Council Recommendation on establishing a former „Skills Guarantee“ – Political agreement

Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults

21/22 November 2016 – Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

+ Council Resolution on „A New Skills Agenda for an Inclusive and Competitive Europe“
Upskilling Pathways:

- target group: adults with a low level of skills, knowledge and competences – not eligible under the Youth Guarantee
- flexible opportunities to improve literacy, numeracy and digital competence
- progress towards higher EQF levels relevant for the labour market and active participation in society
- education and training in appropriate learning settings, qualified teachers and trainers, adult-specific teaching methods, potential of digital learning
RECOMMENDATIONS for member states  
in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and available resources and in close cooperation with social partners and education and training providers

- Offer adults access to upskilling pathways, according their individual needs, to:
  (a) acquire a minimum level of LIT, NUM and DIGI competence and/or
  (b) acquire a wider set of skills, knowledge and competences – making progress towards a qualification at EQF level 3 or 4

- Identify priority target groups in line with existing national strategies and available resources

- 3 steps of upskilling pathways (supported by guidance and support measures):
  1. skills assessment
  2. tailored, flexible and quality learning offer
  3. validation & recognition of skills acquired

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1. Skills assessment:

skills audit = identification of existing skills + upskilling needs

2. Tailored & flexible learning offer:

- meeting the needs
- for migrants from third countries + opportunities for language learning and training
- use of units of learning outcomes – documented, assessed and validated (progress of learners at different stages)
- local, regional and national labour needs – cooperation with all relevant partners

3. Validation & recognition:

- Council recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning
- Certification towards a qualification
RECOMMENDATIONS for the Commission

- With the support of ACVT follow up the implementation of this Recommendation
- Promote the use of existing relevant competence frameworks (e.g. EU Digital Competence Framework for Citizens) & assessment tools
- Mutual learning among Member States, key resources and info on EPALE
- Support relevant research and analysis on adult learning and skills assessments (e.g. PIAAC)
- Implementation measures outlined by MS by 31/12/2018
- Report to the Council on progress made towards raising the levels of LIT, NUM and DIGI competence amongst low-qualified adults (within 5 years from the date of its adoption)
Resolution on a „New Skills Agenda for an inclusive and competitive Europe“:

- Edu & training not only for the labour market, but also contribute to social inclusion and active citizenship
- The need for excellent teachers and trainers
- Closer links between edu & training + the world of work
- Developing flexible mind-sets and curiosity needed to adapt to future needs
- Efficient and effective coordination at EU level in the area of education + adequate EU funding for the actions under the „New Skills Agenda“

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for your attention!