



# Apprenticeships and work-based learning

## The European Context

NetWBL Flanders, Brussels, 22 April 2016

*Sigve Bjorstad, Unit E3, Vocational training, Apprenticeships and Adult learning*

# Why it matters

*"Vocational Education and Training with a higher **workplace content** leads to stronger (and better) **labour market outcomes** for the youngest age group."*

*From education to working life, Cedefop 2012*



Rúben Salazar (Spain)  
Winner of 2015  
#lovemyapprenticeship contest

## Apprenticeships lead to jobs

Countries with **more work-based learning** have **less youth unemployment**

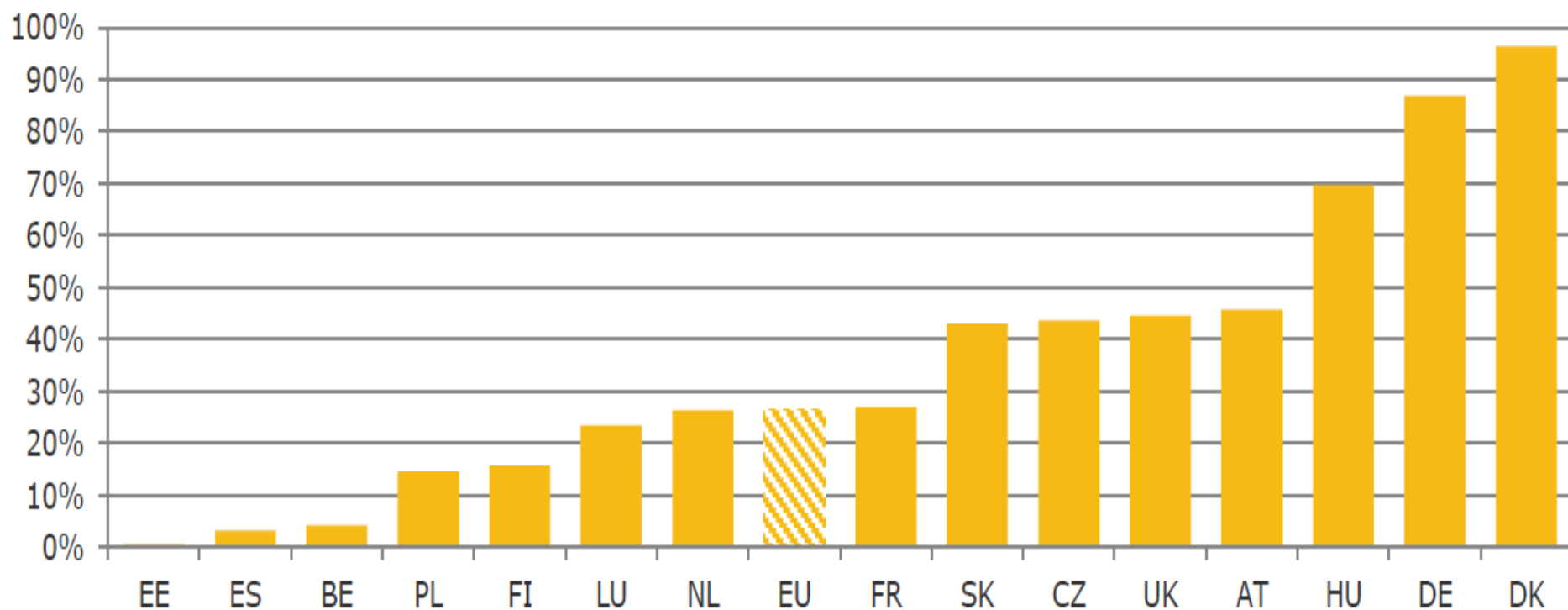
VET graduates tend to **find a job faster** than those with general education\*

