



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

**The Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and
Agriculture**

and

The Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK e. V.)

on

Cooperation in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Technical and Vocational Education and Training has become indispensable for economies as it provides the foundation for the continuous supply of skilled workers and to create a globally competitive labour force.

Close cooperation among stakeholders is mandatory in order to be able to guarantee the quality of the qualification and to reduce the disparity between training schemes and jobs. Successful Technical and Vocational Education and Training require a direct link to the economy. For that reason, it is a crucial prerequisite to involve appropriate companies and qualified trainers, both professionally and pedagogically.

Italian Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and Agriculture are engaged in making closer the link between the education and training systems and the business world. Unioncamere and local Chambers network carry out initiatives and services in the field of human capital empowerment, in order to facilitate the transition of young people to labour market (vocational, managerial and entrepreneurial training, internships, work experiences and guidance). In the planning of these activities, they make the most of the Information System "Excelsior", providing statistical data on occupational, vocational and training needs of enterprises through annual and quarterly surveys. Moreover, Unioncamere operates web sites for guidance (JobTel) and for facilitating the matching of demand and supply for internships (Polaris). Currently, according to the existing legal framework, Chambers are involved in tasks

related to the cooperation with educational and university institutions in career guidance and school-work training alternation paths. They are also identified as agencies which may supply mediation services and they are included in the public bodies partnerships co-operating in the development of regional education, training and employment networks.

Germany has succeeded in Dual Training System. Thereby the role of the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce has proven essential in establishing links between school and companies.

According to the National Vocational Training Act the German Chambers are the competent bodies of the Dual Vocational Training System. They advise companies on issues connected with training like the structure, the use of training aids, educational, psychological and legal questions. In addition the Chambers are asked to check whether necessary requirements are present before training can be started and register the training contracts. Finally the Chambers are responsible to manage the certification procedures. They organise and undertake the public examinations on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Both parties welcome the Memorandum of Understanding of Dual Vocational Training signed between the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research of the Republic of Italy and the Federal Ministry for Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany on 12th of November 2012.

The Chambers in Italy and Germany strongly support the Memorandum and offer to contribute to its practical implementation. They are willing to cooperate in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in order to improve their knowledge, know-how and organisation in this arena. Therefore they agree to maintain the communication and the exchange of the necessary information for the achievement of a closer cooperation by creating a working group of training experts of the two Chamber Organisations. Its tasks are the exchange and dissemination of best practise in the field of guidance and training activities, services, tools, methodology and information systems aimed at helping young people into the labour market; the identification of initiatives in the field of cooperation between companies and technical-vocational schools and to support their members regarding the qualification and recruitment of skilled workers. The working group activities could also include specific issues as the development of apprenticeship schemes, the encouragement of transnational mobility by internship and work experience exchange programs, and the validation, certification and mutual recognition of formal, non formal and informal skills. The German-Italian Chamber of Commerce - as part of the German Chamber Network – and the Italian Chamber of Commerce for Germany - belonging to the Italian Chamber of Commerce global network – are in the position to contribute to these activities by providing their expertise.

The activities carried out in this context aim to create a work methodology that can take advantage of both side experiences.

The competent Ministries and bodies in Germany and Italy as well as the European Commission are invited to participate, when appropriate, in this group.

The Memorandum of Understanding is concluded for an indefinite period and will become effective upon signature. Each party is entitled to terminate this agreement by informing the other six months before the intended termination of the partnership.

For and on behalf of the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce	For and on behalf of the Italian Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and Agriculture
Mr Richard Weber	Mr Costantino Capone

Naples, 12th of November 2012