Basic information

1997/0321(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition **Subject** 4.40.06 Teachers, trainers, pupils, students	

Key players

European Parliament

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	BÖSCH Herbert (PSE)	25/02/1998
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	SKINNER Peter (PSE)	25/02/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2111	1998-06-29
Environment	2153	1998-12-21
Social Affairs	2145	1998-12-01
Social Affairs	2102	1998-06-04

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/11/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0572	Summary
16/02/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/04/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
16/04/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0135/1998	
29/04/1998	Debate in Parliament		
29/05/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0342	Summary
29/06/1998	Council position published	09315/1/1998	Summary
16/07/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
27/10/1998	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary

27/10/1998	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0374/1998	
05/11/1998	Debate in Parliament		
01/12/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0675	Summary
21/12/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
21/12/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/01/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0321(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 127
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/4/10265

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0135/1998 OJ C 152 18.05.1998, p. 0005	16/04/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0239/1998 OJ C 152 18.05.1998, p. 0018-0054	30/04/1998	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0374/1998 OJ C 359 23.11.1998, p. 0005	27/10/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0636/1998 OJ C 359 23.11.1998, p. 0012-0021	05/11/1998	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	09315/1/1998 OJ C 262 29.08.1998, p. 0041	29/06/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1997)0300	18/06/1997	Summary

Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0572 OJ C 067 03.03.1998, p. 0007	12/11/1997	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1998)0342 OJ C 218 14.07.1998, p. 0007	29/05/1998	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1998)1248	15/07/1998	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1998)0675	01/12/1998	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2002)0214	02/05/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0110/1998 OJ C 095 30.03.1998, p. 0045	28/01/1998	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0431/1997 OJ C 180 11.06.1998, p. 0043	12/03/1998	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0635/1998 OJ C 214 10.07.1998, p. 0063	29/04/1998	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1999/0051
OJ L 017 22.01.1999, p. 0045 — Summary

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 28/01/1998 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee welcomed the initiative taken by the Florence European Council. It endorsed the Commission communication, subject to a number of comments and suggestions. It noted with interest the innovative aspect of the communication which rightly highlighted the positive role which apprenticeship training could play in contributing to young people's integration into employment. However, the Committee put forward the following main comments and suggestions: specific actions should be carried out for firms on the quantitative development of apprenticeship training. This depended ultimately on the will and/or capacity of firms to increase the number of apprenticeship training places. The Commission and the Member States should initiate information and awareness campaigns for young people, parents, teachers, career advice centres and the social partners in order to improve the image of apprenticeship training. To this end the role of Cedefop should be reinforced. Practical workplace training needed to be continuous. In particular it must be ensured that apprentices were not assigned to menial tasks unrelated to the training which they were supposed to be receiving. The development of apprenticeship training and its extension to other vocations could be fully achieved only if this was not an end in

itself. Apprenticeship training should open the way to further studies, in particular offering ways of transferring to higher or university education, whilst taking account of the vocational training systems of the various Member States. Emphasis should be placed on the essential links between: the apprentice and his family on the one hand, and the apprentice’s supervisor and teacher on the other; the workplace supervisor (whose status, role, knowledge required for the job and ways of preparing for this, and rights and obligations should be clearly defined) and the teacher. The European Union should encourage the shared responsibility of the social partners (employers and workers) for the operation of apprenticeship training, particularly within training bodies. The Committee wanted to see a quality survey launched. This should set out reference values or minimum criteria with a view to identifying the essential features of a European apprenticeship training model. It would also be useful to measure the impact of apprenticeship training on labour market integration and employment.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 12/11/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to promote 'European pathways for work-linked training, including apprenticeship', and to award beneficiaries a document or certificate ('EUROPASS training') to make these periods of training undergone in a Member State other than the Member State of origin more transparent and more visible. SUBSTANCE: the proposal lays down the substance and common principles for the implementation of 'European pathways for work-linked training, including apprenticeship'. Member States are called upon to incorporate in their worked-link training systems which entail spending periods in another Member State measures enabling the persons concerned to take advantage of 'European pathways' which are a full part of the training received in the home State. The proposal also establishes the principle of a certificate issued to any person in European pathway work-linked training which is to take the form of a Community information document. These certificates are called 'EUROPASS-training'. Their form and content are laid down in an annex to the proposal. In particular, they include information about: - the type of training followed, - the qualifications or certificate awarded for it, - the skills acquired, - the duration of the 'pathway', etc. 'Europasses' must clearly state that the pathways travelled are an integral part of the vocational training of the persons concerned in their home State. 'European pathways' are addressed to anybody who wishes to receive vocational trianing in another Member State leading to a certificate or qualification recognised by the competent authorities in the State of origin. Thus they are not reserved for beneficiaries of mobility aid under Community programmes (e.g. Leonardo). As regards implementation, the Commission is to produce, disseminate and monitor 'Europasses' in cooperation with the Member States, at the expense of the Community budget. Member States are to designate a national body to coordinate and implement the proposal at national level, in close cooperation with the two sides of industry and representative work-linked training organisations. They must also take measures to ensure that the action taken is of adequate quality and to evaluate it. Equality of opportunity must be promoted. The 'European pathways' and 'Europasses' will not modify either the organisation or the content of the Member States' training schemes and systems, or the rules or procedures for the award of vocational training diplomas, titles or certificates. The 'pathways' are of a voluntary nature and require the establishment of a structured partnership between the body responsible for training in the home State and the host partner (enterprise, training establishment or centre) in another Member State.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 01/12/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

