



3rd European Monitoring Conference
Work-based Learning and Apprenticeships - NetWBL
“Work-based Learning 2020”



**Making better use of work-based learning to
address challenges in
education and training systems by 2020**

Focus groups

Main recommendations



Focus group A. Representatives of businesses

Our recommendations:

- We need commitment of all partners (contracts with expectations/duties for employers, learners, VET institutions)
- T-shape skills (professional skills added with key skills)
- WBL is a challenge to all levels of education (key skills!)
- We need responsible members of society as students – but this is an ongoing development also in WBL
- We need strong intermediary associations on regional / national / European level to be seen as equal partner
- Structured approach to communication between all partners is needed – on regional level face to face communication is a must!
- We need guidance for learners AND employers
- EC should provide anticipation, but we need flexible approaches to work with results
- EC should provide system frameworks, but we need legal frameworks allowing flexible approaches carried out in regional collaboration
- EC should support international mobility for VET graduates and employees to be more easy



Focus group B. VET providers, higher institutions, guidance centers

Our recommendations:

- We need to improve collaboration of policy makers with all the actors in the field of WBL
- EC should provide more funds for training mentors and tutors
- We would like to provide support for students to choose the right company
- EC should guarantee quality assurance by strong guidance services



Focus group C. Policy makers, authorities and competent bodies

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- REGULATORY FRAMEWORK
- ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES of all stakeholders and actors at ground level and positive collaborative relationships
- CORRECT SKILLS MATCH (adaptable, flexible, responsive curriculum and certification)
- QUALITY ASSURANCE and EVALUATION
- “PEOPLE” (VET side and company side)
- HIGHLIGHT ATTRACTIVENESS & ADDED VALUE OF WBL



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Focus group D. Social partners

We want to be involved!

If there's a change in the system to be done, social partners need to be included and involved into process from the very beginning.

EC / Policy makers should...

- support WBL for both young workers, entering the systems and labour force,
- put more emphasis on quality assurance (e. g. training the trainers) and involve social partners in shaping it,
- build trust through transparency in regarding to data, goals and responsibility,
- set up good mechanism and governance structures,
- make the agreements reached at the European level known to all stakeholders.

...and... also support cooperation between member states at all levels.



Focus group E. Learners - students, apprentices

Our recommendations:

- EC/NAs should provide a platform to support/help learners, companies and sending organisations get connected to each other
- Sending organisations should foresee WBL pathways lasting minimum three months and as close as possible to the end of the educational experience, in order to make it more relevant for all the stakeholders
- Learners should provide good experiences testimonies (in different forms) to promote the attractiveness of WBL experiences



Focus group F. WBL Professionals

COMMON GOAL. To have Teachers, Trainers, Mentors and Other Educators that are Skilled, Confident, Competent, Motivated, Professional, Creative and Up-to-date.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. National Agencies and the European Commission should:** ensure that Erasmus+ and future programmes continue to prioritise WBL, ensuring funding possibilities as well as tools and platforms for the transfer of successes and achievements;
- 2. Teacher Training Institutions should:** continue to work with teachers, trainers and other educators, ensuring relevant CPD provision;
- 3. All Frontline Actors involved in the Development and Delivery of WBL should:** aim for a common voice and a common vision that enables high-quality WBL delivery