



European  
Commission



# DISCOVER YOUR TALENT!

European Vocational Skills Week  
*5-9 December 2016*

Employment,  
Social Affairs  
and Inclusion

## TRAINING FOR EXCELLENCE

Around half of Europe's workforce has benefited from **vocational education and training (VET)**. As a result, thanks to well-trained staff with up-to-date skills, companies and organisations are stronger and more competitive. They also contribute to smart and sustainable growth.

Tailored courses, work-based learning, traineeships, apprenticeships and on-the-job training aim to unlock everyone's professional potential by combining theory and practice. **VET is increasingly attractive** to both employers and their workforce. It is available in every field from science and engineering to healthcare and finance, in both private and public sectors.

The European Vocational Skills Week is being organised to demonstrate the positive aspects of VET and to showcase concrete examples of **excellence and quality**.

### SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE – Examples of where vocational training can take you:

- Computer programmer
- Mechatronics engineer
- Sales professional
- Healthcare assistant
- Pastry chef
- Event organiser

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOUR ORGANISATION?

Finding and attracting the right staff can be tough, especially in a world where everyone is scrambling for the best talent. Do yourself a favour by providing new recruits with training opportunities, so that they have the **skills and knowledge** they need.

Offer your existing staff continuing training, refresher courses or the opportunity to learn new skills. By boosting their professional competence, your organisation becomes more **efficient and competitive**. Happy and proficient staff are also more likely to stay loyal, so you save on costs of job hiring and marketing.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR THE LEARNER?

Vocational education and training delivers the skills, qualifications and experience that people need to be **more employable**. It can help them to build on their skills, and they evolve professionally to meet their employer's needs.

Apprenticeships and **work-based learning** ease the transition between education and the workplace, and VET often helps people to move professionally between countries or sectors. VET courses can also lead to higher education qualifications if flexible pathways are established.

With so many graduates today struggling to find a job, VET can provide a quicker route to employment. Also, experienced employees may take vocational courses to stay up-to-date with new developments, to adapt their job skills or to **reskill for a new profession**.

# GET TRAINING – FIND A JOB – BUILD A CAREER

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

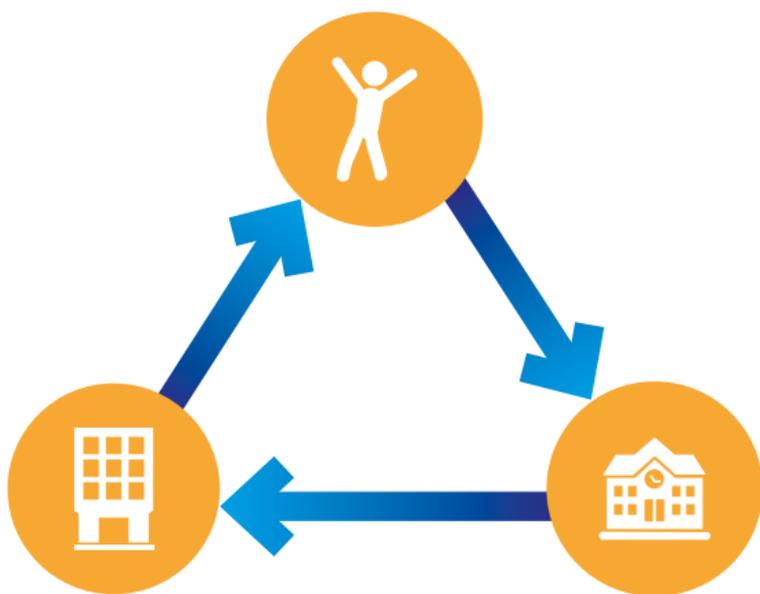
- 1** Diana (23), a young woman in Scotland, heads a thriving social enterprise supporting young people across her home country. During her business studies, she completed an apprenticeship scheme covering youth leadership and youth enterprise.

## ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

- 2** Miguel (18), an apprentice engineer with a petroleum company in Spain, spends three days a week at college and two on practical projects at a local oil refinery. Although the sector has experienced a downturn, the on-the-job training gives him an advantage on the job market.

## LIFELONG LEARNING

- 3** In Malta, Tahima (52) took up the opportunity to move into the film industry through vocational training. Thanks to courses on film-set construction as well as camera and lighting techniques, she gained the skills needed for a new career.



## JOIN THE EUROPEAN VOCATIONAL SKILLS WEEK

**T**o be held in Brussels and across Europe 5–9 December 2016, the European Vocational Skills Week will be the first event of its kind. Discover how vocational skills at all levels can support innovation and competitiveness, whilst boosting people's employment prospects.

The Week encourages stakeholders from all EU and partner countries to hold related events of their own at local, regional or national level, running up to and during the week. Popular ideas include thematic conferences, campaigns or open days on initial and continuing vocational training, for example:

- the EuroSkills 2016 competition in Gothenburg, Sweden (30 November – 4 December)
- companies and schools are having Open Days for learners and their families
- Cedefop is organising an online photo competition

Check out our website to discover how you can join an event or organise an activity of your own during the European Vocational Skills Week.



## Find out more

### European Vocational Skills Week

5-9 December 2016

Web: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/VocationalSkillsWeek>

Mailbox: [EMPL-VOCATIONAL-SKILLS-WEEK@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-VOCATIONAL-SKILLS-WEEK@ec.europa.eu)

Twitter: #EUVocationalSkills

## Related initiatives

[New Skills Agenda for Europe](#)

[Skills Guarantee Proposal](#)

[European Alliance for Apprenticeships](#)

[European Pact for Youth](#)

[Youth Guarantee](#)

[Erasmus+](#)

[European Social Fund](#)

[Drop'pin@EURES](#)

[Your first EURES Job](#)

## Partners

[Cedefop \(European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training\)](#)

[European Training Foundation](#)

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