

Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# **Spotlights and Achievements in developing VET in Latvia**

Riga, March, 2017



Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# Structural context of VET reforms in Latvia (I)

## Background

- Many small VET schools, low prestige of VET, outdated building infrastructure, teaching and training equipment
- History of relatively weak links with industry/ labour market
- Outdated curriculum and teaching methods
- Gaps in regulation of VET

## Main directions of work

- Revision and optimization of VET school network
- Framework of social partner/labour market involvement in VET
- Revision of the Legal framework for VET
- Work based learning



Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# Structural context of VET reforms in Latvia (II)

## Situation now

- Modernized VET school network: reduced fragmentation and overlaps, strengthened sectoral players, investments in infrastructure and equipment
- Mechanism of cooperation with labour market: Sectoral Expert Councils (SEC), Conventions
- Competence development activities aiming teachers and trainers
- Sectoral qualifications structure, transition from subject bases curricula to learning outcome based, modular curriculum and work-based learning (WBL)
- WBL regulation on system level since July 2016, in practice from September 2016



Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# Work –based learning - a new challenge for countries with school based VET system

- Work-based learning (WBL) – a high level VET policy priority in Latvia and in Europe
- Key idea – bringing closer the worlds of education and work for better future labour force training in compliance with the labour market needs
- A new challenge for countries with basically school-based VET systems
- Initially - numerous controversial issues
- Decision by the Ministry of Education and Science – to follow a 'bottom up' approach



Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# WBL – our way retrospectively

- Since 2012/2013 there have been ongoing discussions at various levels between Latvia and various co-operation partners on the implementation of the WBL in the Latvian vocational education and training (VET) system
- In 2013 the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) invited 6 VET institutions to consider participation in WBL pilot project;
- In academic year 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 academic years limited number of VET institutions took part in the implementation of the WBL pilot project
- The results of the implementation of the WBL pilot project has served as a basis for further WBL developments in Latvia
- **July 2016, regulation on VET implemented**



Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# International context – increasing awareness and prestige of VET

- Learning activities from countries with traditional apprenticeship or dual systems – e.g. Germany, Austria, Switzerland
- Bi-lateral agreements – with Germany and Switzerland,
- Multilateral agreements - Memorandum on co-operation in VET in Europe (Berlin, December 2012)
- EU VET policy approaches - Riga Conclusions, endorsed in Riga June 22, 2015 during the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA)
- Baltic Alliance for Apprenticeships (BAfA)
- EU support initiatives – e.g. Erasmus+ calls for proposals. WBL Balt project



Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

## Project activities – on the Baltic level

**Enhanced cooperation and peer learning** between the 3 Baltic States in implementing VET reforms and supporting WBL development.

**Baltic Alliance for Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning – Declaration of Intent signed in Riga 22 June, 2015**



Erasmus+



Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# Baltic Alliance – further steps

## Agreed upon during the international Baltic seminar 24 January, 2017 as part of the Erasmus+ WBL-Balt project

- **Continued cooperation at different levels with more emphasis on VET institutions' associations and business sector associations involvement**
  - Specific directions of joint work:
  - Developments towards joint Programs & Qualifications
- **Enhanced cooperation among Baltic employers on WBL implementation**
- **Promoting Baltic region as the best place for studies and work**

**Practical implementation:** to meet as frequently as needed (but no less than once per year - second part of January) to review progress and agree on further work. The potential format – a Baltic seminar or conference (LV or LT or EE)





Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# **Investments - EU SF and States' Budget**

**Infrastructure, equipment, regulatory  
framework and teacher/trainer  
development**

**Planning period 2014 -2020  
146, 15 mio EUR**



Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# VET Competence Center in Ventspils 2009

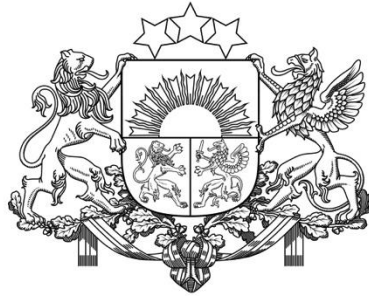




Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

# VET Competence Center in Ventspils 2017 (completed in 2015)





Ministry of  
Education and Science  
Republic of Latvia

**Thank you for your attention and any questions are welcome!**