



EUROPEAN SKILLS AGENDA

March 2023

#EuropeanYearOfSkills #SocialRights #EUSkillsAgenda

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

FLAGSHIP ACTION

WHAT'S THE LATEST



Pact for Skills

- More than 1,000 members have signed up to the Pact for Skills.
- There are 15 large-scale partnerships for skills in automotive, proximity & social economy, microelectronics, aerospace & defence, retail, shipbuilding, textile/clothing/leather/footwear, tourism, construction, health, offshore renewable energy, onshore renewable energy, creative & cultural industries, agri-food, and digital. Together, these sectors have pledged to reskill or upskill more than 6 million workers in the EU.



Strengthening skills intelligence

- CEDEFOP launched the expanded [Skills-OVATE](#), with the latest information on the jobs and skills in need.
- Skills intelligence is regularly discussed by the European Public employment services (PES) Network who play a key role in identifying skills needs.



EU support for strategic national upskilling action

- The Commission supports Member States in developing national skills strategies in cooperation with the OECD. As of March 2023, 13 Member States have started developing a national skills strategy and six are implementing theirs.



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. In 2022, they defined national priorities and measures, such as skills training for adults, integrating digital skills and green competences and work-based learning.
- 100 [Centres of Vocational Excellence \(CoVE\)](#) will be established thanks to funding from Erasmus+. 26 CoVEs projects are in progress. An additional 14 projects will be selected by end 2023.
- In 2023, the Commission will propose a [Council Recommendation on learning mobility](#) to remove obstacles faced by learners and make mobility the norm. This initiative will further support the 8% mobility target that the VET Council Recommendation aims to achieve.



Rolling out the European Universities initiative and upskilling scientists

- **44 European universities** are supported by Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 programmes.
- An overview of scientific skills and occupations was developed within ESCO, the multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, and Occupations.
- The Commission is finalising the development of a **Competency Framework for Researchers**.



Skills to support the green and digital transitions

- The Commission published in early 2022 the updated **Digital Competence Framework [DigComp 2.2](#)**, covering of the digital competences needed for emerging technologies including AI.
- The outcome of the [Structured Dialogue on digital education and skills](#) in 2022 and discussions with all 27 Member States supported the Commission's proposals for **Council recommendations on digital education and skills**.
- Together with these proposals, the Commission announced the launch of the **European Digital Skills Certificate** pilot for a common recognition of digital skills in the EU, and of a **Cybersecurity Skills Academy**.
- The Commission has published a [taxonomy of skills for the green transition under ESCO](#).
- The Council adopted a [Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development](#).
- The Commission presented [GreenComp](#), the European sustainability competence framework.
- Erasmus+ supports the development of green skills through the **project GREEN (Greener European VET Network)**, which integrates green professional skills in training for the automotive, energy, batteries, defence, maritime and additive manufacturing sectors.
- The **Blueprint alliances**, funded by Erasmus+, aim at developing a skills strategy within an industrial sector.
- The Commission has proposed to establish **Net-Zero Industry Academies** to roll out up-skilling and re-skilling programmes in strategic industries for the green transition, such as raw materials, hydrogen and solar technologies.
- A New **European Battery Academy** was established to equip workers with the skills needed to provide EU industry with this strategic technology.



Increasing STEM graduates, fostering entrepreneurial and transversal skills

- To encourage women's participation in STEM, Erasmus+ funds guidance and mentorship programmes for female students.
- The online platform [WEgate](#) is dedicated to women entrepreneurs and support them starting, financing and managing their businesses.
- The Commission published a **new action plan for the social economy** in December 2021. It includes actions to make entrepreneurship more attractive, in particular for young people.
- The **EU-OECD Youth Entrepreneurship Policy Academy** brings together young entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs, policy makers and experts from the EU to discuss the policies and actions needed to support youth entrepreneurship in the EU and OECD countries.



Initiative on individual learning accounts

- To ensure everyone has access to relevant training opportunities throughout life and regardless of their employment status, the Council adopted in June 2022 a **Recommendation on individual learning accounts (ILA)**. 17 Member States are investing resources from EU funds to develop ILA schemes. The Commission supports Member States in the implementation of this Council Recommendation.



A European approach to micro-credentials

- The Council adopted a **Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials** in June 2022 to ensure that micro-credentials are of high quality and issued in a transparent way to build trust in what they certify. This should enable people to learn new or additional skills in a tailored way, inclusive for all. The Commission supports Member States in the implementation of this Council Recommendation.



Europass

- The [Europass platform](#) 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.
- Over 4.7 million registered users and 56.7 million visits since July 2020.
- The Commission launched the [European Digital Credentials for Learning](#) to help people share their learning achievements in a secure and digital way when applying for a job, further education or training.



Unlocking investment

- The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) is the EU's main instrument for investing in people. In addition, the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#), part of [NextGenerationEU](#), and the Multi-annual Financial Framework provide unprecedented EU funding for Member States to invest in skills.
- Overall, EU funds are investing around €65 billion in training.
- 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.