The Global Apprenticeship Network (GAN) Launches a Company Driven Initiative to Increase Employment Opportunities in France

Paris, France, 5 September 2017: The GAN’s Annual Board Meeting was hosted this year at Accenture Paris. On the same day, its first-ever company led GAN National Network (GNN) was launched. The event attracted over 70 representatives from all sectors from the country and abroad, who are committed to getting youth the skills they need, to successfully enter the job market. The timing could not be any more relevant given the French administration’s keen interest in apprenticeship and in simplifying labour codes.

The event included a Meet the Press session with French media to highlight the importance of elevating the status of apprentices and making families aware of the potential career paths that work-based training can offer for youth. According to Alain Dehaze, GAN Chair and CEO of The Adecco Group, “For this to work, the business, educational and political sector need to be aligned”. European Commissioner, Marianne Thyssen added that apprenticeship should not be seen as “a side road but as a royal path” and noted the complementary work the EU is doing with the GAN and its members, Accenture and The Adecco Group. The Country Managing Director of Accenture in Switzerland and the Geographic Unit Lead of Accenture Digital in the DACH, Thomas Meyer, and President of Accenture in France and Benelux, Christian Nibourel, shared best practices from their countries. For example, in Switzerland, Accenture offers young people multi-year commercial and media apprenticeships for many years. In IT, the company works with a local partner to deliver basic professional training and essential application development skills. Executive Vice President and President, Microsoft Global Sales, Marketing and Operations, Jean-Philippe Courtois shared a best practice from the United Kingdom (UK). The objective of Microsoft’s program in the UK is to provide 25'000 young people with apprenticeship opportunities. They are using their network of national, global and regional partners, including small and big enterprises, to succeed.

A lunch with the French Labor Minister Muriel Pénicaud allowed participants to exchange best practices by companies, namely ABB, Nestlé, Carrefour, Salesforce, Compagnons du Devoir, and Safran. French companies discussed with global companies what aspects of apprenticeship from other countries can be applied nationally. For example, Carrefour has a global apprenticeship day, ABB opened a technical school in Switzerland to train future engineers; and Salesforce has a program called “future force”, which is offering jobs for apprentices, trainees and graduates in all European countries. The event closed with the 1st Working Group meeting of GAN France where the vision, goals and a work plan were established.

The founding members of GAN France include: Accenture, Carrefour, les Compagnons du Devoir, Compass Group France, EDF, Groupe Avril, ISS France, MEDEF, Safran, Salesforce, The Adecco Group, Veolia and Vinci.

About the GAN

Established in 2013 in response to the global youth unemployment crisis and the need for business to ensure skills for the future, the GAN is an international coalition of committed companies, international organizations and employers’ federations that are dedicated to...
work-readiness programs with the ultimate goal of creating job opportunities for youth and a skills base that matches labor demand.

GAN National Networks (GNNs) are the platform, on the ground, which allows the GAN to achieve concrete results. The GNNs' essential role is to quantify commitments and root the GAN concepts within the national context – catering to the distinct economic, cultural and institutional needs present at the national and local level. Currently, GNNs operate in Turkey, Indonesia, Spain, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, Malawi, Tanzania and France. Additional GNNs will be launched in the Netherlands, Costa Rica, Namibia and Kenya by 2018.

GAN Resources

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