



## SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE

#SocialRights #EUSkillsAgenda

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The Skills Agenda for Europe was adopted by the Commission in June 2016. It launched 10 actions on which the Commission has delivered to equip people in the European Union with better skills. The **European Pillar of Social Rights** also sets out a right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning.

### KEY FACTS

**61 million Europeans**

**lack adequate reading, writing and digital skills**

**40%**

**European employers report that they cannot find people with the right skills to grow and innovate**

### THE COMMISSION DELIVERED ON ALL TEN PRIORITY ACTIONS UNDER THE SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE:



#### The Upskilling Pathways initiative

- ▶ Council Recommendation adopted in December 2016 to help people acquire basic skills;
- ▶ The Commission is providing support and working with EU countries and other interested parties to implement the initiative;
- ▶ Member States have outlined their implementation plans. The Commission analysed them in a report published February 2019. Progress will be monitored regularly through the European Semester of policy coordination.



#### Making vocational education and training (VET) a first choice

The Commission has rolled out a set of measures, for example:

- ▶ The European Vocational Skills Week, launched in 2016, has become a highly successful annual event. In 2018 it mobilised more than 1,800 events and activities all over Europe and attracted 2.4 million people. The 2019 Week will take place in Helsinki from 14 to 18 October;
- ▶ ErasmusPro, supported by the Erasmus+ programme to boost long duration work-placements abroad for Vocational Education and Training learners and apprentices, is fully operational since 2018 and is expected to provide 50,000 young people with new mobility opportunities over the years 2018–2020;
- ▶ A European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships to increase the employability and personal development of apprentices, was adopted by the Member States in March 2018; To help implement the framework, the Commission has launched Apprenticeship Support Services in November 2018;
- ▶ The European Alliance for Apprenticeships has so far mobilised over 900,000 places for young people.



## The Key Competences Framework

- ▶ The new Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning was adopted in May 2018. (link: <https://europa.eu/!fB67yH>).
- ▶ The Recommendation aims to improve the development of basic skills and key competences for all throughout life. It encourages Member States to better prepare people for changing labour markets and active citizenship in more diverse, mobile, digital and global societies and proposes good practice examples to help Member States do so.



## The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

- ▶ Brings Member States, companies, and education providers together to take action and boost digital skills of the wider population beyond IT professionals;
- ▶ 23 national Digital Skills and Jobs Coalitions are already in place;
- ▶ 102 organisations have pledged action towards providing digital skills.



## The European Qualifications Framework

- ▶ Council Recommendation adopted in May 2017 to make qualifications easier to understand by employers and institutions across Europe;
- ▶ 35 countries have aligned their qualifications to the EQF levels.



## The Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals

- ▶ Multilingual Online Tool launched in June 2017;
- ▶ Helps national authorities identify the skills of non-EU migrants;
- ▶ Eases migrants' path to work or education, and ultimately, integration;
- ▶ Available in all EU languages and in Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Sorani, Somali, Tigrinya and Turkish.



## The Europass Framework

- ▶ The new Europass Decision was adopted by the European Parliament and Council in April 2018. (link: <https://europa.eu/!uF64RR>)
- ▶ Work has begun on the implementation of the new Europass, including an e-Portfolio tool for users to document all their skills and qualifications, and access information on skills trends, to help with career and learning choices.
- ▶ The new Europass will also offer a technical tool to support education institutions and other bodies to issue digital diplomas and other documents, that can be easily verified by employers and other organisations.



## Analysing brain drain

- ▶ Free movement within Europe creates opportunities but also poses challenges;
- ▶ Some regions lose talent, acting as a drag on their competitiveness;
- ▶ An independent study has looked into the impact of brain drain in Europe. Peer learning will take place in 2019 to explore in more depth what initiatives countries have to attract or retain skilled people and how destination countries are making best use of newly arrived talent.



## The Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills

- ▶ The Blueprint, launched in January 2017, brings together businesses, trade unions, education and training institutions and other stakeholders in a given sector of economic activity (link: <https://europa.eu/!RC38PH>);
- ▶ Develops comprehensive skills strategies which meet the needs of specific sectors to grow and innovate;
- ▶ Sectors covered so far: automotive, maritime technology, space geo-information, textile, tourism, construction, steel, additive manufacturing, maritime shipping.



## The initiative on graduate tracking

- ▶ Member States agreed on a Recommendation on Graduate Tracking (link: <https://europa.eu/!VT64BN>).
- ▶ The goal is to improve understanding of higher education as well as vocational education and training graduates' performance after their education and training experiences.
- ▶ The European graduate survey has been piloted in the higher education sector, and by end of 2019 a comparative report will be available for 8 countries;
- ▶ A network of experts started work towards a shared methodological framework for European-level information on vocational and higher education graduate outcomes.