



**EAfA**

# The European Alliance for Apprenticeships High-Level Event 2024

**17 - 18 June 2024**



*Employment,  
Social Affairs  
and Inclusion*

# Welcome

Vicki Donlevy, Technical Director, Ecorys

Master of Ceremony

# Housekeeping rules

- During Q&A sessions, our hosts/hostesses will be present in the meeting room to provide you with a microphone if you have questions
- Please keep your phone or laptop within reach during the event, as you will need them to participate in a Slido Quiz
- If you have any technical issues online, live support will be available on the platform. You can contact us at [EAfA.events@ecorys.com](mailto:EAfA.events@ecorys.com)
- We encourage everyone to actively engage in the discussions, share their perspectives, and connect with fellow participants on our social media channels by using the hashtag **#ApprenEU**

# AGENDA

- 9.30 – 9.45** **EAfA / Pact for Skills updates**
- **Anna Barbieri**, Team Leader for apprenticeships and Erasmus+, DG EMPL, European Commission
  - **Diana Spiridon**, Team Leader for Skills Agenda, DG EMPL, European Commission
- 09.45 – 09.50** **European Apprentices Network activities**
- **Albert Janssens**, OBESSU Board Member
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- 9.50 – 10.50** **3rd Panel: Guidance – the key to anticipation!**
- Moderator: **Ana Carrero**, Deputy Head of the Vocational Education and Training Unit, DG EMPL, European Commission
- **Laila Hove**, Head of the Development Team/ National Youth Guarantee, Norwegian Directorate of Labour and Welfare
  - **Jan Wilker**, Project Manager, StartNet
  - **Alberto Guerra**, Director, *Fundación Empresa Familiar De Castilla Y León*
  - **Vincent Joseph**, European and International Project Manager, Centre Inffo
- 10.50 – 11.20** *Coffee break and networking*
- 11.20 – 12.20** **4th Panel: Apprenticeships for adults: Unlocking opportunities**
- Moderator: **Ramona David**, Expert - Department Coordinator, Department for VET and Skills, Cedefop
- **Olga Kafetzopoulou**, Director for VET and LLL Planning and Development, Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports
  - **Vasile Gafiuc**, President, Bucovina Institute
  - **Gertud Hirtreiter**, Head of Unit, German Confederation of Skilled Crafts and Small Businesses (ZDH)
  - **Alessandro Mele**, President, Punto Cometa
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- 12.20 – 12.30** **Closing remarks**
- **Chiara Riondino**, Head of the Vocational Education and Training Unit, DG EMPL, European Commission



# EAfA & Pact for Skills updates

Anna Barbieri, Team Leader for Apprenticeships, DG EMPL

Diana Spiridon, Team Leader for Skills agenda, DG EMPL



**EAfA**

# Latest news about the European Alliance for Apprenticeships

**17 - 18 June 2024**

Anna Barbieri  
Team Leader for Apprenticeships and Erasmus+  
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

*Employment,  
Social Affairs  
and Inclusion*



## What we have done in the last year:

- **Factsheets** on Erasmus+ projects and funding opportunities (ex. ESF+)
- Leaflet on **micro-credentials**
- Factsheet on **transversal skills**
- **Webinar** on apprenticeships and the hospitality sector
- **Toolkit** on learning mobility of apprentices

## What is coming up by end 2024:

- Factsheet on **guidance and awareness raising**
- Factsheet on **support to SMEs**
- Webinar on **green skills**
- **Toolkit** on digital skills, VR, AR in apprenticeships



# What are the EAfA Communities?

## Communities aim to foster the quality and availability of apprenticeships:

- Reflect and collaborate on transversal key themes for apprenticeships
- Stimulate interactivity and networking opportunities of EAfA members
- Exchange knowledge and best practices among peers

## Four Communities were established at the EAfA Get Together Event 2023:

- Community on the **Learning Mobility** of Apprentices
- Community on the **Green and Digital** Transitions
- Community on **Social Inclusion** and Gender Equality
- Community on the Role of **Cities and Regions** in fostering Apprenticeship





# How to join an EAfA Community?

## Join an existing EAfA Community:

- Email to [EAfAmembers@ecorys.com](mailto:EAfAmembers@ecorys.com), indicating which Community(ies) you would like to join
- If you are not an EAfA member yet, you can join the Alliance by completing the [EAfA pledge application form](#)

## EAfA is planning to launch several new Communities in 2024/25:

- Potential themes **(to be confirmed)** for future Communities might include the following topics:
  - Higher VET apprenticeships
  - In-company trainers
  - Career guidance
- To express your interest in joining or leading a new Community or propose additional topics, you can fill in this [form](#) or scan the QR code on the right



