

Apprenticeship in the sugar sector

Joint Recommendation

For many years now, the sugar industry, in the member states of the European Union, has been making a substantial effort in the field of vocational training, especially with regard to technical aspects connected with the production process or the environment and in the field of health and safety at the workplace.

The social partners in the sugar sector - the European Committee of Food, Catering and Allied Workers' Unions and the Comité Européen des Fabricants de Sucre - have been developing various vocational training programmes for several years. on the subject of health and safety in the sugar industry, with the help of major Community training programmes such as FORCE or LEONARDO DA VINCI.

Within this same spirit - even though the constraints of the World Trade Organization are acting against a favourable trend in employment - the sugar profession is aware of the need to participate in the promotion of employment for young people, among whom the rate of unemployment in the European Union is particularly high. With this joint recommendation, the sugar profession contributes to implementation of the employment guidelines laid down by the Council of Ministers in Luxembourg in November 1997.

The profession is prepared to make a contribution, within the limits of its possibilities and without any obligation to recruit, by offering additional places for qualifying training periods for young people and apprentices with a view to facilitating their entry into working life.

With this in mind, the European social partners in the sugar sector recommend to sugar companies :

- to maintain the already considerable effort undertaken by some of them in the field of apprenticeship - or any other training process for young people - in terms of number and the quality of the training;
- whenever economically and socially feasible, to make a significant effort to offer young people more training periods and places as apprentices in order to improve their skills on the labour market.

Every year, the European social partners conduct a review of the measures implemented and the results achieved.

