
Dual education and work-based learning: trends and policies in Europe

Basic concepts and current trends in Europe

The crisis has brought increased attention to VET:

- **Work based learning** - Dual systems, and others
- **Labour market relevance of skills** – addressing skill mismatches
- **Mobility** - 6% benchmark

Background

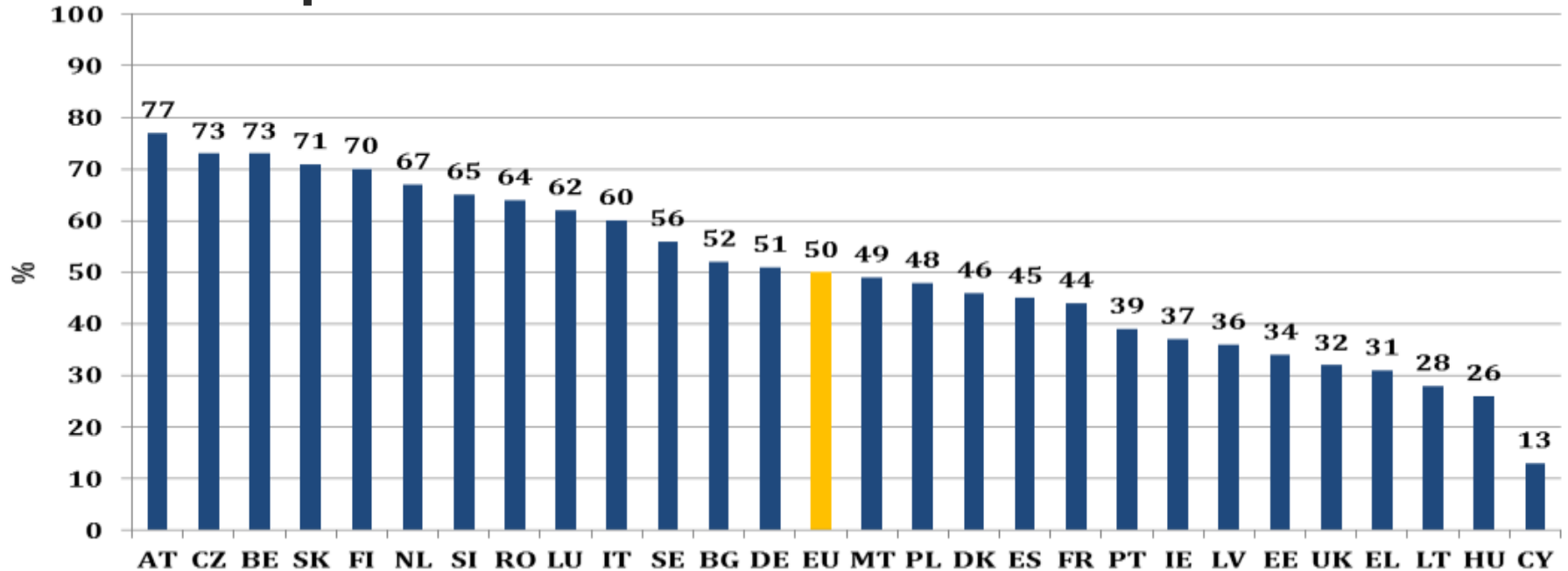
A large percentage of VET graduates do not have skills needed by LM

Fast-changing labour market and COVID-19 crisis are increasing skills mismatch

Youth and workers of all ages need **skilling, reskilling and upskilling** to overcome **skills mismatch**

