The Council Recommendation on “Establishing a Youth Guarantee” calls on Member States to strengthen the capacities of national partners in the design, implementation and evaluation of national Youth Guarantee schemes.

Co-funded by the EC and the ILO, the 18-month action aims to strengthen national capacity for the implementation, monitoring of performance and assessment of results of gender-sensitive youth employment policies that are part of the Youth Guarantee schemes, and develop and implement quality apprenticeship systems and programmes in key sectors through tripartite social dialogue.

The action is expected to yield a wide range of deliverables for application across the EU with direct support to be provided to three target countries. These deliverables include practical guidelines to align local and national performance indicators to the EMCO Indicator Framework and other indicators to the Youth Guarantee and a modular training package for implementing the Youth Guarantee and monitoring its performance.

The timeframe of the actions covers the six quarters (18 months) during which this action will be implemented. It will start on 1 July 2015 with the initial three months following approval of the action devoted to the inception phase.
The proposed action aims to: (i) strengthen national capacity for the implementation, monitoring of performance and assessment of results of gender-sensitive youth employment policies that are part of the Youth Guarantee schemes, and (ii) develop and implement quality apprenticeship systems and programmes in key sectors through tripartite social dialogue.

This strategy will be implemented with a view to achieving the following two main outcomes: (i) the performance of Youth Guarantee schemes is improved as a result of enhanced capabilities of policy practitioners to monitor implementation and align delivery to planned results and (ii) roadmaps for the design of Quality Apprenticeship systems and programmes are established in three EU countries as a result of increased institutional capability and tripartite social dialogue.

This component of the action focuses on strengthening the monitoring the evaluation functions of national institutions and implementing partners involved in the delivery of the national schemes. This will be done through the collection and analysis of good practices, the delivery of capability-enhancement programmes, and the development of training packages to train national and local partners in the monitoring of implementation of YG schemes. The main deliverables of the action on this component are summarized as follows.

Practical guidelines to align performance indicators to the EMCO Indicator Framework for monitoring the YG and YE/EESF. These guidelines will also detail how to collect and analyze information relating to the set of indicators of the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), which is integrated in the ESF programming.

National policy dialogue seminars on the implementation of the YG schemes. These deliverables will provide a platform for government, implementing organizations, the social partners, youth-led and other organizations to take stock of the progress made and identify bottlenecks in the implementation of YG schemes.

Capability enhancement training workshops on monitoring of performance during implementation and impact assessment. This set of activities is aimed at supporting two of the three target countries to develop a sound monitoring system to assess performance during implementation.

Training modules on performance monitoring and impact assessment that are based on the above-mentioned capability enhancement workshops for the replication of training within the institutions that are partners in the implementation of the national YG schemes. They will cover issues of both monitoring and evaluations of YG schemes.

A methodology for conducting cost-benefit analysis of the national YG schemes and a related training module to enhance national capability to estimate the costs of the YG schemes. The application of this methodology to the country-specific context will allow national authorities to determine the level of resources that is appropriate to plan interventions and achieve national targets and policy objectives.

Workshops on programme design. These workshops will be laid down in the toolkit. They will cover issues of both monitoring and evaluations of YG schemes that are based on the above-mentioned capability enhancement workshops for the replication of training within the institutions that are partners in the implementation of the national YG schemes. These workshops have the objective to share information and knowledge and engage in dialogue among all those who will be engaged in apprenticeships.

Publication of technical tools. These tools will include (i) the logbook for Quality Apprenticeship design, once validated by the tripartite stakeholders, (ii) a standard training course (web version), and (iii) a publication on lessons learnt during the launching of a Quality Apprenticeship system in at least two of the three target countries.