EAfa

Discuss, exchange, and  
shape the **future of apprenticeships**

#ApprenEU



# Pact for Skills updates

**PACT FOR  
SKILLS**

EaFA High-Level event

18 June 2024

#PactforSkills

#EuropeanYearofSkills

#SocialRights

Diana Spiridon, Team leader,  
DG EMPL - European Commission

# The Pact for Skills is gaining momentum

- **20 Large Scale Skills Partnerships** now launched in all key industrial ecosystems: together, LSPs committed to provide up- and reskilling opportunities to over 25 million people by 2030.
- **Focus on Regional level:** Five regional partnerships launched

## Key Achievements in 2022 and 2023

- **3.5 million** people benefited from up- and reskilling activities
- **92,000** stakeholders were involved in collaboration with Pact members
- **€310 million** were invested into up- and reskilling activities
- **48,000** training courses were updated or developed



# The Pact for Skills provides value to its members: results from the 2023 survey

## Overall positive opinion on the Pact:

- More than two thirds of Pact for Skills respondents (**71%**) reported that the Pact for Skills is very or somewhat valuable to upskilling and reskilling opportunities.
- **94% of respondents** reported contributing to at least one Pact principle
- Employers' organisations, public authorities and SMEs were the stakeholder types that found the Pact **most valuable**
- Main areas of **added value** were networking opportunities (93% found it useful) and access to knowledge, information and resources (78%)

# Synergies between the Pact for Skills and EAfA

The Pact for Skills and the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) present multiple possible areas for cooperation:

- **Stakeholder engagement:** similar membership, set up, and goals
- **Promoting collaboration:** large-scale and regional partnerships in the Pact and the Community of Practice under the EAfA aim to strengthen cooperation across sectors and regions.
- **Knowledge sharing:** both support members to build their knowledge and capacity
- **Commitment to horizontal priorities:** both initiatives contribute to the achievement of broader EU priorities
- **Examples of collaboration:** Dedicated session in the Pact for Skills Forum, webinar on building synergies with the EAfA (25 June); Pact for Skills and EAfA social media takeovers

# European Apprentices Network activities

Albert Janssens, OBESSU Board Member

# European Apprentices Network Activities

Albert Janssens, OBESSU

- Founded in 2017, with the support of OBESSU, the YFJ and DG EMPL.
- The European Apprentices Network (EAN) is an important social partner on EU VET policy.
- The EAN has continuously pushed for formal representation of apprentices at the regional, national & European level, and will continue to do so, along with the right to fair working conditions and fair remuneration for apprentices.
- In the past year, the EAN has worked together with Ecorys to conduct research into the Mental Health and Wellbeing of apprentices over Europe.
- The research will be soon available, and we will disseminate it.



## Contact EAN

Website: <https://apprenticesnetwork.eu>

Email: [EAN@obessu.org](mailto:EAN@obessu.org)



# **Guidance – the key to anticipation!**

**Moderator:**

Ana Carrero, Deputy Head of the Vocational Education and Training Unit, DG EMPL,  
European Commission

# Panel discussion

- **Laila Hove**, Head of Development Team/ National Youth Guarantee, Norwegian Directorate of Labour and Welfare
- **Jan Wilker**, Project Manager, StartNet
- **Alberto Guerra**, Director, *Fundación Empresa Familiar De Castilla Y León*
- **Vincent Joseph**, European and International Project Manager, Centre Inffo

# **Questions & Answers**



# Coffee Break

Thank you! See you back in 30 minutes!

# **Apprenticeships for adults: Unlocking opportunities**

**Moderator:**

Ramona David, Expert - Department Coordinator, Department for VET and Skills,  
Cedefop

# slido



**In your country, are there any age limits that prevent individuals aged 24 or older from enrolling in apprenticeship programs?**

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

# Panel discussion

- **Olga Kafetzopoulou**, Director for VET and LLL Planning and Development, Greek Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports
- **Vasile Gafiuc**, President, Bucovina Institute
- **Gertrud Hirtreiter**, Head of Unit, German Confederation of Skilled Crafts and Small Businesses (ZDH)
- **Alessandro Mele**, President of Punto Cometa





## Daniela Schleich

**NOW: Skilled Crafts Master in Car Body Painting**

**Before: Collaborating wife of master painter – Background as a tax accountant**

**Master Examination Board, Further training: Certified Accident Damage Manager**



## Katja Lilo Melder

**NOW: Demolition Engineer, Skilled Crafts Master in Metalwork and Metalwelding, Business Manager HR, Further Training: Occupational safety engineer**

**Before: Hotel Manager, Conference Organiser**

**Press Officer: UFH – Women Entrepreneurs in Skilled Crafts**



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# **Questions & Answers**

# Closing remarks

Chiara Riondino, Head of the Vocational Education and Training Unit,  
DG EMPL, European Commission



If you are also registered for the

# **Get Together event**

14:00 – 17:00

Please follow the hostesses and staff to the restaurant on the ground floor for lunch.

Kindly make sure to come back early to start on time!

**Thank you for your attention!**