Following the European Parliament's second reading, the Commission accepts 19 of the Parliament's 21 amendments, particularly those which refer to the European pathways and mobility and provide that each European pathway shall form an integral part of the training followed in the Member State of provenance. The Commission rejects 2 amendments for reasons of budgetary procedure.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 15/07/1998 - Commission communication on Council's position

In its communication in response to the Council common position on European training pathways, the Commission considers that the Council text is acceptable, except on two major points: - finance: the Commission considers that it is not appropriate to include the indicative costs of the measure in the text of the decision, and it does not accept that financial support should be limited to an introductory phase of four years from 1 January 2000; if there is an introductory phase it should not affect the launch of preparatory activities in 1999; - the duration of the European pathways: although in view of the great diversity of systems in the Member States it does not share Parliament's view that pathways should all have a minimum duration of three months, the Commission does not accept the complete lack of any reference to their duration; it considers that a reference should be added that the duration of pathways are subject to an agreement between the responsible body and the host partner.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 18/06/1997 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: to propose recommendations for improving the quality of apprenticeship in Europe, which is a key to the employment of young people in the EU. SUBSTANCE: Quality apprenticeship substantially improves the likelihood of young people finding employment. The unemployment rate tends to be below average among young people who have successfully completed apprenticeships. In Belgium, for example, the unemployment rate among ex- apprentices is 16%, which is lower than the national youth unemployment rate. In Ireland, 95% of apprentices find jobs. In Austria, it is unemployed ex-apprentices who find work again most quickly (in 6 days, as against 80 days for those with other training). Encouraged by these figures, the Commission proposes a five-point strategy for promoting apprenticeship in the EU: 1) expanding and developing new forms of apprenticeship training: the aim is to develop new forms of apprenticeship training, particularly in growing sectors and emerging jobs. In order to do so, Member States should continue to give financial incentives to industry to provide more training places. They should also encourage businesses to participate in apprenticeship schemes by means of a more flexible legal framework. The possibilities presented by multimedia should also be exploited. The Commission, meanwhile, will carry out a survey to identify good practices and important innovations in this field; 2) raising the quality of training: close cooperation must be encouraged between teaching establishments and businesses and between teaching and training staff. Member States should adapt programmes so as to link initial and continuing training. The Commission will place more emphasis in the Leonardo da Vinci programme on fostering qualitative improvements in apprenticeship by means of the exchange of trainers/tutors and other relevant actors in enterprises and educational institutions; 3) encouraging the mobility of apprentices: differences in the status of apprentices between Member States are an obstacle to international mobility. The Commission is currently working on a proposal to develop a common legal framework for apprenticeship training in Europe. When revising the Leonardo programme, the Commission will place special emphasis on a mobility scheme for apprentices (along the lines of Socrates /Erasmus). The Commission and Member States should also promote opportunities for mobility through a system for gathering, coordinating and supplying information on possibilities for transnational placements, in particular within the EURES system (information network on employment and training operated by the Commission); 4) involving the social partners in apprenticeship: the Commission and Member States should set up networks of pilot projects for fostering apprenticeship training in growing and innovative sectors and give the social partners a responsible role in their operation. It also seems essential to step up discussions on apprenticeship training within the social dialogue; 5) formulating and implementing real European strategies for apprenticeship training: differences between national apprenticeship schemes must not be allowed to hamper the search for common approaches to common problems. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, could draw up regular reports on apprenticeship training in the EU. The Commission is also considering establishing a benchmarking system for apprenticeship training.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 30/04/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Pierluigi CASTAGNETTI (PPE, I) on European pathways for work-linked training, the European Parliament stressed the impact of work-linked training in micro-undertakings and the craft sector as a means of integrating young people into the labour market and the beneficial effect of such training on employment. It called for these pathways to be an integral part of the training received in the State of provenance and not to be used as a means of job substitution there. In order to prevent the emergence of 'apprenticeship tourism', it called for the period of training to be not less than 3 months. It also called for: -the proportion of the Community contribution to be no less than 50% of the cost of the programme, -the 'pathways' to be open to anybody undergoing vocational training, whatever their age, -the training to be provided in accordance with labour and social security standards, -participation in a European 'pathway' and the use of the Europass certification not to confer any additional right or obligation on the beneficiary, -Europass certification to be issued by the organization responsible for training in the country of provenance, -teaching mentors to act closely with the competent professional bodies taking part in European pathways, -the Commission to coordinate supervision and evaluation of European pathways and set up, disseminate and monitor Europass in cooperation with the Member States and the two sides of industry, -Member States to facilitate the access of trainees to guidance regarding health and safety risks and procedures in the workplace and promote equality of opportunity, -the Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States, to establish a mutual information and coordination system to promote 'European pathways' and offset disparities among the various national systems, -the Commission to carry out an annual quantitative study of professional needs to enable national professional training plans to be adjusted in the light of the real needs of the market and to allow young people with the requisite qualifications to find jobs more easily on the European employment market, -a report to be drawn up three years after the entry into force of the proposal, concerning the impact of 'European pathways' on mobility in work-linked training, incorporating any proposals needed to supplement the measure.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 05/11/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mr Pierluigi CASTAGNETTI (EPP, I) on work-linked training Parliament welcomed the fact that in its common position the Council had included some of the amendments put forward by Parliament at first reading, as, for example, the evaluation of the measures implemented under the decision and the role of the SMEs. The common position therefore concentrated exclusively on EUROPASS and neglected the European pathways in the proposal. Parliament therefore insisted on the need for EUROPASS to have a certain number of common principles guaranteeing a high degree of quality training and allowing the ultimate objective of the proposal to be attained (promoting mobility). Parliament stressed the importance of information for those seeking training. They should receive proper preparation as regards working conditions and the health and safety risks and procedures in the host undertaking. Each Member State should facilitate access to EUROPASS by disseminating information on the opportunities for training in the other Member States. Parliament also stressed the importance of the Commission's coordinating role in the management of measures and the monitoring of measures undertaken in close cooperation with the Member States and the social partners. It should also promote the implementation of the European pathways through a mutual information system. In some of its amendments Parliament also reiterated the fact that the European pathway should form an integrated part of the continuing training in the Member States of provenance and that it should be of a fixed term, determined by mutual agreement between the body responsible for training in the Member State of provenance and the host

