

EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS

PLEDGE

Please provide **contact details**:

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Please indicate what **type of organisation** – tick relevant box(es)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companies and business organisations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social partners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chambers of industry, commerce and crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Education and training providers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional authorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit/youth organisations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research and think tanks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: employer organisation |

Give a short description of **your organisation**

The European Builders Confederation EBC is a European professional organisation representing national associations of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises working in the construction sector. Through its national members, EBC represents 2 million construction microenterprises and SMEs. EBC is recognised by the European Commission as a representative employer organisation and as such takes part in the European sectoral social dialogue for construction.

The construction sector is of vital importance to the European economy and contributes at around 10% to the GDP of the European Union. 99.9% of the European construction sector is composed of small and medium-sized companies.

[Click here to know more about EBC](#)

Indicate the **focus of your pledge** – tick relevant box(es)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supply | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Image | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobility |

Give a **short description** of your pledge

EBC will commit to the following actions:

- Persuading EBC's members to sign apprenticeship pledges themselves with a view to encouraging their company members to improve the quality, the image and the supply of apprenticeships as well as the mobility of apprentices
- Organising the EBC Annual Conference 2015 on how to provide equal opportunities for young people and women in the construction sector. The conference will explore the different ways to achieve this goal, such as creating new apprenticeship opportunities to improve women and young people's participation in the sector. The conference is expected to result in some conclusions and engagement from EBC's members.
- The same issue of the Annual Congress will be addressed in an exhibition and a dinner-debate in the European Parliament on 13th October 2015

The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) is a multi-stakeholder initiative to strengthen the supply, quality and image of apprenticeships. The originator of the pledge is solely responsible for implementing the actions outlined and commits to report on the implementation of the commitments at least once per year. The pledge and reported results will be published on the EAfA webpage, and may be used for communication purposes.

Web: ec.europa.eu/apprenticeships-alliance

Email: empl-eafa@ec.europa.eu

- Discussing the issue in the social dialogue committee for construction and in the EBC Board of Directors' meetings. This will allow the exchange of best practices among EBC's members and among European social partners about how to improve the quality, the image and the supply of apprenticeships as well as the mobility of apprentices.
- Using all the EBC communication tools (newsletters, press releases, social media, circulars to the members, EBC website, meetings) to promote mobility, quality, image and supply of apprenticeships, as well as the benefit of work-based apprenticeship schemes among EBC's members
- On the basis of the concrete inputs of EBC's members, EBC will provide some recommendations for decision-makers about the needs of the construction sector in order to provide more and better apprenticeships in the sector

Describe the **added value** of the pledge

EBC has already been concretely involved in projects promoting the mobility of apprentices (such as [EuroApprenticeship](#)) or the attractiveness of the construction sector for young people (such as [Under Construction 3](#)).

The added value of EBC's pledge is the possibility to address the topic directly with the representatives of construction SMEs in 12 EU Member States. Thanks to its network, EBC will therefore involve national associations and ultimately construction small and medium companies in this initiatives. Indeed, these are the actors who train the vast majority of apprentices throughout Europe.

Following DG GROW's initiative, EBC is also committed to promoting and giving a strong boost to the sectoral dimension of the apprenticeship pledge. A sectoral approach is fundamental to obtain concrete results regarding the image, the supply, the mobility and the quality of apprenticeships.

Targets:

- 1 document collecting recommendations by the EBC members for decision-makers to increase the participation of apprentices in the construction sector by 2016
- 2/3 of EBC member associations signing an apprenticeship pledge by the end of 2015

What **partners** will be involved in the initiative?

The 15 members of EBC will all be involved in the initiative. These are national associations that represent micro, small and medium-sized companies from the different trades of the construction sector in their country. Most of them are also recognised social partners at national level.