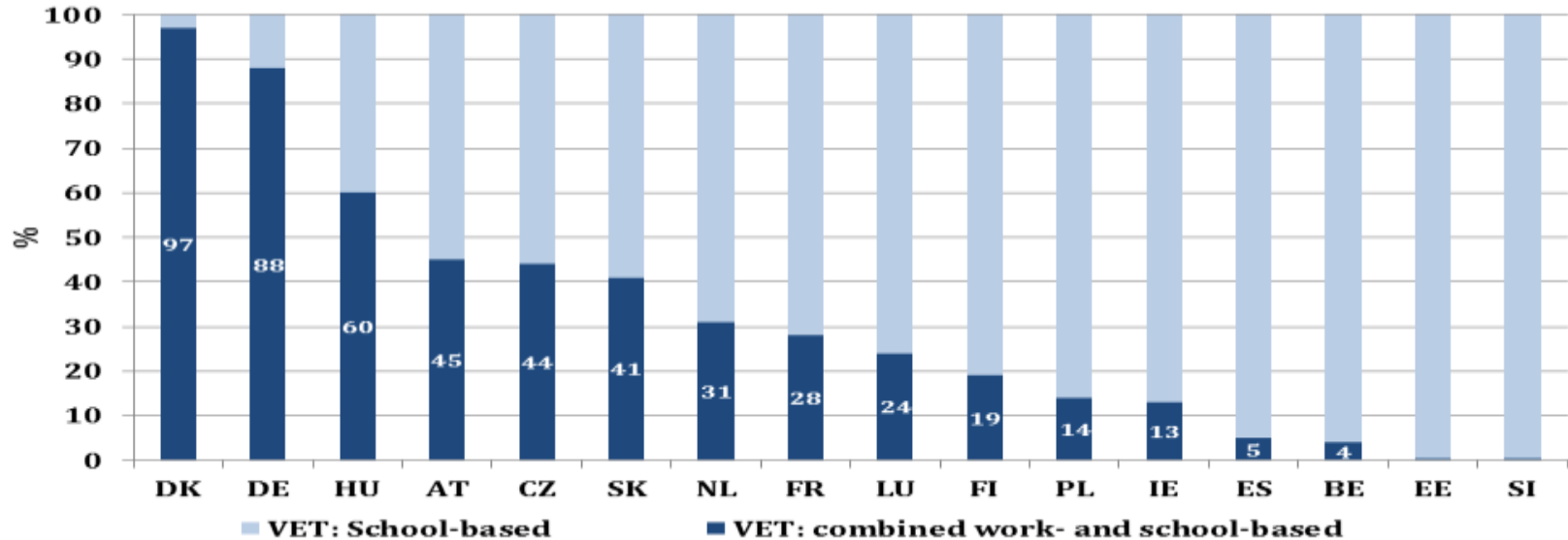
Apprenticeships are proven to be an effective and efficient means to develop skills needed by the world of work

Participation rates in VET



Students enrolled in vocational upper secondary education, as a % of all students enrolled in upper secondary education (ISCED level 3)