partner. Lastly, Parliament rejected the budgetary changes made by the Council and deleted any reference to a financial reference amount in the proposal for a decision. The funds would be allocated by the budget authority during the annual procedure within the limits of the financial perspective.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 29/05/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal on European pathways for work-linked training, including apprenticeship, the Commission incorporated 26 of the 29 amendments adopted by Parliament at first reading. The main amendments incorporated include those: - seeking to highlight the role of SMEs and the craft industry in developing work-linked training and apprenticeship in Europe (the specific features of these companies mean that they have special requirements) and stressing the role of the social partners and other partners in apprenticeship; - seeking to guarantee a good flow of information and more effective support for the European pathways as they develop, particularly with regard to health, safety at work, languages, etc; - stressing that the pathways are an integral part of the period of training in the home country and that they cannot be used to replace employment there; - stressing that the pathways are voluntary and are to be implemented in such a way as to respect the diversity of situations and legislation in the Member States; - avoiding limiting the pathways to certain categories of person (age, receipt of a mobility grant under Community programmes); - stressing that the pathways do not confer any additional right or obligation on the beneficiaries; - stressing the coordination and consistency of the actions undertaken by the Commission and Member States. However, the Commission was unable to accept three amendments adopted by Parliament concerning: - the establishment of a minimum duration of 3 months for the European pathways: the Commission considers that the diversity of the systems which exist in the various Member States is such that it is not possible to lay down a minimum duration for the pathways, which would be too inflexible; - the carrying out of an annual quantitative analysis of vocational demand in the Member States: the Commission considers that this amendment calls into question the subsidiarity principle; - the percentage of the Community contribution, which Parliament wished to be at least 50%: this amendment runs counter to the Commission's proposal for implementation of the instrument.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 02/05/2002 - Follow-up document

