PRESS RELEASE NO.4

Project name: **MASTERS** - Make ApprenticeShip aTtractive in European SMEs

Project number: 2019-1-RO01-KA202-063055

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What is **MASTERS** about?

MASTERS wants to promote apprenticeship in small and micro enterprises, developing and validating a set of practical and methodological tools to support the professional development of in-company tutors operating in SMEs, VET trainers and job counsellors, to allow them to implement efficient and high-quality apprenticeship programs.

What is the **last task concluded**?

The project team has worked with commitment and passion to realize the curriculum for in-company tutors and piloting was realized to collect external feedback on the resources created.

Each partner Country elaborated a National Report to analyse and integrate the opinions of stakeholders and trainees to improve the products.

The testing consisted of 3 phases:

- **1ST phase**. It was used for reviewing the content created through the realization of 3 smaller sessions with a total of 30 testers. At the end of them, the moderator created a unique SWOT to highlight strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- **2ND phase**. It was dedicated to the train-the-trainer sessions, where 1 or 2 participants of the first phase were in charge of training 10 different apprentices and/or job seekers.
- **3RD phase**. It included 2 trained participants from phases 1 and 2 and a working group done by 8 different in-company tutors for each country involved in the project.
  The aim was to practically test the effectiveness of the project, including the target group and the direct beneficiaries of our project. Also, in this phase was developed a matrix where it was important to highlight the relevance of the content presented and how this could be improved according to their personal experience.

In general terms, the piloting was well received by the audience. They have found the materials and exercises developed as useful and impactful for their everyday life, especially the ones of the job counsellors.

What are the **next steps?**

■ The team is working on the development of a toolkit for the recognition of informal and non-formal learning acquired through WBL. It aims at facilitating the process of recognition and transparency of the impacts of non-formal/informal learning at a European level. It will encourage participation in apprenticeships by removing legal obstacles and facilitating the recognition of professional qualifications and experience acquired in the workplace.

What is the **next event?**

■ The team will meet in June 2022 to realize 5 days of *learning, teaching and training activities* (LTTA). The LTTA will be developed across the Toolkit for the recognition and validation of informal and non-formal learning acquired through WBL schemes (IO-06), following the 4 key modules:

i)   A **General Overview of apprenticeships in all the Partners' Countries** on the following aspects: the European regulatory framework on the identification, validation and certification of skills and recognition of training credits for WBL schemes; the process needed to certify and recognize those skills; National reference framework of regional qualifications, correlation criteria, regional repertoires and information system for access and support.

ii) **Training plans on skills**: principles, ratio, structure and minimum standards of the system and the processes to implement the identification, validation and certification of skills as well as the recognition of training credits; Identifying and bringing transparency of non-formal and informal learning:

iii) **Transparency in formal and informal learning** through the definition of principles and techniques for identifying and bringing transparency of non-formal and informal learning acquired by apprentices; - Principles and methods of examination of the Transparency Document and the value of the supporting evidence.

i)   **Effective techniques for the skills' identification and recognition process**: definition of the indicators to monitor and methods and techniques to design evaluation tests.