



Report of the Official National Opening of the European Vocational Skills Week in Luxembourg

Monday, 9 November
10:00 -11:20

European Vocational Skills Week 2020
09-13 November 2020

EUROPEAN **VOCATIONAL**
SKILLS WEEK 2020





Report

Format:

Webinar.

The language of the event: French and Luxembourgish.

Speakers:

- Claude Meisch, ministre de l'Education nationale, de l'enfance et de la Jeunesse
- Nicolas Schmit, commissaire européen à l'emploi et droits sociaux
- Nora Back, Présidente Chambre des Salariés
- Mola Boly, apprentie frigoriste mecatronicien, Lycée Technique du Centre Luxembourgeois, 18 ans
- Laura Dostert, apprentie frigoriste mecatronicienne, LTC, 19 ans
- Felix Felten, apprenti auto mecatronique
- Pascal Klein en formation d'adultes : "Entrepreneur maraicher", Lycée technique agricole à Ettelbruck
- Stéphanie Jauquet, Entrepreneur - Fondatrice de « Cocottes » Concept Traiteur – Take-Away
- Véronique Schaber, Directrice du Service de la Formation Professionnelle
- Christine Pegel, Directrice Anefore
- Sébastien Detti, ambassadeur européen pour la formation professionnelle au Luxembourg

Number of Participants: 11 guest speakers

Main Message:

Highlight the importance of the development of skills for all European citizens. Investing in I-Vet as well as in C-VET has become even more urgent in the current pandemic.

Exchange, inform, inspire.

Detail of the Meeting:

Mr. Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights launched the official national opening of the European Vocational Skills Week with Mr. Claude Meisch, Minister of Education, Children and Youth in Luxembourg. During the online event, apprentices engaged together with the



other guest speakers. A representative of the chamber of employees, an entrepreneur offering apprenticeships to young VET students and the director of the Luxembourg Erasmus+ National Agency joined the Official National Opening of the Week.

The young apprentices explained why they have chosen VET and shared their experience during the lock-down of school. They were happy to have the opportunity to follow online lessons, but admitted having missed the learning opportunities that work-based learning offers. They did not have difficulties in finding an apprenticeship in companies and they feel well supported in their endeavours.

Minister Claude Meisch underlined the importance of in presence learning and that tremendous efforts have been made by the entire educational community to ensure continuity of learning. He underlined that personal contact is essential to learning and irreplaceable. This year we have a particular context, a difficult period for apprentices and for companies, for SMEs in particular. That's why the government decided to give financial incentives to companies for hiring young apprentices until the end of this year.

Mrs Schaber, Director General of VET, confirmed that the initiative by the government is a success in so far that this year all apprentices were able to find an apprenticeship. She also explained other initiatives like Fit 4 VET put in place to guide young people in their choice of a profession, as well as to support them with the development of transversal skills or remediation courses. She also mentioned the new professional profiles being developed in order to fit the labour market demands.

In this respect Commissioner SCHMIT brought up the Youth Employment Support initiative launched by the European commission in July 2020 which aims at reducing youth unemployment and to support young people to find an apprenticeship even in difficult times when businesses might be more reluctant to hire, which fortunately is not the case in Luxembourg.

Furthermore, the Commissioner mentioned the Reinforced Youth Guarantee and the launch of the European Pact for Skills in the framework of the European Vocational Skills Week.

Mme Jaucquet, young entrepreneur and founder of a chain of restaurants, hired 12 apprentices this year. She retains many of them after completion of the apprenticeship; finding professional staff in her sector is difficult. She uses new digital tools for better management and makes efforts with respect to sustainability and environment.

Mme Christine PEGEL, Director of ANEFORÉ, Erasmus + Agency and national contact point for the European Vocational Skills Week, mentions the high demand for apprenticeships and traineeships abroad and underlines the importance of mobilities for the development of soft skills, personal skills and the development of one's personality. She insists on the importance of the Erasmus+ Programme allowing young people to acquire skills and competencies that will facilitate their transition to the professional world. She also talks about the new EUROPASS Platform launched by the Commission in



June and the interesting, modern features of the renewed platform. She ends mentioning the Excellence in VET Awards and the fact that the Lycée Technique Agricole is one of this year's nominees.

A young apprentice holder of a Master's degree in business and currently training to become a gardening entrepreneur tells about his motivation and his somehow unusual path.

The Luxembourg Ambassador for VET, Mr Sebastien Detti, takes the floor and talks about his experience in his formation and the encouragement received by teachers to continue and persevere in his endeavour. He underlines that it is possible to reorient oneself towards a completely new profession with the right support and adequate resources. His dream is to switch to the role of "trainer" and help to form young apprentices himself.

In this respect, Mr Meisch stresses the attractiveness and the many possibilities and pathways VET offers and the importance of bringing VET closer to young people.

Conclusions:

Investir dans l'apprentissage tout au long de la vie.

VET can be a bridge to the new digital and green world of work.

VET is a unique path to employment.

Vivre c'est apprendre ou apprendre c'est vivre.