

Declaration of Intent

between

**the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia,
the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania,
and the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia
on the Baltic Alliance of Apprenticeship and Work Based Learning**

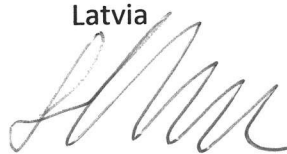
We, the Ministers responsible for vocational education and training (VET) in the three Baltic Countries met in the city of Riga on 22nd June 2015 to endorse our commitment to co-operate in the field of apprenticeship and other work based learning (WBL) schemes by creating the Baltic Alliance for Apprenticeship and Work Based Learning (BAfA). Our aim is to increase the overall competitiveness of the Baltic countries' labour force trained within the VET systems of our countries, to raise the status and attractiveness of the Baltic VET and encourage regional approaches in VET implementation. Therefore we will put every effort to involve also the national social partners and VET providers' organisation within the BAfA activities.

To this aim, the Ministries of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia commit themselves within the framework of the EU Erasmus+ programme project "National Authorities for Apprenticeships: Implementing Work Based Learning in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia (WBL-Balt)" to co-operate for the promotion of apprenticeships and WBL and agree to invest joint effort in the following:

- Contribute to changing mind-sets towards apprenticeship and WBL in our countries;
- Exchange information and best practice in the apprenticeship and WBL-related policy and practice;
- Have discussions on the quality issues and the potential implementation of EU transparency tools in the apprenticeship and WBL context in the Baltic countries;
- Facilitate the organisation of joint events (including discussions, peer-learning, study visits, seminars and conferences) aimed at the promotion of apprenticeship and WBL;
- Encourage co-operation of VET providers and companies of our countries to offer high quality apprenticeship and other WBL, as well as encourage the exchange of students and staff;
- Facilitate the development of joint projects aimed at apprenticeship and WBL-related policy and practice development at local, regional, national and international level.

Our co-operation will be implemented in the framework of BAfA created by this joint Declaration. The meetings of our ministries' nominated representatives to discuss the present and future developments within BAfA will be held no less than once a year in one of the three Baltic states.

For the Ministry of Education
and Science of the Republic of
Latvia



Māriņe Seile
Minister

For the Ministry of Education
and Science of the Republic of
Lithuania



Audronė Pitrenienė
Minister

For the Ministry of Education
and Research of the Republic
of Estonia



Mart Laidmets
Deputy Secretary General,
on behalf of Minister