Graduates of work-oriented programmes spend **less time without work**\*



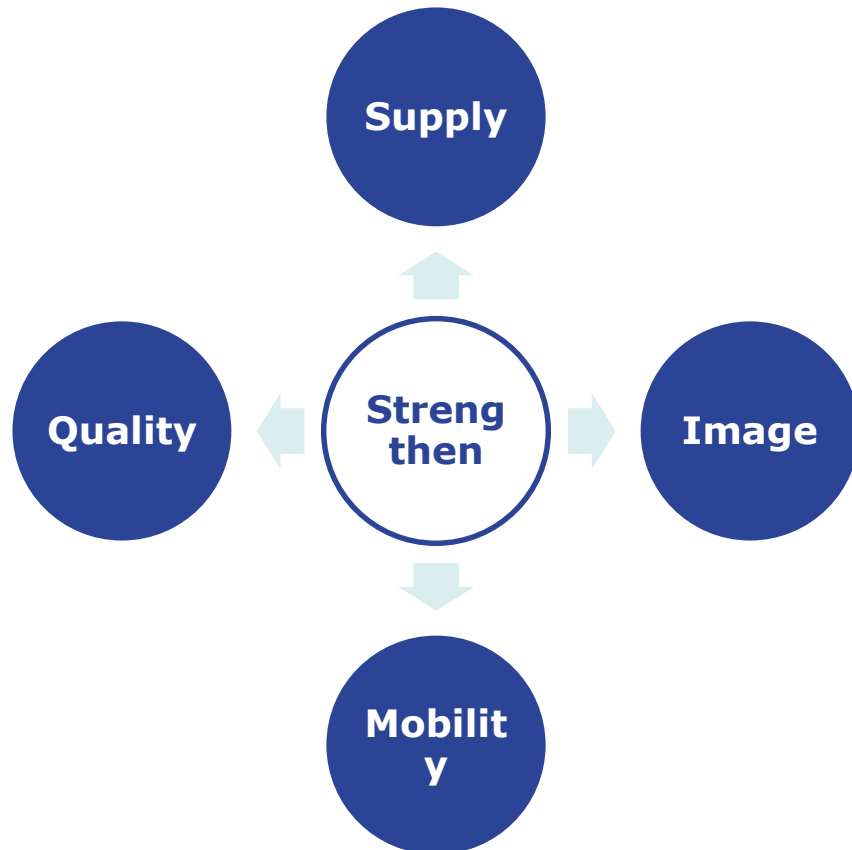
## Work-based learning is still an exception

Figure 3.3.4. Initial VET students in combined work- and school-based training



Source: Cedefop calculations based on Eurostat (UOE) data for 2012 (ISCED 1997 level 3). See Cedefop (2013), *On the way to 2020: data for vocational education and training policies* (<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/>).

