

# EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

## PLEDGE

Please provide **contact details**:

Company/organisation name:	<b>European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)</b> <b>European Federation of Educational Employers (EFEE)</b>
Contact person(s), title(s):	<b>Martin Romer, European Director, European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)</b> <b>Bianka Stege, General-Secretary, European Federation of Educational Employers (EFEE)</b>
Email(s):	ETUCE: <a href="mailto:Martin.Romer@csee-etuce.org">Martin.Romer@csee-etuce.org</a> <a href="mailto:Agnes.Roman@csee-etuce.org">Agnes.Roman@csee-etuce.org</a> EFEE: <a href="mailto:bianka.stege@educationemployers.eu">bianka.stege@educationemployers.eu</a> <a href="mailto:sarah.kik@educationemployers.eu">sarah.kik@educationemployers.eu</a>
Website:	<a href="http://www.csee-etuce.org/en/">http://www.csee-etuce.org/en/</a> <a href="http://www.educationemployers.eu/">http://www.educationemployers.eu/</a>

Please indicate what **type of organisation** – tick relevant box(es)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companies and business organisations      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social partners       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chambers of industry, commerce and crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Education and training providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional authorities                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit/youth organisations   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research and think tanks                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                     |

Give a short description of **your company / organisation**

**ETUCE**, the European Region of Education International (EI), the global teachers' trade union, represents 135 teachers' trade unions in education in Europe, with 14 million individual members from all education sectors and in research.

**EFEE** represents 33 employers' organisations in 17 countries in education and research, with more than 70,000 members at national, local and regional level.

The **European Sectoral Social Dialogue for Education (ESSDE)** was established in 2009. As officially recognised European Social Partners in Education, our organisations have been particularly involved in the development of education and training policy of the European Commission.

Indicate the **focus of your pledge** – tick relevant box(es)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supply           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Image | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility           |

Give a **short description** of your pledge

*Please include information on your objectives and key activities.*

In order to further contribute to the implementation of the goals of the [European Alliance for Apprenticeships](#), we are committed to enhance the work of our organisations and jointly in the framework of European Sectoral Social Dialogue for Education. In our individual and joint actions we respect the different national education systems in the Member States of the EU, in particular the existing structures on Vocational Education and Training (VET) and apprenticeship / work-based learning of students of vocational education and training.

Since we represent organisations from very diverse backgrounds, we deem it necessary to reiterate here the definition of apprenticeship as used by the European Commission:

*“ 1. Apprenticeships are formal education and training programmes; 2. Apprenticeships combine company-based training (periods of practical work experience at a workplace) with school-based education (periods of theoretical/ practical education in a school or training centre); 3. Apprenticeships lead to a nationally recognised qualification. Most apprenticeships are based on a contract or formal agreement between the employer and the apprentice, with the apprentice being paid for his/her work. “*

ETUCE and EFEE commit to the European Alliance for Apprenticeships with individual and joint actions by the following action points:

1. We wish to raise awareness about the European Alliance for Apprenticeship among our members and will continue to work to improve the esteem, image and quality of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and apprenticeships /work-based learning
2. We encourage our members to enhance their actions, with special attention to improving their social dialogue, towards high quality, accessible, fair and inclusive apprenticeship /work-based learning systems in their countries.
3. We recommend that our members involve a whole range of stakeholders in this exercise if possible and appropriate, depending on the national, regional and local context.
4. We acknowledge the absolute necessity of improving company-school cooperation on the management, organisation and quality assurance of apprenticeships/work-based learning.
5. We call upon our member organisations to take the necessary steps to improve teaching and training in VET and in work-based learning, keeping in mind the continuous improvement of the [eight key competences for life long learning](#) as defined by the EC, with special attention to the use of ICT.
6. We call upon our members to enhance possibilities for company-based continuous professional training for VET teachers and school leaders on their craft related skills in order to improve quality teaching and school leadership in VET.
7. We will inform our members that a number of relevant funding schemes are available for apprenticeship /work-based learning projects and networks.

*We continue to exchange best practices and experiences on apprenticeship via the European Sectoral Social Dialogue for Education*

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Describe the **added value** of the pledge

It is very important that the education sector is involved in this Alliance.

This pledge will enhance individual actions of ETUCE and of EFEE with their member organisations to improve apprenticeship / work-based learning systems at European and national levels.

This pledge will also stimulate the European Sectoral Social Partners in Education (teachers' trade unions and education employers' organisations in the European Union) to carry on further work in the framework of European Sectoral Social Dialogue for Education on quality of apprenticeships / work-based learning and the role of trade unions, teachers, school leaders and education employers in apprenticeship.

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What **partners** will be involved in the initiative?

ETUCE member organisations, EFEE member organisations, their national/ regional/ local and individual members, partner organisations, companies, etc

## Guidelines for completing the template

Pledges are accepted from EU countries, EFTA countries and EU candidate countries.

The pledges should demonstrate concrete commitment and actions that will strengthen apprenticeships when it comes to one or more of the following aspects:

1. Increasing **supply**
2. Improving the **quality**
3. Improving the **image**
4. Enhancing **mobility**

Pledges should not be funding applications or project proposals.

## Benefits

By making a pledge and joining the Alliance your organisation can benefit from:

- **Networking** – A European network of apprenticeship experts
- **Learning** – Sharing of experiences and best practices
- **Tools** – Access to guidelines, practical tools and resources
- **Information** – News, reports, funding information and invitations to workshops and events
- **Visibility** – Increased visibility and publicity around your initiatives

## Commitment

By making a pledge and joining the Alliance your organisation commits to:

- **Promoting** – Promote the value and benefits of apprenticeships
- **Sharing** – Share learning and practices within the Alliance network and other stakeholders
- **Informing** – Provide information on your activities, results and next steps through an annual online survey

## Definition of apprenticeships:

1. Apprenticeships are **formal education and training programmes**;
2. Apprenticeships combine **company-based training** (periods of practical work experience at a workplace) with **school-based education** (periods of theoretical/ practical education in a school or training centre);
3. Apprenticeships **lead to a nationally recognised qualification**.

Most often there is a contractual relationship between the employer and the apprentice, with the apprentice being paid for his/her work.