



Thessaloniki, 13 July 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Apprenticeships for adults bring good jobs for people, skills for businesses

Apprenticeships for adults are one of the policy solutions to the need for supporting adults willing to train, while broadening the skills base of the working population across Europe.

According to Cedefop estimates, there are around 128 million adults with potential for upskilling or reskilling in the European Union. At the same time, in countries with long apprenticeship tradition, such as Germany or Austria, the number of companies providing apprenticeships and of young people looking for them has been falling.

In response, EU Member States have decided to open apprenticeships to adults by removing age limits and by making them more flexible. Unlike young people taking up apprenticeships, adults have life responsibilities (such as a family) which are not always compatible with typical apprenticeship provision (such as schooling hours). These same responsibilities, however, can make them highly motivated and reliable apprentices.

Many adults also possess skills and work experience. To take this into account, countries have increasingly been offering skills assessments, shortened apprenticeships or even the possibility to sit directly for an apprenticeship exam.

Whatever the context, guidance is crucial: adults need to be well prepared to take up an apprenticeship. Read more in our latest [briefing note](#).

Read Cedefop's press releases [here](#).

Subscribe to Cedefop's other media products (newsletter, magazine, briefing notes, etc.) by creating [a user account on our website](#).

Contact

Press Officer: Rosy Voudouri

Tel: +30 2310 490012, email: rosy.voudouri@cedefop.europa.eu

Head of Department for Communication: Gerd Oskar Bausewein

Tel: +30 2310 490288, email: gerd-oskar.bausewein@cedefop.europa.eu

About Cedefop

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), an agency of the European Union based in Thessaloniki, Greece, supports European policy-making in the field of vocational education and training.

Connect with us

