



Towards an European Network Trade Unions and their Training Companies

“All workers and citizens in the labour market in Europe have the right and the opportunity to develop their aptitudes and skills in order to meet the needs for their work and also for their ‘non economic’ aspirations.” (ETUI)

Should trade unions and their training centres in Europe aim at closer co-operation? This question was the background of the NEWTON project, run in the year 2009 and financed by the European Commission under the budget line of the social dialogue. Colleagues from Italy, Spain, Ireland, Poland, Germany and Swiss discussed common strategies on political challenges and shared views of possible strategies. On November, 24th, they held a final conference in Berlin (Germany) and initiated the network which is to be continued under the umbrella of the ETUI in Brussels.

Two objectives are to be achieved:

1. To strengthen the trade union training institutes at the European training markets through an intensive and sustainable cooperation, in order to support our training approaches and target groups.
2. To support the trade unions in a more focussed and coordinated way in their educational and policy-

oriented tasks at European level through the concentration of resources, in order to enable them to become more capable of acting with regard to educational policies.

The European unions and their training institutes have a broad experience in further education of employees and unemployed people. They provide vocational training for about one million employees a year with regard to recognized qualifications.

Currently the NEWTON-network unites trade unions and training providers from seven European countries which collectively represent several hundred training institutes within the EU. Partners from all EU member states and connected countries are invited to join the network.

Why is this network necessary?

In the next ten years a European market for VET (Vocation and Education Training) will emerge! We as non commercial trade unions and training providers want to optimize our individual strategies on European level for the benefit of workers and employees!

How far can this network serve your interests?

You will have access to other trade unions and training providers! Links together both trade unions and training institutions across Europe!

You will receive regular newsletters on political and strategic proceedings at European level!

You have access to a communication platform!

You have the chance to cooperate with the network partners in projects concerning the VET sector!

You can profit from shared experiences of your colleagues in the field of VET and input your ideas for innovative projects and common offers!

Gives your political ideas about VET an ear on the European level!

How can I participate?

Contact our Education director Georges Schnell at ETUI and you will receive the newsletter, get access to our online communications platform, have the chance to work with us in projects, discuss and exchange opinions in conferences! You also have the opportunity to put your Logo on our website.



Our goals: Education

Education, vocational education and training belong together. Therefore everybody should be able to gain access to both. We lobby for making education and training accessible for everybody regardless of their origin or their economic situation. To do this we need:

- More transparency of the national education systems.
- Fair access to training measures and improvement of the worker's employability especially of low-skilled workers, migrants and disadvantaged workers.
- Democratic procedure at developing and implementing the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), traceability of the National Qualifications Frameworks (NQR) with regard to the EQF.
- Recognition of informal, social and personal competences within the EQF.
- Legislation for vocational education and training to be provided free of charge for employees and the unemployed.

Employment and Training

We as trade unions and their training organizations stress the importance of an employee-oriented approach even in times of a crisis i.e. when companies are in economic stagnation or experiencing instability within themselves and/or in their markets. We continue to contribute to maintain and improve the employability of employees and the development of one's own professional identity, including:



- Orientation of training measures with regard to the training needs and personal development possibilities of the individual. Thus we contribute to our share of employment policies and the development of qualified employees.
- Possibilities for everybody to improve their educational and professional condition. Therefore training measures must be free of charge and public grants for living costs must be secured.
- Respond to demographic change by means of target-group specific training measures.
- Maintenance of the comprehensive understanding of integrative education of the trade unions.

Europe

We work with European institutions to enhance and improve vocational education, training and employment. We contribute our experiences in social dialogue, to employment policies and vocational education and training. Our goal is to improve the employability and the mobility of employees in Europe by:

- Supporting the cohesive goals of the European commission with regard to trade unions and employees' interests.
- Defining the common positions of trade unions and strengthening of social dialogue in order to develop common educational and vocational programs, vocational training standards and European career profiles.

- Development of vocational training programs which can be realized Europe-wide within the scope of existing education system.
- Establishment of consultation schemes for the Europe-wide mobility of participants of training measures organized by the social partners.
- Creation of sectoral qualification frameworks which are comprehensible, precise and manageable for education activities within the respective labor market.
- Active support of all measures and policies to improve the education and training level of the European workforce.
- Introduction of a transparent legal framework which guarantees access to vocational education and training for everybody, and also establishes a right for public funding.

European Network

Trade unions and their training organizations have shared issues, interests and goals. This is due to the fact that work and employment are not only a national issue but also a European issue. Therefore trade unions and their training organizations established a network to learn from each other, to support each other and to enhance shared interests Europe-wide. This is by using:

- European dialogue for the exchange of experiences and for the joint development of proposals for a professional education policy.
- Use of synergy benefits in regard to training offers and responding to changing requirements.

- Cooperation in development and improvement of innovative concepts for training of qualified employees.
- Representation of shared interests on a European level, mutual support at a national level and common public relations.
- Provision of a virtual online platform for central knowledge management and permanent cooperation of all partners.

In order to take a look at the full text of our NEWTON DECLARATION, please take a look at our project website: www.newton-project.eu

We invite trade unions on European level, national trade unions as well as their training organizations to join our network and share our goals: For further information and to join the network go to: www.newton-project.eu

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