

European Competence Centre for Social Innovation: Communities of Practice ESF+
Community of Practice on Employment, Education and Skills

WEBINAR: Overcoming obstacles for young adults in work-based learning and internships abroad: Promising practices from ALMA and Erasmus+

21 September 2023

This webinar brings together promising practices from the ERASMUS+ and ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) programmes in organising successful transnational mobilities for apprentices as well as young adults not in education, employment or training (NEETs). The webinar is organised by the ESF Community of Practice on Employment, Education and Skills (CoP EES) in cooperation with the ALMA network.

Participation in work-based learning can help young NEETs to re-enter education or employment and has in general been a successful approach to curb youth unemployment. While the status and situation of apprentices is different from that of the “NEETs”, the former being enrolled in formal education and training programme and often having an employment contract, experience with apprentice mobility can provide some good practice when it comes to taking advantage of work placements abroad for the NEETs. This can be particularly useful with regard to some specific barriers that both groups face for example the low level of information and motivation of both the individuals and employers, psychological obstacles due to separation from families and peers, issues related to employment and inclusion in the workplace and aligning the work-based component with the learning programme.

ALMA, and the former TLN ¹, have found effective ways to enable NEETs to develop new skills and personal competences through supported work-related experiences abroad; in the same vein, the Erasmus+ programme has also gained significant experience over the years in how to better serve the needs of apprentices, companies, and VET providers in organising mobilities. How can these two funding opportunities for mobility which both have work-based learning at their heart best be used from the point of view of training providers and companies? What do they offer for the target group and how can they complement each other? Which solutions have projects within these programmes found to convince young people of the benefits of working temporarily abroad, to overcome language and cultural barriers, to guarantee safety and well-being abroad, and similar challenges?

The event is aimed at all individuals and organizations interested or involved in the international mobility of apprentices as well as young people not in education, employment or training, in especially potential promoters of new mobility projects.

The event will be moderated by Agnė Buividavičiūtė (ESF CoP EES coordinator, ESFA) & Jörg Markowitsch (3s Research & Consulting, Austria).

Key information

Date: 21 September 2023 (Thursday)

Time: 10.00 to 11.30 (CEST)

¹ The ESF Learning Network on Transnational Mobility Measures for Disadvantaged Youth and Young Adults (TLN Mobility) led by Germany was launched in 2013.

Agenda

Time (CEST)	Description
9.45–10.00	<p>Technical set-up and virtual welcome coffee Participants log-in through the link at least 15 minutes before the beginning of the event</p>
10.00–10.10	<p>Opening and welcoming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ana Carrero, Deputy Head of Unit, Vocational Education and Training. DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission - Jacqueline Pacaud, Head of Sector - Erasmus+ Programme Schools VET AL sector, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission - Lucrezia Ioannoni Fiore, ALMA Initiative, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
10.10–10.20	<p>Boosting international mobility of apprentices and trainees: Euro App Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anne Vitrey, Euro App Mobility, Vice President Delegate for European Affairs, Former Director of Budgetary Affairs, European Parliament
10.20–10.35	<p>Work-Based Learning and Mobility in the EU: History, Trends, Challenges A brief introduction into the history, recent trends and main challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrew McCoshan, Senior Expert and Director, Plexus Research & Consulting, UK, Associate Faculty Member, Further Education and Training Research Centre, and Senior Research Associate, Educational Disadvantage Centre, Dublin City University, Ireland
10.35–10.55	<p>Good practice Case 1: An Erasmus+ Project from Denmark</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Karsten Therkildsen, International Co-ordinator, Mercantec, Viborg, Denmark <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lise Frank, International advisor, International Education Programmes and Grants, Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science
10.55–11.15	<p>Good practice Case 2: An ALMA Project from the Czech Republic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Landsperský, Director, JURTA o.p.s., Public Benefit Organisation, Nebočady, Czech Republic <p>Discussant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tomke Trávníčková, Chair of the CoP on Employment, Education and Skills, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Czech Republic
11.15–11.25	<p>Q&A session – Participants can submit questions & comments via chat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jörg Markowitsch, Thematic expert of the CoP Employment, Education and Skills, 3s Research & Consulting, Austria
11.25–11.30	<p>Closing remarks and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brikena Xhomaqi, Director of the Lifelong Learning Platform and Member of the Steering Group of the CoP on Employment, Education and Skills - Agnė Buividavičiūtė, Coordinator of the CoP on Employment, Education and Skills, European Competence Centre for Social Innovation