The 4th Industrial Revolution has a huge potential to drastically improve the flexibility and productivity of businesses and organisations, but also may bring risks for competitiveness, job markets and society.

The gaps in skills and education must be addressed to fully deploy the new technologies and business models.

**Manufacturing – the backbone of the European economy**

- 16% of GDP (2016)
- 2 million jobs
- 13 million of these jobs in the high-tech manufacturing sector
- 32 million jobs
- 60 million additional jobs in associated services

**R&I results – capitalise on the opportunities, mitigate the risks**

The EU has invested in research and innovation to find solutions.

- Specialised projects have produced results on:
  - Identification of needed skills and competences and development of new job profiles, methods for education/training, and new forms of work organisation
  - Identification of new business models and barriers to technologies take-up, and development of new technologies

**Actions for policymakers**

- Foster links and synergies between relevant policy actions, such as the European Sectoral Blueprint Initiative on Skills
- Develop guidance and practical examples to address regulatory barriers.
- Set up a European Manufacturing Skills Council
- Promote life-long learning in factories and new learning methods
- Raise awareness and deepen understanding of the potential and risks related to the 4th Industrial Revolution

Find all R&I Projects for Policy reports at: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/p4p](http://ec.europa.eu/research/p4p)