



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



1 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.



2 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.



3 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.



7 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.



8 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.



9 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.



10 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.



11 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.