



Signing of a framework agreement regarding cross-border apprenticeships in the Upper Rhine, September 2013

TAXATION AND DIFFERENCES IN LEGAL STATUS

Another impediment to the implementation of a cross-border vocational training system is **the non-retention of rights to unemployment benefits for job seekers who wish to undertake training in neighbouring countries.**

The territorialisation of benefits is a result of the fact that these rights are contingent upon a status which, theoretically, ceases to be recognised once the border is crossed.

The issue of status is also relevant for cross-border work-study programmes and apprenticeships, interns and apprentices do not necessarily have the same legal statuses on both sides of the border. This leads to problems relating to civil responsibility, social benefits, and funding of the vocational training.

- ↳ **The latter obstacle has been resolved for Upper Rhine** with the signing on 12 September 2013 of a framework agreement on cross-border apprenticeships. The agreement enables apprentices in Alsace, Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate to carry out the practical part of their training in a firm based in the neighbouring country.
- ↳ **A similar agreement was signed on 20 June 2014 between Lorraine and Saarland.**

Cross-border vocational training therefore remains an ambitious objective given the legal and administrative obstacles. It is achievable through ad hoc legal arrangements rather than a generalised standard response.