



Seminar on Sectoral Skills for the Future – Blueprint in the Spotlight

15 November 2018

Radisson Blu, Brussels

CONCEPT NOTE

In a fast-changing global economy skills will to a great extent determine Europe's competitiveness and the capacity to drive innovation. The fundamental interrelation between skills, jobs and income makes investment in skills and dynamic skills policies also the prerequisite for an inclusive society.

However, skills gaps and mismatches are striking in today's Europe. Many people work in jobs that do not match their talents. At the same time, 40% of European employers report difficulty finding people with the right skills.

The Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills, introduced in the Skills Agenda 2016, is a strategic approach to addressing short and medium term skills needs. Alliances implementing the Blueprint bring together key labour market, education and training stakeholders and social partners in a given economic sector to deliver sector-specific solutions. Funded by Erasmus+, each sector cooperates to identify skills needs and develops a comprehensive sectoral strategy. The ambition includes a timely roll-out of new or updated curricula with strengthened feedback loops between education and employment.

The first Blueprint projects, covering automotive, maritime technology, textile/clothing/leather/footwear, tourism and space geo-information sectors, are soon reaching the one-year mark.

This seminar, organised by DG Employment in close cooperation with sectoral DGs, will be the first opportunity to discuss the implementation and policy messages of the five ongoing projects. It will be a chance to share knowledge, to reflect on the challenges and breakthroughs so far, and to meet with stakeholders among and beyond the partnerships that will help to maximise the sustainability and impact of each Blueprint in years to come.

The seminar links to the European Pillar of Social Rights, focusing more specifically on the Skills Agenda.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The main objectives and expected outcomes of the seminar are:

- Explore the first findings and policy messages of the Blueprint Wave I projects;
- Strengthen knowledge sharing and outreach among and beyond the projects with a view to maximise the impact and sustainability of each Blueprint;
- Give visibility for the Blueprint.

PROGRAMME

The seminar is moderated by [Eddy Adams](#).

08:30 Registration and welcome coffee

09:00 - 09:15 Opening statement

- *Alison Crabb, Head of Unit, Skills and Qualifications, DG EMPL*

09:15 - 10:30 Plenary I: Sectoral Skills – Filling the Data Gap

- *Testimonials from the Blueprint project coordinators: Challenges and Breakthroughs*
- *Stelina Chatzichristou - Cedefop: The Future of Skills – What Does Data Tell Us?*

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 - 12:00 Workshop I: The future of skills in my sector

What are the sector's experiences on the methodologies for skills intelligence? How to obtain 'fresh' and sustainable data when skills needs are constantly evolving?

12:10 - 13:00 Plenary II: EU tools for the Blueprint & Drop-In Q&A

- *Tasters on EQF, EQAVET, ESCO and Europass followed by a drop-in Q&A.*

13:00 - 14:00 Networking lunch

14:00 - 14:30 Plenary III: Skills Policy for the Future

- *Rotterdam Bridge – a city's innovative journey to align education, guidance and labour market change*
- *Susan Bird, DG EMPL: A successful European Vocational Skills Week – and what's next?*

14:30 - 15:15 Workshop II - Policy workshop

What are the views and recommendations of different stakeholder groups? How could policies at different levels interact better? What kind of stakeholder cooperation is needed?

15:15 - 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 - 17:00 Plenary IV: Scaling Up and Reaching Out

- *Maëva Roulette, DG EMPL: ESF – Opportunities for financing and sustainability*
- *Scaling Up and Reaching Out - Exchange with Blueprint coordinators*
- *Joao Santos, DG EMPL: Supporting upward convergence of Excellence in VET through Centres of Vocational Excellence*
- *Take-away messages and next steps: DG MARE: Alessia Clocchiatti; DG GROW: Mehdi Hocine and DG EMPL: Alison Crabb*