# European Alliance for **Apprenticeships**



# Definition

## What is an apprenticeship?

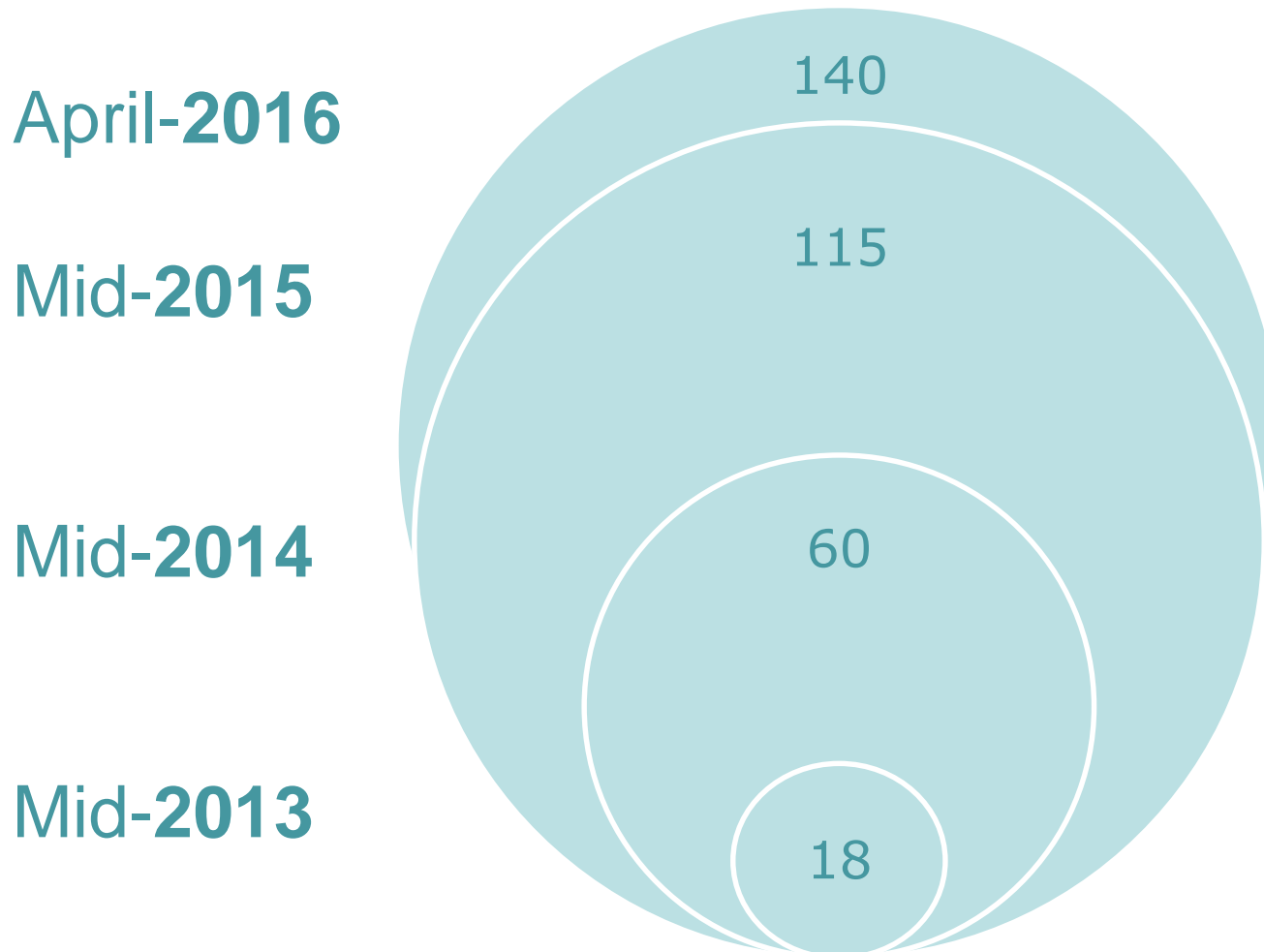




# Re-boosting the Alliance in Riga, 22 June 2015

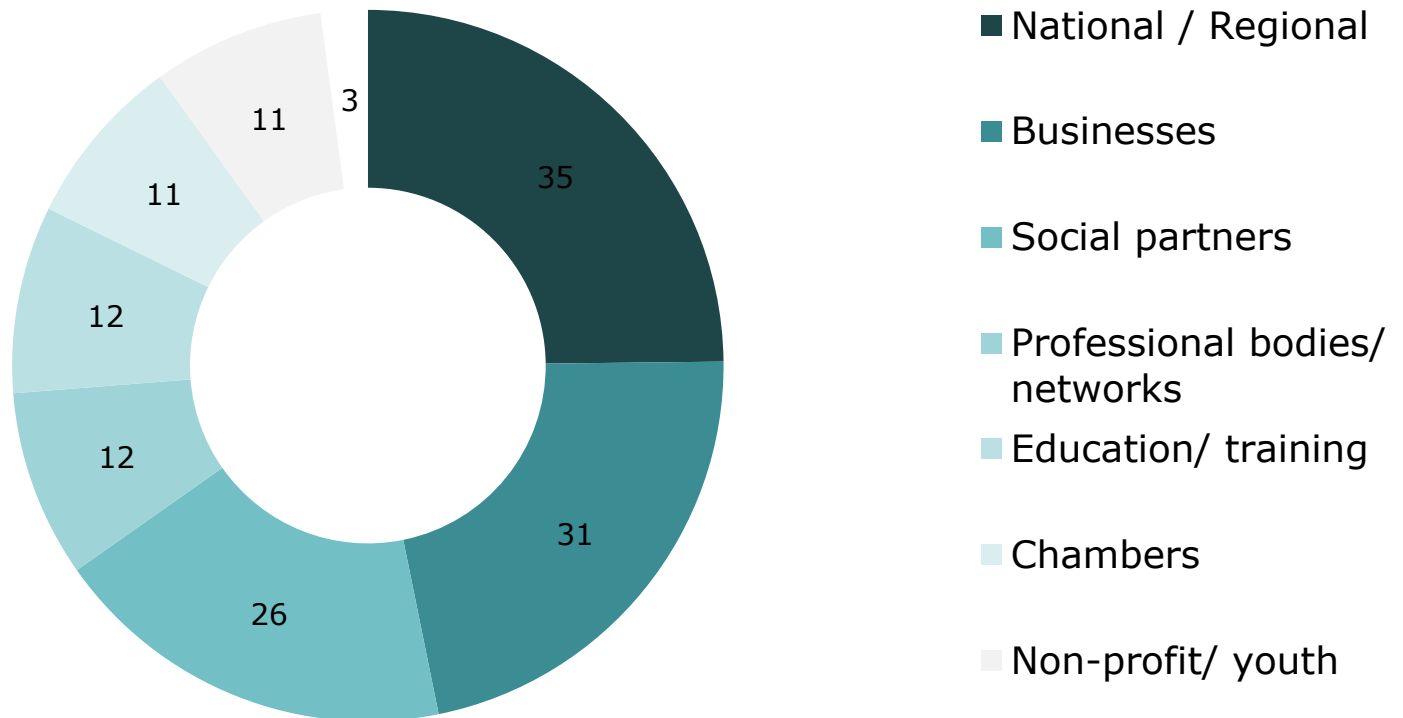


# Growth in EAfA commitments



# EaFA stakeholders

Commitments per April 2016



# Mobility pledges



*To promote international pathways in order to develop mobility of young people welcomed in training within the group.*



*GE will set up within the company a network of relevant country operations to work towards... more mobility for apprentices.*



*Improve the European cooperation between VET centres and companies through apprenticeship schemes.*

## Erasmus Pro

For a million young  
"European apprentices" by  
2020



## MEP Jean Arthuis

Pilot project - Towards a single  
European apprenticeship  
framework

## Erasmus+ VET learner mobility 2015 *awarded and contracted*

Duration	Numbers	Percentages
< 1 month	80,600	73.5%
1-6 months	28,734	26.1%
<b>&gt; 6 months</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>0.4%</b>

## Erasmus Pro pilot project voted by EP

**Call for proposals on long term mobility of apprentices (6-12 months) starting autumn 2016 (Jean Arthuis initiative)**

### *OTHER OBJECTIVES OF THIS PILOT PROJECT*

A critical review of **current EU instruments**

A **survey among companies** on hosting young foreign apprentices

A review of **national legislation and regulations**

Strengthen **cooperation with social partners**, and other relevant regional and local stakeholders (EESC)

An assessment of **efficient apprenticeship systems** in place and of existing conventions in some **border areas**

Identify the ways and means of raising **awareness** of the potential and the benefits of apprenticeships



European  
Commission

# The **EUROPEAN** **PACT 4 YOUTH**

# 1.

**BOOST**  
THE NUMBER AND QUALITY  
OF BUSINESS-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS



# 2.

**REDUCE**  
THE SKILLS  
**GAPS**



# 3.

**CONTRIBUTE**  
TO THE EU AND NATIONAL  
