



## Invitation to the final conference on Quality Assurance of Foreign Placement in Europe 03-10-2014 in Lille, France

The EU Leonardo da Vinci project **Quality Assurance Foreign Placement** proudly invites you to her final conference and present its project results to you.  
Partners from Turkey, France, Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands created a sustainable network of Local Agents to increase the quality of placements abroad. Learn how you can benefit the results and become involved in the growth of the network!  
The final conference is held in close cooperation with the EuroSkills 2014 Competition and this gives you the opportunity to visit the **QAFP** conference in the morning and the competition in the afternoon. An outstanding possibility to meet a wide range of people involved in Vocational Education and Training or Industry.  
Block your agenda now and meet us in Lille!

### Subscription to the programme

1. On line through [www.qplacement.eu](http://www.qplacement.eu)
2. Send an e-mail to Fred van Koot [fvk@tvetxp.eu](mailto:fvk@tvetxp.eu)

The conference costs are covered by **QAFP**. Participation in the conference includes free entrance to **EUROSKILLS**

### Accommodation:

Venue:

Grand Palais; QAFP conference rooms: **Rembrandt** and **Goya**  
(This is the venue of the EuroSkills 2014 competition)  
Lille, France; 1 Boulevard des Cités Unies, 59800 Lille  
+33 3 20 14 15 16

There are over 6000 parking places available near the venue. We recommend to book a hotel room early.

## Programme

### Friday, 3-10-2014

- 09:00 Arrival & registration participants
- 09:30 Welcome and introduction
- 09:45 The Importance of International orientation for Industry.
- 10:15 Student experiences on international placements / international competitions (Alumni)
- 10:45 break
- 11:15 Presentation of Our results.  
Workshop 'Tombola' executed by mrs. Pauline van den Bosch covering the following items:  
- Selection of companies  
- Quality of placements  
- Implementation of traineeships abroad in vocational programmes and validation of the results  
- Exchange of information  
- The value of the international training of local agents
- 12:15 Presentation of Local Agents and Signing MoU's
- 12:30 Wrap up and Lunch
- Invitation to other countries or regions to join this development and to become a L.A.
  - vision on stimulation international mobility
  - future activities and building the network

## Introduction

The European Union stated in its 'European strategy 2020' that professional education has an important role in achieving the policy targets for economic growth.

Stimulating the mobility of VET students by means of a work placement or internships abroad is one of the instruments in realizing these targets.

Work Based Learning (**WBL**) could be used as a tool to fill the gap between education and the world of work: the labour market.

In the EU member countries there is no common system or methodology to validate the quality of **WBL**, work placements or apprenticeships. In line with the targets of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships the project **Quality Assurance Foreign Placement in Europe** (QAFP) will bridge the differences between the countries regarding the quality of work based learning within the companies offering a work placement.

## Our results

The QAFP project team consists of 5 countries (BE, DE, FR, NL, TR). We have established so called **Local Agents** able to check the quality of the placements in these countries. This includes the work, the coach, the work conditions, the lodging, the apprentice or trainee, the employer and the staff.

- a set minimum requirements needed within a company to realise sustainable, effective and save work placements or apprenticeships
- minimum standards for companies and company tutors concerning the guidance and hosting of apprentices
- partnerships between organisations in different countries
- additional training and information for consultants of LA's, to help to increase the quality of learning within companies (WBL).
- companies and tutors get advise in the creation of a high quality learning environment within the company.
- at our disposal is a common database with qualified companies in the green sector in Europe that offer good facilities for work based learning. Apprentices/trainees can look and search in this database ([www.greenplacements.eu](http://www.greenplacements.eu)) and choose a placement company according their preferences.
- a curriculum for the training of company tutors (coaches) who guide the apprentices on the work floor is available.
- a European Label for (placement-) companies that meet minimum standards for hosting apprentices is available.

Expansion of our network of Local Agents is aimed and you are invited to join.

## What's in for you

Colleges or schools preparing students for their working life, all have to do with practical training.

An apprenticeship abroad aims at different and often other competencies to be achieved than during an apprenticeship in the home country.

In some countries vocational colleges have legal obligations to check the quality of the placement company, the guidance and the achieved competencies. Quite difficult if many students want to go to many different countries. Cooperation within Europe is the best solution. Cooperation, based on trust, can help to find and select suitable placement companies in the right section of students education, it helps to coach the student when there are difficulties. And, if colleges already check the quality of their placement companies in the home country, this judgement could be very useful for you.

**QAFP** and the database of [greenplacements.eu](http://greenplacements.eu) cooperate with **EU-MOVE** (<http://www.eumoveabroad.eu/>) aiming at an integrated database with placement possibilities for different sectors and levels in VET.

## Go abroad!

VET students going abroad learn to adapt to a different environment, are on their own, and have to help oneself. They learn to use a strange language, to communicate with few words and use their body language, get more awareness of respect, equality, and responsibility; they get awareness of cultural and linguistic diversity and learn to handle racism and xenophobia and they learn to organise (their placement, the trip, housing, the learning agreement, etc.).

**Recognition** of the achieved competencies or skills, in fact the valuation of WBL, can be done by the different groups involved: the placement coach, the student's report, the guiding teacher. The main point is not only about the achieved and measurable competences but also the students' personality and character.