ranging from 28 months in the Netherlands to 103 months in Romania⁽²⁾. Young people should get better information about ways of getting a job or opportunities to combine workplace experience with education and develop their career management skills in schools and specialised centres of lifelong guidance.

Work-based learning can support learners, who would otherwise leave prematurely, to continue their education and training and to keep their skills updated. Work experience supported by guidance and counselling allows young people to identify what they are really interested in, get a real insight of the world of work and can enhance their employability.

Employers should be motivated to cooperate with schools to provide apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities for young people, especially for those disengaged from education, training or society, to familiarise themselves with the world of work and allow them to start over and gain valuable working experience.

Examples of preventive and remedial guidance measures and initiatives applied across Europe to aid school completion and education-to-work transitions of young people who risk dropping out of mainstream education and training are presented in a recent Cedefop report⁽³⁾.

The following issues will be addressed in the workshop:

- What are the current state of play and future prospects of apprenticeship training and work-based learning in your country? How are employers motivated to cooperate with schools to provide apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities for young people?
- How are transitions from education and training to work facilitated in your country? Are integrated guidance services provided, as well as the development of young people's employability skills and key competences supported in your country? In what way?
- Is there any monitoring of the transition of graduates to the labour market or to further education and training? Is it a national monitoring system? How is the cooperation ensured between education and training institutions and guidance and counselling services to support the transition of VET graduates to work or further learning?
- What have you learned from the workshop's presentations? Which messages do you plan to bring back to your organisation?

⁽¹⁾ European Commission. *An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment*. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. COM(2010) 682 final, Strasbourg, 23.11.2010. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0682:FIN:EN:PDF>

⁽²⁾ Youth: Young in occupations and unemployment: thinking of their better integration in the labour market (EU-wide final report 2008): <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=fi&catId=89&newsId=448&furtherNews=yes>

⁽³⁾ Cedefop. *Guiding at-risk youth through learning to work: Lessons from across Europe*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/15534.aspx>