

CEA-PME «European Entrepreneurs», CEMR - Council of European Municipalities and Regions  
- German Section, and FES - Friedrich-Ebert Foundation

## Europe's Youth: for a better professional training, more mobility, youth employment and new entrepreneurs

March 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, 9h15 - 12h30

**Venue:** Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU in Brussels  
Rue Belliard 60-62, 1040 Bruxelles

### Agenda

- 09h15 Registration
- 09h50-10h00 Short welcome by **Mr. Johannes Jung**, Head of the Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the EU
- 10h00 Welcoming speech by **Mr. Mario Ohoven**, President of "European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME" & BMW  
Key note address by **Mr. Martin Schulz**, President of the European Parliament
- 10h30 Introduction to the following session by **Mr. Klaus Nutzenberger** (DStGB/DFA/CEMR)  
**Mr. Detlef Eckert**, DG EMPL, Director of Directorate C Europe 2020: Employment policies: *What is the State of the Art of the "Youth Guarantee" and EURES implementation in the member states?*  
**Ms. Valérie Loirat**, Executive of AFCCRE and Franco-German Youth Office, responsible for European Policies for Youth, education and equal opportunities: *What is at stake for European Youth today: professional precariousness, unemployment and intra-European migration for jobs.*  
- Questions and Answers Session -
- Best practices from European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME member organisations:**
- 11h00 **Mr. Tomasz Major**, President of the Chamber of Polish Employers: *How to mitigate temporarily the lack of qualified workers and youth unemployment: Secondment of employees.*  
**Mr. Massimo Maria Amorosini**, General Director of CONFAPI (I): *Training vouchers for unemployed youth by CONFAPI associates, to implement the Youth Guarantee in Italy*
- 11h15 Introduction to the following session by **Mr. Klaus Nutzenberger** (DStGB/DFA/CEMR)  
Panel discussion moderated by **Ms. Maria Jepsen** (European Trade Union Institute)  
**Mr. Salvatore Marra**, Chairman Youth Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation  
**Mr. Reinhard Sommer**, German President of the Franco-German Committee (DFA) of CEMR  
**Count Jacques De Lalaing**, President of the Belgo-German Society, Entrepreneur  
**Ms. Sabine Verheyen** (EPP), Member of the European Parliament, Committee Culture and Education  
**Mr. Brando Benifei** (S&D), Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, former Vice-president of Young European Socialists  
- Questions and Answers Session -

- 12h15 Closing address by **Mr. Peter Simon (S&D)**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- 12h30 **End of the event**  
**Networking buffet in front of the Conference Room**  
**Press conference**

Working language is **English**. Interpretation service for **German and French** will be made available.

### **Background information**

Looking at the future of the EU the European Youth Policy plays a central role.

With 5,5 million young unemployed in the EU many adolescents find themselves in a precarious professional situation. More than 20% of the European youth, in the age between 15 and 24 years, do not find a job. At the same time, the unemployment rates in the EU member states reach very different levels. While the unemployment rate in Germany is at 7,1%, also thanks to a professional training system that combines working experience with school education, in crisis-hit countries such as Italy, Portugal, Spain and Greece register rates of between 40 to 50%. Even in France it is at 24,9%. Not only the unemployment rate but also the labour supply differs among EU member states. Youth unemployment could be reduced by an increased mobility, which nowadays is simply too low.

The frame of the EU Youth Policy is the **EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018** which has been adopted in 2009. **The implementation of the strategy is carried out through national implementation strategies using own programmes and initiatives.**

In Germany for instance the Federal States develop specific offers on their own responsibility. Moreover, the process is governed by a national working group, which is supported by a coordination office at the Bundesjugendring.

A special instrument to fight youth unemployment is the **EU's Youth Guaranty**.

The aim of this formula is to ensure that all young people up to the age of 25 get a good-quality, concrete job offer, an apprenticeship, a traineeship or the possibility for continued education within 4 months after leaving formal education or becoming unemployed.

Unfortunately, the EU initiatives like **EURES** (an online platform for job search in Europe, a cooperation between national employment services) and **YOUTH GUARANTEE**, furnished with significant budgets, still produce very limited results: The "Youth Guarantee" programme sticks in preparatory works of public employment services and waits to become operative, the intra-EU mobility of workers represents only 0.3% of total employees, and only 10% out of them have found a job thanks to EURES.

And this while absurdly the European "**Mittelstand**" (SMEs), especially in the most developed areas of Europe, like in Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Scandinavia, Western Poland, and even in Northern Italy and Northern Spain, is experiencing since years a **pressing lack of qualified technical workers and employees in services**, as well as of **young and innovative entrepreneurs**. The education and professional training schemes do often not sufficiently match with the requirements of the labour market, and do not stimulate enough **entrepreneurial initiative**.

Further on, mainly **municipalities** carry the **social and economic burden of unemployment** and its negative social effects, such as a lower local tax contribution than possible, because of SMEs that can not grow like they could, lacking good employees.

Therefore, the European **Mittelstand**, because of its interest and task to raise competitiveness, the European **Trade Unions** because of their duty to defend the interests of employees as well as of the unemployed, and the European **Municipalities**, due to their commitment to frame social conditions e.g. by town twinning and its cross-over relations among citizens, are convinced that time has come for a **broader alliance to act together**.

The organising partners want to discuss together with EU-executives and politicians how to overcome this extremely difficult situation soon, searching also for different and innovative solutions.