Two years on from the entry into force of Decision 51/1999/EC, the state of implementation can be summarised as follows: The implementation mechanism has been established and is running smoothly, in particular: -all Member States have designated one or more existing bodies -called national contact points (NCPs) - as being responsible for implementing the "Europass Training" Initiative; -the Commission has fostered co-ordination and exchanges of information through meetings of NCP representatives; a non-binding cooperation charter has been agreed by the Commission and NCPs. The actual dissemination has started in almost all countries. About 19300 "Europass Training" documents have been issued. In general they were issued to record European pathways that complied with the criteria set out in the Decision. The available data indicate that: -all countries have hosted European pathways. English-speaking countries are the most favoured destinations; -duration of the traineeship abroad varied between 3 and 15 weeks; -a slight majority of "Europass Training" holders were women (about 55%); -a majority are about 20 years old (17 to 23); -about three quarters of holders are in education or training at secondary or upper secondary level; lower and higher levels of education each account for 10-15% of cases; -hotel, restaurants and tourism is often the most popular sector, although all sectors are covered by one or more pathways; -SMEs (other than education and training bodies) are not usually involved as sending bodies, although they often host European pathways; -a good number of European pathways come under the "Leonardo da Vinci" programme, though its weight varies considerably from one country to another (30% to 100%). Other Community programmes (Socrates, Youth and Equal) have a marginal role, while in some countries bilateral or national initiatives account for upto 50% of the European pathways. Information and promotion issues have been addressed by launch conferences, the dissemination of information booklets and fliers, participation at relevant events and the Internet. Representatives of the European social partners attend the co-ordination meetings, and often serve on steering committees at national level.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 21/12/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to promote "European pathways for work-linked training, including apprenticeship" and to award beneficiaries a "EUROPASS Training" document, to make these periods of training in a Member State other than the Member State of origin more visible. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council decision 1999/51/EC seeking to promote "European pathways for work-linked training, including apprenticeship". CONTENT: the decision lays down the content and common principles for the implementation of "EUROPASS Training" certificates, the purpose of which is to document at Community level the period or periods of work-linked training, including apprenticeship, followed by a person in a Member State other than that in which training took place, i.e. his "European pathway". The form and content of the "EUROPASS" are laid down in an Annex to the decision. In particular, they include information about: - the name of the beneficiary and the mentor; - the type of training followed; - the qualifications or certificate awarded; - the skills acquired (especially the work or training experience followed during the pathway); - the duration of the pathway etc. European pathways are an integral part of the training followed in the Member State of origin. The body responsible for organising training in the Member State of origin and the host partner will agree jointly on the content, objectives, length and procedure for the European pathway. The pathway will be supervised by a mentor. Use of the "EUROPASS" and participation in a European pathway will be voluntary and will not confer any additional rights or obligations other than those defined in the decision. The "European pathway" is addressed to anybody, irrespective of age, who wishes to receive vocational training (at any

level) in another Member State. This training, which is recognised or certified by the competent authorities in the Member State of origin, will include structured periods of training in an enterprise, training establishment or training centre, independent of the status of the beneficiary (under a contract of employment, apprenticeship contract, student contract etc.). As regards implementation, the Commission will produce, disseminate and monitor the "EUROPASS" in close cooperation with the Member States. Member States must designate a national body to coordinate and implement European pathways at national level, in close cooperation with the two sides of industry and representative work-linked training organisations. They must also take measures to facilitate access to "EUROPASS Training" by disseminating the necessary information, evaluating the actions implemented and guaranteeing equality of opportunity in the implementation of the initiative. A financial reference amount will be provided to cover the Community actions to be undertaken (monitoring by the Commission etc.). This is limited to EUR 7.3 million for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004. Provision is made for the Commission to present a report on the implementation of the decision to Parliament and the Council within 3 years of the entry into force of the decision, evaluating its impact on mobility and proposing any corrective measures needed, including budgetary proposals. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 01.01.2000.

Work-linked training, apprenticeship: European pathways, EUROPASS-training formal recognition

1997/0321(SYN) - 29/06/1998 - Council position

In its common position on European training pathways, the Council has incorporated most of Parliament's amendments which were already incorporated in the Commission's amended proposal. Among these amendments are in particular those aiming to highlight the role of SMEs and the craft sector in developing work-linked training and of apprenticeship as a means of integration into working life and those aiming to ensure adequate information concerning the conditions for developing pathways, particularly with regard to relevant provisions in force in the Member State where the pathways operate. The Council has also included the idea that a European pathway should not confer any additional rights other than those defined in the decision and the fact that the pathway must be able to be followed by any person of whatever age or level of training. It also considers, as does Parliament, that the decision setting up the European pathways should be reviewed after three years to evaluate its impact and propose any corrective measures, including budgetary proposals, to pursue this initiative. The Council did not consider it necessary to incorporate the amendments aiming to define the duration of European pathways and the function of the mentor as a person with joint pedagogical responsibility. It also did not incorporate the amendments aiming to: - emphasise the fact that a pathway can not be used instead of a job, - provide for a quantitative analysis of the Member States' training needs. It makes an important change to the initial text, with regard to finance, by specifying a financial reference amount in the text of the decision: for the period of 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004, the Council sets a budget of ECU 7.3 million; this sum is intended to finance the initiative's introductory phase.