Work-Based Learning is still an exception

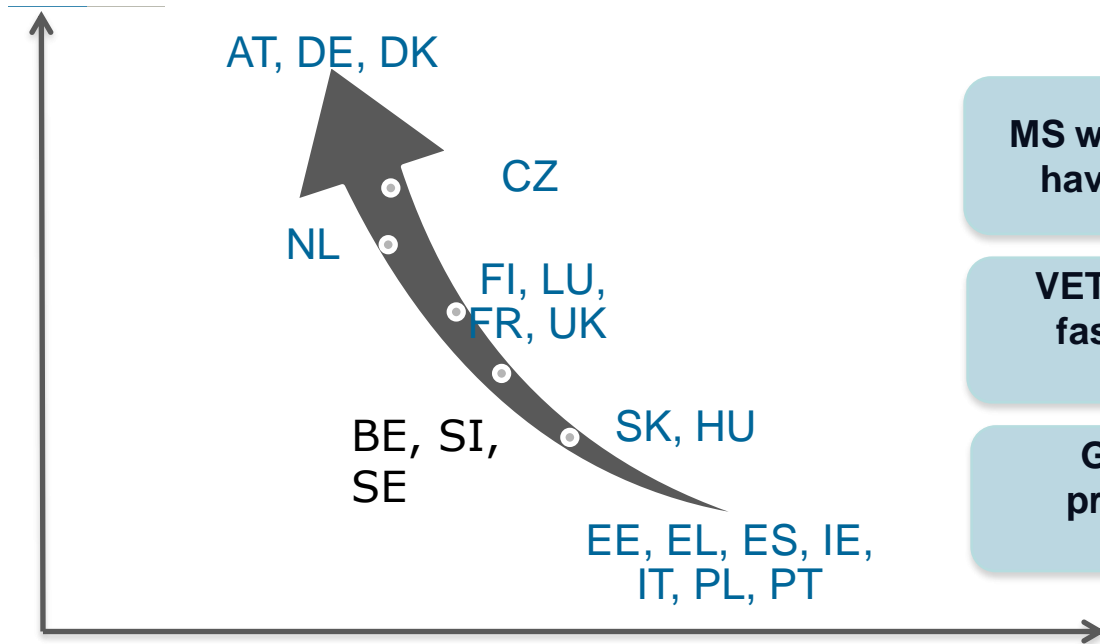


Proportion of VET students enrolled in combined work- and school-based VET, as a % of all students in upper secondary VET

WBL and youth unemployment

Share of students in ISCED 3 level programmes including at least 25 % of work-based learning	Youth unemployment rate		
	Below 15 %	15-25 %	Above 25 %
More than 30 % participation	DK, DE, AT	CZ	
Between 6 and 30 %	NL	FI, LU, FR, UK	SK, HU
Less than 6 %		BE, SI, SE	EL, PL, IE, PT, ES, IT, EE

Apprenticeships lead to skills that lead to jobs



MS 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*

Illustration based on a comparison of the level of youth unemployment (4th quarter 2011) in relation to the share of students participating in work based learning at ISCED 3 level programmes (Cedefop)

Youth unemployment

*Quotes from Cedefop publication "From education to working life", 2012

Why WBL?

VET with strong work-based learning leads to:

- Smooth transition from education to work
- Less youth unemployment
- Better skill matching
- Higher competitiveness



European VET policy framework

Legal basis
Lisbon treaty
Art. 165 & 166

Copenhagen process
**Framework for European
VET policy Coordination**

CEDEFOP provides
evidence and expertise

ETF supports the VET
reforms in 30 partner
countries


Social partners
involved in the
political process

Erasmus+ supports learning
mobility and transnational
WBL



New Skills Agenda for Europe: VET as a first or 'equal choice'

**VET as a choice of excellence
builds on the VET Priorities of the
Riga Conclusions**

-  **Work-based learning** in all its forms (including **Apprenticeships**)
-  **Quality assurance**, feedback loop between LM needs and VET provision
-  Access to training and qualifications for all in a LLL perspective (**C-VET**)
-  Strengthen **key competences** in both I- and C-VET, including digital skills
-  Professional development of **VET teachers and trainers**

What is an apprenticeship?



Council Recommendation on the European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships

Criteria for framework conditions



Regulatory
framework



Involvement of
social partners



Support for
companies

Criteria for working and learning conditions



Social
protection



Pay and/or
compensation



Learning
outcomes



Transparency



Career guidance
and awareness
raising



Flexible pathways
and mobility



Quality assurance
and graduate
tracking



Pedagogical
support



Workplace
component



Work, health and
safety conditions



Written
contract

The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAFA)

A multi-stakeholder platform, launched in 2013, which aims to:

Strengthen the quality,
supply and image of
apprenticeships in Europe

Promote the mobility of
apprentices



Mutual learning and
capacity building, targeted
support services



Networking through
online and face-to-face
meetings and activities



Improved offer and
delivery of quality
apprenticeships

Aims of the EAfA

Aims to:

- **Reform** of national VET systems (apprenticeship schemes)
- Increased **number, quality** and **attractiveness** of apprenticeships
- Easier **transition** from education to work
- Strong **partnerships** at all governance levels
- Leverage of public and private **funding**
- Improved **image** of apprenticeships



The renewed EAfA priorities:

Promoting national apprenticeships coalitions

Supporting SMEs

Mobilising local and regional authorities

Reinforcing the involvement of social partners

Increasing number of joint sectoral pledges

Supporting the representation of apprentices in the Member States

Join the Alliance!

- The Alliance is a platform for sharing experiences and learning from best practices.
- You can also find partners, develop new ideas and initiatives, and access the latest news and tools on apprenticeships.
- You will be invited in international event and be up to date.
- Stakeholders interested in making a pledge should complete the [pledge application form](#) and return it [by email](#).
- More info at <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1147&langId=en>

WBL main challenges

