

# Strategic Plan 2016-2020

## INTRODUCTION

Xarxa FP's mission is to improve quality of Vocational Education and Training (VET) across Europe by developing common mobility strategies among cities aimed at VET students and professionals and promoting strategic partnerships through international VET projects.

Xarxa FP promotes work-based learning experiences across Europe, with a focus on apprenticeships, for both VET students and professionals.

Through its strategic plan, Xarxa FP seeks to become a reference organisation within the area of European mobility by promoting and innovating Vocational Education and Training in the framework of EU education and training policies.

## EU VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING: PRIORITIES UP TO 2020

Since 2002, European countries and social partners have cooperated on Vocational Education and Training (VET) through the Copenhagen Process<sup>1</sup>. In 2010, the Bruges Communiqué<sup>2</sup> provides long-term strategic objectives for European cooperation in VET for the period 2011-20. After a review<sup>3</sup> of the results from the first years implementation of the Communiqué, five key priorities to further improve VET systems were set for the period 2015 to 2020.

### KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2020

#### **1. Work-based learning**

Promote work-based learning in all its forms, with a focus on apprenticeships by involving social partners, companies and VET providers, as well as by stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship.

#### **2. Quality assurance**

Further develop quality assurance mechanisms in VET in line with the European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET) recommendation and, as part of quality assurance systems, establish continuous information and feedback loops to initial VET (IVET) and continuing VET (CVET) systems based on learning outcomes.

#### **3. Accessibility**

<sup>1</sup> [“The Copenhagen process: enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training”](#) (2002)

<sup>2</sup> [“The Bruges Communiqué on enhanced European Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training for the period 2011-2020”](#) (2010)

<sup>3</sup> [“Draft 2015 Joint Report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training \(ET2020\) New priorities for European cooperation in education and training”](#) (2015)

Enhance access to VET and qualifications for all through more flexible and permeable systems. Above all, this can be done by offering efficient and integrated guidance services and by making available validation of non-formal and informal learning.

#### **4. Key competences**

Further strengthen key competences in VET curricula and provide better opportunities to acquire or develop those skills through IVET and CVET.

#### **5. VET teachers and trainers**

Introduce systematic approaches and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of VET teachers, trainers and mentors in both school and work-based settings.

## **XARXA FP STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2016-2020**

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### **SL1. Improve the quantity and quality of VET mobility**

Mobility of VET students and teachers has been Xarxa FP's cornerstone since the network was created in 1999. In the view of becoming a reference organisation within the area of European mobility, Xarxa FP should enhance its attractiveness by improving both the quality and quantity of mobility projects in the field of VET.

#### **SO1. Enhance VET mobility quality procedures and methodologies**

Xarxa FP has been developing a methodology of organisation, guidance and evaluation of international work-based learning for VET students and professional development for VET teachers. Building on this expertise, the network should work towards the excellence on the management of VET mobility flows and procedures.

#### **SO2. Increase the number of mobility actions for both students and staff/professionals**

Xarxa FP should increase the number of apprenticeships managed and the number of staff' training offered, in order to contribute to their continuous professional development in both school and work-based settings.

#### **SO3. Development of a proactive strategy to incorporate new Xarxa FP members**

Xarxa FP should lead a proactive approach to potential organisations that could become members according to the strategic needs of the association in order to grow as a network and enhance the scope of its activities.

## **SL2. Stimulate and promote VET Innovation**

Supporting cooperation for innovation has always been at the core of Xarxa FP's vision. The network should promote the exchange of knowledge and good practices in the field of VET and develop international strategic partnerships to stimulate the implementation of innovative pilot actions and projects among cities.

### **SO4. Develop strategic partnerships through international VET projects**

Xarxa FP should promote strategic partnerships at the European level in the field of VET according to its members' priorities and explore the opportunities that the internationalisation of VET offers in terms of innovation and exchange of knowledge and good practices.

## **SL3. Contribute to the design of EU VET policies**

In the recent years EU cooperation in VET policies has been strengthened in the framework of the Copenhagen process / Bruges Communiqué and has developed common European initiatives like the European Alliance of Apprenticeships. Xarxa FP, as the only existing European network of cities working on VET mobility and innovation, should contribute with its expertise to the design of EU education policies.

### **SO5. Build up Xarxa FP's public affairs profile and work towards its recognition as a European stakeholder**

In order to play a significant advocacy role at the European level, Xarxa FP should start by rising up its public profile as the unique European network of local public administrations for VET mobility and innovation and work towards its recognition as a key stakeholder in the European public affairs arena. The network should take part in key European policy dialogue events and consultations in the VET field.

### **SO6. Develop an expertise on EU VET policies within the Secretariat General**

The Secretariat should develop an expertise on EU affairs in the VET field in order to work as Resource Centre for Xarxa FP members and represent them when necessary in key EU policy dialogue events.