Perspectives from the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA): 3rd Regional Seminar for Candidate Countries 24-25 September 2018 Tirana, Albania

Jürgen Horschinegg
Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research

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1. **Priorities and Objectives** of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the field of Vocational Education and Training

2. **First indicative Outcomes**: Austrian Presidency Conference on “The Future of Vocational Education and Training in Europe”, 9\textsuperscript{th}-10\textsuperscript{th} July 2018, Vienna

3. **European Alliance for Apprenticeships**

4. **Outlook and next steps**
1. Priorities and Objectives of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Field of Vocational Education and Training
Austria - Some Key Facts

- Unemployment*:
  AT: 5.5%; EU-28: 7.6%

- Youth unemployment* (15-24 year olds):
  AT: 9.5%; EU-28: 16.1%

- 9th Place in the EU “Innovation Scoreboard” (Strong Innovator)

*Source: 2017, EUROSTAT
http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/submitViewTableAction.do

- Surface: 83,871 km²
- Inhabitants: 8.7 Mio
- 9 Federal States
VET in Austria - Some Key Facts

- **Share of students** enrolled in VET programmes at grade 10 – academic year 2016/17: 71.7%
  
  *Source: Statistik Austria (SchülerInnen im Schuljahr 2016/17 nach Schulstufen)*

- **Close cooperation** with **social partners**

- **Diversification of educational programmes** and competent authorities at **upper secondary level** within three main pathways:
  - VET schools at EQF level 4 (~11.1%)
  - VET colleges at EQF level 5 (~25.8%)
  - Apprenticeship programmes at EQF level 4 (~34.8%)

- **Expansion of VET to higher levels**:
  - “Ingenieur” at EQF level 6
  - Master-Craftsmen Qualification
  - Universities of Applied Sciences

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Priorities of the Austrian Presidency in the field of VET

FUTURE OF VET:
- Structural Changes
- Rapid Technological Developments
- Globalisation and Global Value Chains
- Demographic Ageing
- Migration

» Structural implications for VET systems in Europe
» Joint Vision of VET 2030

VET 2030:
- Key Parameters for a European VET 2030 policy
- Contribution to the renewal of the Strategic Frameworks and Target Systems for European Policy Cooperation in the field of VET

DOSSIERS & PRIORITIES:
- Erasmus + follow-up
- ET 2020 follow-up
- Recommendation on Mutual Recognition
- Recommendation on Language Learning
Timeline of the Austrian Presidency – Towards VET 2030

Future of VET
Presidency Conference
9-10 July 2018
- Discussion on Trends & Scenarios
- Towards a Joint Vision
- Input for ACVT Opinion

CEDEFOP Workshops
11 July 2018
- Scenario Building

DGVT Meeting
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Continuation of Policy Process VET 2030

- 3rd European Vocational Skills WEEK - 5-9 November 2018
- incl. CEDEFOP Closing Conference – 7-8 November 2018

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2. First indicative Outcomes: Austrian Presidency Conference on “The Future of Vocational Education and Training in Europe”, 9th-10th July 2018
Key Questions instructing the Conference

1. What are the external factors impacting on European VET systems and in what way might they lead to changes in existing institutional, pedagogical and political approaches and priorities?

2. To what extent are current and future impacts disruptive to established European VET systems and what is our joint vision of VET in Europe for post 2020?

3. What challenges should be tackled jointly by EU member states and how can EU level policy cooperation create added value and support to national systems in the post 2020 era?
Conference Word Cloud: Towards a Joint Vision of VET 2030

mobility
digital
inclusive
flexible

target
excellence
pragmatic
integrated
permeability
permeable
type

multipurpose
responsive
inclusion
levels
practical
work oriented

high quality
motivation
opportunity
learners!

student democracy!

just a test
Excerpts from Group Discussions on Q1: Impacts, Trends, Developments

- Learning pathways are becoming more **flexible and individualized** (e.g. modularization, validation)
- **Target groups** are becoming more diverse (e.g. adults, migrants)
- The labour market is making demands on VET to **respond more directly**
- **Skills needs** are changing, focus on **transversal skills** (e.g. adaptability)
- Enhanced coordination **across sectors** (GE, VET, HE, AE) can be observed
- The **work-based dimension** is gaining importance – not only in VET!
- New and **diverse learning environments** are being recognized
- Digitalization of learning and teaching is challenging traditional **didactical approaches and the traditional role of the teacher/trainer** (→“enabler”)
Excerpts from Group Discussions on Q2: Trends in National Policy Responses

- A shift towards a more **holistic understanding** of ET systems; systematic cooperation between ET subsectors and less distinct boundaries
- Stronger cooperation between education and the private sector
- Promotion of **excellence** in VET at all levels and clarification of the role and position of “**VET at higher levels**”
- **Diversification** of VET provision; including non-formal (private providers, companies) and informal (e.g. on the job) settings
- Promotion of **validation** arrangements – recognition of prior learning
- Improving quality and efficiency of **skills forecasts** and feedback loops
- **Balancing** out transversal and technical skills in VET curricula
- Enabling upskilling and providing “**qualification ladders**” – no dead ends!
- Promoting the **significance of EU VET policies** in national policies
Encourage full implementation of the **learning outcomes approach** and **European instruments** (Europass, EQF, ECVET, Validation, etc.)

