



Quality apprenticeships through social dialogue

Policy Learning Forum on strengthening apprenticeships in Europe

Programme

7 October 2026 (all times are EEST)

09.00 – 09.30	Participant arrival and registration
09.30 – 10.00 <i>Europa</i>	Welcome and opening ▪ Welcome messages • Tony Donohoe, Chairperson of the Management Board, Irish Business and Employers' Confederation • Jürgen Siebel, Executive Director, Cedefop ▪ Updates on EU VET policy framework • Anna Banczyk, Head of Unit EMPL.B.3 - Vocational Education and Training, European Commission ▪ Introduction to the PLF programme and housekeeping rules • Vlasios Korovilos, Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop
10.00 – 11.10 <i>Europa</i>	Session 1 Social dialogue and apprenticeship quality: EFQEA learning and working conditions ▪ Scene-setter presentation 1: Presentation of selected findings from Cedefop's cross-country analysis of the EFQEA related to learning and working conditions ▪ Country insights: • Aleksandar Sladojević, Governments' group, Ministry of Education, Science and Youth, Slovenia • Carlo Frising, Employees' group, CSL, Luxembourg • Siham Saidi, Employers' group, Mouvement des Entreprises de France (MEDEF), France ▪ Discussion and Q&As
11.10 – 11.30	Coffee break and family photo





11.30 – 12.40 <i>Europa</i>	Session 2 Social dialogue and apprenticeship quality: EFQEA framework conditions ▪ Scene-setter presentation 2: Presentation of selected findings from Cedefop's cross-country analysis of the EFQEA criteria related to framework conditions ▪ Country insights: • Ieva Suškeviča, Governments' group (alternate), Ministry of Education and Science, Latvia • Mario Patuzzi, Employees' group, German Confederation of Trade Unions (DGB), Germany • Viktor Fleischer, Employers' group, Industriellenvereinigung, Austria ▪ Discussion and Q&As
12.40 – 13.20 <i>Europa</i>	Session 3 Panel discussion ▪ What do we build on and where do we go next? Strengths, challenges and future priorities for quality in apprenticeships • Anna Banczyk, Head of Unit EMPL.B.3 - Vocational Education and Training, European Commission • Lisa Rustico, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF • Jeff Bridgford, ILO expert ▪ Q&As
13.20 – 14.20	Lunch break
14.20 – 15.20 <i>Various meeting rooms</i>	Session 4 Workshop 1: Challenges in mobilising social dialogue to raise quality in apprenticeships ▪ Participants are allocated to groups of the <i>same stakeholder type</i> ➤ Each group identifies challenges in effectively implementing social dialogue processes and practices to improve quality in apprenticeships ▪ Reporting back to the plenary (Europa)





15.20 – 16.20 <i>Various meeting rooms</i>	Session 5 Workshop 2: Suggestions for effective social dialogue to raise quality in apprenticeships ▪ Participants are allocated to <i>mixed groups</i> ➤ Each group brainstorms and discusses solutions in relation to the identified challenges and comes up with suggestions on what each stakeholder could do differently to further reinforce social dialogue practices and processes in relation to apprenticeship design and implementation ▪ Reporting back to the plenary (Europa)
16.20 – 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 – 17.25 <i>Various meeting rooms</i>	Session 6 Debriefing per stakeholder group Key takeaways ▪ Participants are allocated to groups of the <i>same stakeholder type</i> and discuss key lessons learnt and key takeaways ▪ Reporting back to the plenary (Europa)
17.25 – 17.30 <i>Europa</i>	Session 7 Concluding remarks and closing ▪ Wrap-up and closing remarks by Cedefop

