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EFEE and LGA promote improving transition from education to employment

On 2 and 3 September, the European Federation of Education Employers (EFEE) and the Local Government Association (LGA) of the UK organised a Peer Learning Activity on improving the transition from education to employment.

The economic downturn and high youth unemployment rates have demonstrated painfully the gap that exists in some European countries between the world of work and the world of education. Graduates are unable to find work, but at the same time vacancies remain open, since companies are unable to find suitable candidates with relevant skills and competences. Improving the transition from education to work is therefore crucial in order to help young people to reach their full potential. During the Peer Learning Activity, the Councils of Surrey and the London Borough of Kingston shared practical examples on how they work together with schools and companies in order to smoothen the transition to work, promoting apprenticeships, supporting the vulnerable and linking local industry with education.

These local practices inspired members of EFEE to reflect on their own national systems and to discuss how the transition from education to employment could be improved. "This Peer Learning Activity underlined the importance of strengthened cooperation between schools, enterprises, education employers, training providers and local authorities in order to develop tailor-made apprenticeships for all youngsters in Europe", concluded Bianka Stege, General Secretary of EFEE. David Simmonds, Chair of LGA's Children and Young People Board and Vice-President of EFEE, added "UK local authorities have an excellent track record of supporting young people from education into work, but there is more to do. The study visit has been a great opportunity to share ideas and best practice with colleagues from across the EU as we work together to help the young people of Europe make the most of the opportunities of the future".

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