POLICY DEVELOPMENTS  
ON SKILLS FOR EMPLOYABILITY





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# The **EUROPEAN** **PACT & YOUTH**

## Targets & Next Steps



**10,000**  
QUALITY BUSINESS-EDUCATION  
PARTNERSHIPS



**100,000**  
NEW GOOD QUALITY  
APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINEESHIPS  
OR ENTRY-LEVEL JOBS



**28** NATIONAL  
ACTION  
PLANS



**1<sup>ST</sup>** EUROPEAN  
ENTERPRISE-EDUCATION  
SUMMIT IN LATE 2017

# 1<sup>st</sup> European VET Skills Week 2016

*Raising the attractiveness and  
image of VET  
through quality and excellence*



# How to organise a 1<sup>st</sup> EU VET Week?

- Activities at EU level & at national, regional and local level (Open Days)
- Initial and continuous VET
- **Involving all relevant stakeholders** (e.g. Pact4Youth, EAfA, EuroSkills, European Business Forum, VET providers, VET researchers etc)
- Examples of excellence & Awards
- Particular role for CEDEFOP and ETF
- Communication campaign to **reach the grassroots**



# New Skills Agenda for Europe

- **Increase skills levels in Europe** as a means to improve lives and jobs, and as a driver for competitiveness and fair and balanced growth.

## Challenges

- 1 in 5 are struggling with reading and writing, and more have poor numeracy and digital skills
- 30% of higher education graduates are working in jobs which don't need a university qualification
- 40% of employers cannot find people with the right skills

# New Skills Agenda for Europe

- **Increase skills levels in Europe** as a means to improve lives and jobs, and as a driver for competitiveness and fair and balanced growth.

## Ambitions

- Help more people develop and upgrade their skills
- Improve the transparency and recognition of qualifications
- Generate better and more timely intelligence on skills needs and trends



# European Alliance for Apprenticeships

<http://ec.europa.eu/apprenticeships-alliance>

## **EAfA newsletter:**

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