



SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE

December 2021
#SocialRights #EUSkillsAgenda

The Commission launched the Skills Agenda for Europe in July 2020 to help individuals and businesses develop more and better skills. Since then a lot of progress has been made under the 12 flagship actions. The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan set a new target by 2030 of 60% of adults participating in annual training, which EU leaders endorsed at the Porto Social Summit.

Flagship action

What's the latest



Pact for Skills

- More than 500 organisations have signed up to the Pact for Skills.
- Partnerships in five sectors (automotive, microelectronics, aerospace & defence, offshore renewable energy and shipbuilding and maritime technology), have pledged to reskill or upskill more than 1.5 million workers.
- The **European Alliance for Apprenticeships** has received 366 pledges offering more than 1 million apprenticeships.



Strengthening skills intelligence

- CEDEFOP launched the expanded [Skills-OVATE](#), with up-to-date labour market and skills trends.
- Skills-OVATE offers detailed **information on the jobs and skills employers demand** presented by occupation, sector and also at regional level.



EU support for strategic national upskilling action

- The Commission is supporting Member States to develop **national skills strategies**. As of December 2021, 11 Member States have completed the assessment phase of a national skills strategy with the OECD.
- Mutual learning on upskilling will take place in 2022 in the **Working Group on Adult Learning**.
- In early 2022, the Commission will present a proposal on **Skills and Talents for legal migration**.



Future-proof vocational education and training (VET)

- **Member States agreed to modernise VET** and make it more attractive to people of all ages by adopting the Council Recommendation on VET in November 2020.
- Member States are now preparing the priorities and measures to implement which they will submit by May 2022.
- The Commission has launched an initiative funded by Erasmus+ to support the establishment of 100 [Centres of Vocational Excellence \(CoVE\)](#).
- The evaluation process of the 84 project applications in the 2021 call is currently ongoing, and **the 11 projects chosen for funding will be announced by February 2022.**



Rolling out the European Universities initiative and upskilling scientists

- **41 European Universities** are being supported under the Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 programmes.
- A pilot action is underway on supporting innovation and entrepreneurial capacity of Higher Education Institutions to strengthen their integration in local innovation ecosystems.
- The Commission is finalising the development of a **Competency Framework for Researchers**, including based on a large scale survey with researchers on skills needed for research careers in academia and beyond.



Skills to support the green and digital transitions

- The Commission has launched a **new self-assessment tool** that allows citizens to test their digital skills and access training opportunities appropriate for their needs.
- The Commission will launch in early 2022 an updated **Digital Competence Framework**, supporting a common understanding of digital skills, as well as digital upskilling, assessment and framing of policy.
- The Commission is working on a **European Digital Skills Certificate**, to facilitate a shared understanding and recognition of digital skills at European level.
- The Commission will present a proposal for a **Council Recommendation on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training** in 2022.
- In early 2022, the Commission will publish a **taxonomy of green skills**. The taxonomy will include occupational and sector specific green skills, skills that are shared across economic sectors and skills of a more transversal nature.
- The Commission will adopt a proposal for a **Council Recommendation on education for environmental sustainability** shortly and a **Competence Framework on sustainability**.



Increasing STEM graduates, fostering entrepreneurial and transversal skills

- To encourage women's participation in STEM, Erasmus+ will fund partnerships focusing on new higher education programmes for engineering and advanced ICT based on the STEAM approach (including the Arts in STEM), and guidance and mentorship programmes for female students to pursue STEM fields of study, and transition to STEM occupations
- The online Europe-wide platform **WEgate** is dedicated to women entrepreneurs and their needs related to starting, financing, and managing their businesses. This will be complemented by an e-learning entrepreneurial platform for entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs.
- The Commission launched in December 2021 a **new action plan for the social economy**. It includes actions to increase the appeal of entrepreneurship, including among young people.
- Under the Pact for Skills there will be a **skills partnership for the "Proximity and Social Economy"** industrial ecosystem to support actors from the ecosystem in their upskilling and reskilling efforts.



Skills for life

- To help make this a reality, Member States adopted a **New European Agenda for Adult Learning** in November 2021. The Agenda sets out priorities for making holistic and inclusive adult learning available for all, including seniors and those most in need of learning.



Initiative on individual learning accounts

- The Commission adopted in December 2021 a proposal for **individual learning accounts**. These are personal accounts with training entitlements, which people can spend throughout their career on labour market-relevant and quality-assured training.
- Opportunities for career guidance and validation of previously acquired skills, a public national registry of training opportunities, a single national digital portal and paid training leave should all make it easier for more people to take up training.



A European approach to micro-credentials

- The Commission presented its proposal to establish a common **EU approach to micro-credentials** in December 2021.
- Micro-credentials are records of small learning experiences. They offer a flexible, targeted way to help people to develop the knowledge, skills and competences they need for their personal development and careers.
- The Commission proposal aims to ensure that micro-credentials are relevant, transparent and of high quality to make them valuable for the individual.



New Europass platform

- The new **Europass platform** has proven to be a success, with around 3 million registered users and more than 33 million visits since July 2020.
- It helps people manage every step of their career and lifelong learning in a secure and personal online space with tools to present and communicate their skills and qualifications across Europe.
- The Commission has also launched the **European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDCI)**. With the EDCI, people can easily share their learning achievements in a secure and digital way when applying for a job or for further studies or training.



Improving the enabling framework to unlock investment

- The **Recovery and Resilience Facility**, part of NextGenerationEU, and the Multi-annual Financial Framework are providing unprecedented EU funding for Member States to invest in skills. All national Recovery and Resilience Plans endorsed by the Commission so far include measures for adult upskilling and reskilling.
- The **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)** is the EU's main instrument in investing in people – with a budget of over EUR 99 billion for the period 2021-2027 it is expected to invest one-third of its resources in education and skills.
- The Commission aims to make skills more visible and valued in company reporting. The [Commission proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive](#) includes a requirement for large companies to report on 'training and skills development'.
- Guidance on how national accounts can spotlight education and training in 'satellite accounts' is being tested by national statistical offices.

