

PRIME Meeting 15 **18 November 2019, Brussels**

Item 8.1 - Information points: **Blueprint on Sectoral Cooperation on Skills**

From: EC

– For Information –

1. INTRODUCTION

The Blueprint, launched as part of the Skills Agenda under the lead of DG Employment, is a framework for strategic cooperation between key stakeholders, such as businesses, education and training providers, social partners and public authorities, to deliver sector-specific skills solutions

With a budget of EUR 4 million, “Rail supply and transport industries” (including both manufacturing and provision of services) is one of the sectors included in the 4th wave of this initiative, starting in 2021.

[The Erasmus + Call for Proposals](#) and [the Erasmus + Programme Guide 2020](#) that includes Sector Skills Alliances action were published on 5 November.

The comprehensive information about the submission of applications is published [on EACEA website](#) and [Funding&Tenders Portal](#).

Questions regarding the call and submission of the blueprint applications should be addressed to EACEA-EPLUS-SSA@ec.europa.eu

Projects may include a wide range of initiatives, such as:

- Implementation of a common European sectoral skills umbrella and integration, including pilot trainings;
- Promotion of the attractiveness of the sector as a career choice for primary, general education, vocational education and training (VET) and university’s students awareness campaigns;
- Deployment of the apprenticeship marketplace by enhancing its effectiveness for job seekers;
- Creation of IT infrastructure to facilitate dissemination of common job requirements, which will be available for job seekers, training providers (namely universities) and other stakeholders.

The main challenges identified are relevant for both manufacturers and service providers:

- Negative image of working conditions in rail.
- Difficulty to attract groups so far under-represented, notably women and younger people.
- Harsh competition with other sectors for some of the most-wanted professions.

- New skills and training are necessary to deal with the introduction of new tools and technologies (digitalization and digitization).

2. PROCESS AND TIMELINE

- Application deadline for proposals will be 26 February 2020
- Evaluation of project proposals in mid 2020.
- Launch of the projects by the end of next year/early 2021

3. THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGERS

The Commission expects the sector (i.e. manufacturers, operators, infrastructure managers, trade unions, etc.) to team up in one or more consortia to respond to the call and present solid project proposals.

The Blueprint initiative was presented and discussed during the kick-off meeting of the PRIME Young Professionals Programme (YPP) subgroup on 16 October. Participants agreed that the challenges identified in the preparatory phase are to a large extent relevant to infrastructure managers and expressed interest in participating in the programme.

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