JOINT DECLARATION
TOWARDS THE EUROPEAN APPRENTICESHIP AREA
CENTRE PIERRE MENDÈS FRANCE, 15 OCTOBER 2026

On 15 October 2026, in the presence of representatives of the institutional authorities, the partners of EAM (Euro App Mobility) met at the Centre Pierre Mendès France, within the French Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty. They reviewed the results of the experiment carried out by the "My Apprenticeship in Europe" (MONA) consortium and shared the testimonies of its stakeholders: learners, training providers and employers. The exercise confirmed that combining apprenticeship with international mobility sets young people on the path to excellence and that, while some obstacles still need to be removed, the way is now open towards the European Apprenticeship Area.

The 20,000 apprentices who took part in international mobility under the MONA project, thanks to the Erasmus+ programme, discovered other professional practices and acquired transversal and language skills. As a driver of innovation, the international opening of training pathways has helped transform the educational projects of training centres. For their part, employers have made the international mobility of their apprentices a strategic asset for attracting and developing the talent that is essential to business growth, at a time of shortage of qualified human resources.

The expectations and proposals put forward by European apprentices who have benefited from mobility, and by employers committed to the internationalisation of apprenticeships, gathered in preparation for the conference, have enriched this declaration.

The findings converge: long-term mobility, of at least two months in a foreign country, enhances young people's professional and personal potential, strengthens the competitiveness of the companies that employ them and stimulates economic growth. Moreover, it nurtures and celebrates European values. Beneficial in every respect, international mobility is genuinely achievable, contrary to some preconceived ideas. While the momentum is under way, four points of attention call for specific responses:

- Access to international mobility for apprentices at levels 3, 4 and 5 requires strong support from training providers, employers and public authorities alike, in order to engage learners and overcome their hesitation to embark on an experience outside their home country;
- Cooperation between mobility stakeholders, which have gradually emerged at European level, must be stepped up to better interconnect the ecosystems that support the internationalisation of apprenticeships;
- The extension of vocational training systems beyond their national borders, in order to balance outgoing and incoming mobility and to promote the mutual recognition of qualifications;
- The alignment of the legal provisions in force in each country, in order to facilitate the international opening of training pathways.

The European Apprenticeship Area depends on employers' commitment. Faced with the risk of a shortage of qualified human resources, offering young people apprenticeship contracts open to international experience is the best possible response.

The awareness-raising movement initiated by the *"Employers' Clubs for the International Mobility of Apprentices"* is now looking for a network at European Union level, across sectors and territories.

Public authorities have set ambitious targets. The President of the European Commission is calling for a "Union of Skills". This ambition is in line with the Council Recommendation "Europe on the Move" of 13 May 2024, which aims to raise to 12% by 2030 the share of vocational education and training learners taking part in international mobility, supported by the roll-out of dedicated national strategies. All these ongoing and expected developments call for a genuine *"European Vocational Education and Training Strategy"*.

Consequently, legislators and regulators have a unique opportunity to unlock the full potential of apprentice mobility by consolidating a legal framework open to Europe. For their part, training providers and employers play a decisive role in rolling out the mobility opportunities offered to apprentices. Furthermore, Euro App Mobility and its members are committed to designing, with their European partners, a tailor-made offer to encourage the hosting of European apprentices in France and to strengthen reciprocity.

Having demonstrated, through MONA and the Erasmus+ programme, that the international mobility of apprentices is highly beneficial and genuinely feasible, the stakeholders and institutional partners gathered at the Centre Pierre Mendès France on 15 October 2026, at the heart of the "Erasmus Days" week, proclaim their determination to promote the international opening of apprenticeship pathways. To this end, they call for:

- A confirmed commitment to the professionalisation and support of staff in charge of apprentice mobility;
- Close cooperation, beyond territorial borders, between all stakeholders working for apprentice mobility, and the interconnection of ecosystems, following the example of the European Coalition for Apprentice Mobility (ECAM);
- The roll-out of employers' clubs for apprentice mobility across European countries and territories;
- Mechanisms to assess and take into account the learning outcomes, experience and knowledge acquired during international mobility when awarding vocational certifications or diplomas in the home countries;
- Convergence of national frameworks to facilitate outgoing and incoming mobility in European countries for the benefit of all learners, in particular those at levels 3, 4 and 5;
- Appropriate funding, in the next 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, to support and develop apprentice mobility through the Erasmus+ programme at a level sufficient to reach the 12% target approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 May 2024;
- Recognition of the international mobility of apprentices in the European vocational education and training strategy currently being prepared.
- International mobility empowers apprentices. Expanding its practice is a matter of will.

Inspiring for all apprentices, invigorating for the private and public employers who host them, the Erasmus+ programme for apprenticeships is a driver of growth. It holds great promise for European citizenship, and for the prosperity and sovereignty of the European Union.