Further pursue endeavours aimed at fostering quality, trust, transparency, recognition, flexibility, relevance and responsiveness, etc.

Improve synergies and coherence between tools and policies – **integrated implementation** rather than tool-by-tool implementation

Stimulate and enable systematic exchange of experience and **mutual policy learning** (e.g. models of apprenticeship, involvement of employers and social partners)
Cornerstones of a European Policy for VET 2030

- First indicative outcomes can be clustered into four areas and used to inform the drafting of a comprehensive **EU policy for VET 2030**:
  - First, the need to agree on a **joint vision** of VET 2030, taking into account how EU-28 national VET systems are designed and function.
  - Second, the need for efficient **quality management systems** underpinning national systems.
  - Third, the need to fully exploit the potential of **European instruments in the field of transparency**, skills and qualifications as a pre-condition for trust, transparency and mutual recognition.
  - Finally, the need to **gather essential data** for the purpose of monitoring and transnational exchange of information („slimlining“).
Graphic Recording of Conference Inputs and Discussions
3. European Alliance for Apprenticeships
European Alliance for Apprenticeships

- EAfA is a useful tool to strengthen the quality, the supply and the image of apprenticeships in Europe.
- It is important that Erasmus 2021+ provides funding to further strengthen these activities in EU-28 member states and candidate countries.
- Austria fully supports the initiative → WKÖ is a strong partner and is implementing pilot actions in 7 countries, with more than 1,600 apprentices being trained in 17 different occupations.

- 5-Year-Anniversary Celebration & 2018 VET Excellence Award Nominees Celebration: 8th November 2018, Vienna.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>November 2018</th>
<th>Monday 6th November 2018</th>
<th>Tuesday 7th November 2018</th>
<th>Wednesday 8th November 2018</th>
<th>Thursday 8th November 2018</th>
<th>Friday 9th November 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morning</td>
<td>Press Conference Brussels</td>
<td>DGVT meeting 09:00-12:30</td>
<td>DGVT meeting 09:00-12:00</td>
<td>Vocational Skills Week: VHIT Site Visits - All participants</td>
<td>CEDEFOP Conference: The changing nature and role of VET in Europe 09:00-13:00</td>
<td>Vocational Skills Week Closing Conference 09:00-14:00</td>
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<td>Commissioner Thyssen visits VET school in Belgium</td>
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<td>EAVET Forum</td>
<td>Inter-Agency Group</td>
<td>European Apprentice Network</td>
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<td>National Opening Events</td>
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<td>Meeting of EU Researchers</td>
<td>Meeting of EU VET Providers</td>
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<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Arrival of DGVTs</td>
<td>DGVT meeting 13:30-17:00</td>
<td>CEDEFOP Conference: The changing nature and role of VET in Europe 14:00-18:00</td>
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<td>European Alliance for Apprenticeships 5th Anniversary &amp; Launch of support services 14:00-18:00</td>
<td>Departure</td>
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<td>Check in @ NH Danube City</td>
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<td>EAVET Forum</td>
<td>Inter-Agency Group</td>
<td>European Apprentice Network</td>
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<td>VET Site Visits - DGVTs 14:00-16:30</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
<td>DGVT: Welcome Dinner @ NH Danube City 19:00-22:00</td>
<td>DGVT: Guided Tour @ Prunksaal 18:30-19:15</td>
<td>DGVT: Formal Dinner @ Nationalbibliothek 19:30-22:30</td>
<td>Cocktail/dinner and networking opportunity 18:30-20:30 Open Minds Evening 20:30-23:00</td>
<td>The 2018 VET Excellence Awards Nominees Celebration @ MQ 19:30-22:00</td>
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2019

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Further Presidency Conferences in the Field of Education


Thank you for your attention!

Jürgen Horschinegg
Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
Head of Department for Statistics and Monitoring
juergen.horschinegg@bmbwf.gv.at
www.bmbwf.gv.at

Official Website of the Austrian Presidency:
www.eu2018.at