

# Blueprint for sectoral co-operation on skills – European Project

ADG Meeting 14 December 2017

## Background

End of October, the European Commission released the call for the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of “Blueprints for sectoral co-operation on skills” as part of the EU New Skills Agenda. Building upon the 2050 Roadmap and the conclusions of the skills project of CEPI and industriAll in 2016, the paper industry has been selected as eligible for an Erasmus+ funded project of EUR 4 million for 4 years to carry out the following tasks:

- Develop a European-wide sectoral strategy addressing skills mismatches and shortages identified by the industry including the scoping of concrete actions to be implemented, key milestones and outputs.
- Identify best-practices / examples of policies at national and regional level addressing these mismatches and shortages.
- Develop a common methodology for assessing the situation and anticipating the future skills needs; identify and describe the priorities for reviewing or establishing relevant qualifications
- Develop concrete solutions for Vocational Education and Training (VET) and for promoting the mobility of students, jobseekers and trainees in the sector.
- Actions to raise the attractiveness of the sector towards targeted audiences

Both DG EMPL (employment) and DG GROW (industry) are expecting that the paper industry will join forces with the printing industries (Intergraf) in this project. In parallel, DG GROW is preparing a related call under the COSME programme (Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) for a 1-year project investigating deeper into the skills shortages, mismatches and needs for our sector (including the printing sector). This project would feed directly into the first step of the Erasmus+ project.

## In practice

The EU project aim at working the closest to the needs and be operationalised at local/national level. Partnership should consist of

- At least 8 countries and a minimum of 12 full partners of which:
  - 5 companies, industrial or sectoral association (Chamber of commerce, trade associations, trade unions)
  - 5 education and training providers
- traditional pulp and paper making and related operations, as well as emerging sectors such as innovative processes, biorefineries and bio-based products
- Desirably include Intergraf

**The deadline for submitting application is 28 February 2018** noon. This implies some internal steps to

- Clarify call conditions and practicalities with DG EMPL – on-going
- Approach potential partners by mid-January
- Set-up the core partnership for the project (as per above) – by end-January
- Prepare the work packages and define associated budget - by mid-February
- Draft application and compile paper work – by end February deadline.

Looking at projects set-up by other industries under the first call, the project could be structured around 4 work packages

1. Mapping current and future skills needs, existing gaps and the needed adaptations (building on the previous studies, as well as complementarities with the COSME project)
2. Strategy building: prioritising actions, identifying milestones and deliverables
3. Developing tools to enhance mobility and relevant VET (should involve suppliers) and methodologies to anticipate skills needs
4. Raising attractiveness

From the previous skills projects carried by CEPI and by Intergraf, several countries emerged as potential beneficiaries, including but not limited to Austria, Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Sweden and the United-Kingdom as well as Germany, Finland, Spain, Poland and Portugal. CEPI has also been approached by universities developing dedicated curricula for the sector, that might be interested in being involved in such a project.

At this stage CEPI considers it's role to be a project broker for interested NA's and partners and to coordinate the submission. A budget of 5000€ has been set aside for technical assistance to the project submission as required early 2018.

The coordination of a project of this dimension would pose far less challenges than small projects CEPI has been involved in over the past year as sufficient resources would be available to recruit a dedicated project manager.

**For discussion**

The nature of this project will obviously require some clarification which CEPI will try to provide at the ADG meeting.

The ADG discussion should aim at “connecting the dots” i.e. without taking any commitments at this stage, to identify national interest, potential partners (VET centres at national/regional levels, initiatives to involve, member companies worth approaching).

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