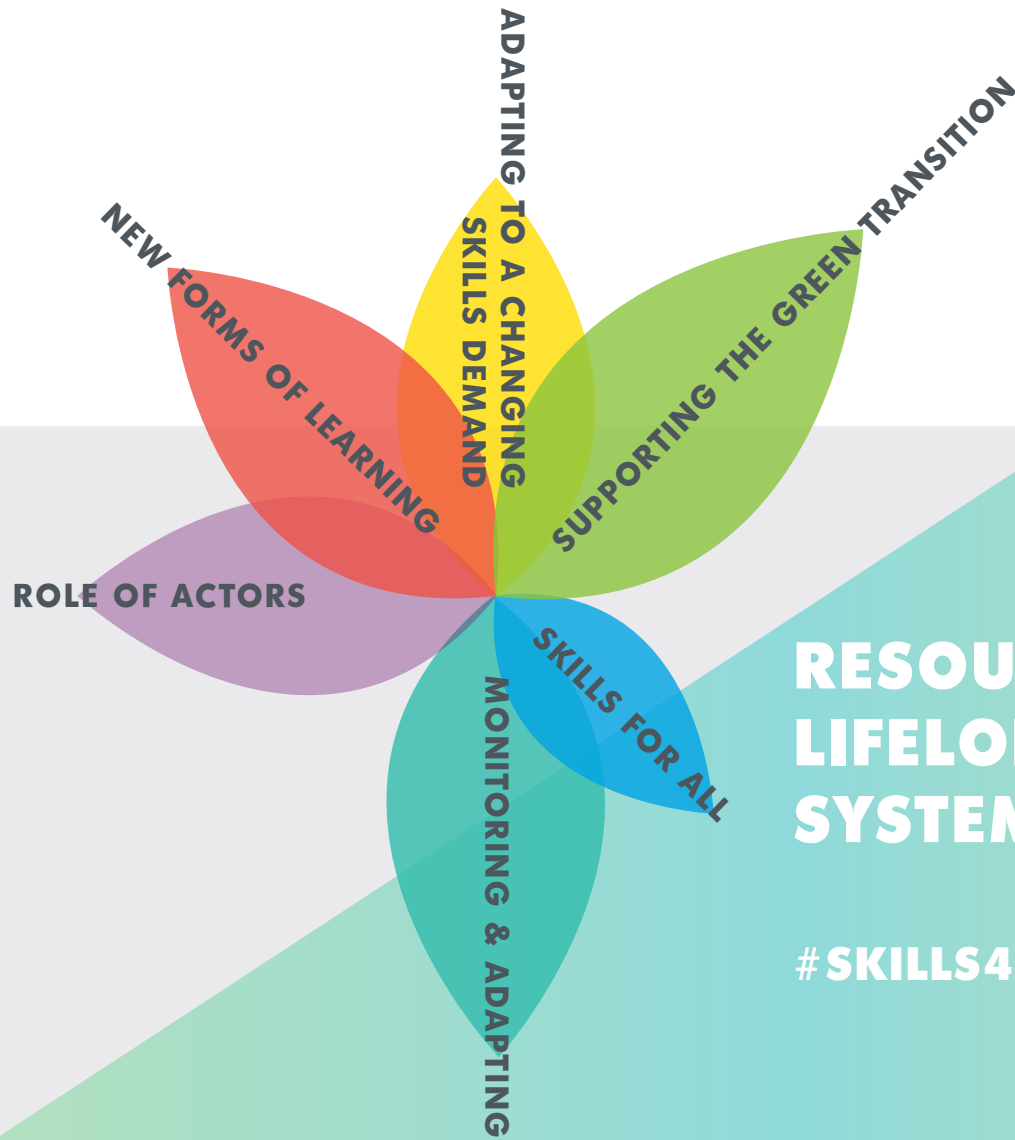




BUILDING LIFELONG LEARNING SYSTEMS

Green Inclusive Digital



RESOURCING LIFELONG LEARNING SYSTEMS

#SKILLS4CHANGE

BACKGROUND

Creating lifelong learning systems means shifting focus away from standardized education and training provision towards learning opportunities that are provided in different settings (formal, non-formal and informal) by a wide range of actors, including governments, businesses, regional and local authorities and civil society organisations.

Creating well-functioning lifelong learning systems depends on a range of factors. One is having policies that aim towards common objectives, and institutional settings that motivate and engage actors to innovate and join forces. Another is having public institutions that in addition to funding and managing public networks of providers, also devise mechanisms to stimulate learning regardless of where it takes place, and recognise its outcomes, i.e. the skills people develop. Finally, there is a need for training providers that can design and deliver attractive and fit-for-purpose learning, as well as other implementing actors, such as validation bodies.

Lifelong learning systems also need funding. Public funds alone are not sufficient to support the massive effort needed to create and sustain lifelong learning opportunities for all. While it will be necessary to increase public funding, and use it effectively and efficiently, it will be necessary to mobilise private funds to support lifelong learning. The private sector is indeed becoming increasingly active, with large companies or industrial sectors establishing training centres (sometimes in cooperation with public authorities), investing in training their staff (especially the most innovative companies), providing apprenticeships and internships, and contributing to training funds. However, much of the private sector, in particular SMEs, contributes little, and receive little by way of training. Moreover, employers tend to pay more attention to upskilling employees who are already highly skilled.

New mechanisms are being put in place to increase the mobilisation and use of funds to serve policy outcomes more effectively. Examples include training funds and Individual Learning Accounts. Financial institutions could also play

a bigger role in mobilising private funds for skilling by directing more investment towards sustainable business development addressing environmental, social, corporate governance (ESG) factors. The financial community can also stimulate businesses and non-profit organisations to be more active in skilling through impact investing, i.e. investing in companies, organisations, and funds with the aim of generating a measurable, beneficial social or environmental impact alongside a financial return.

The purpose of this session is to explore what institutional infrastructure and capacities are needed to build well-functioning lifelong learning systems, and how to ensure they have adequate funding.

The discussion will be organized around the following questions

1. What elements of institutional infrastructure are needed to steer and manage lifelong learning systems?
2. What capacities are needed on the part of policy makers and implementors?
3. Through which mechanisms can we efficiently mobilise use funds for creating and sustaining lifelong learning?
4. How can these funding mechanisms best fulfil the objective of inclusiveness?

What do people need to become active learners?

- ▶ How can we broaden access to fit-for-purpose learning opportunities and ensure that people's skills are recognised?
- ▶ What are the policy priorities to ensure flexible and attractive lifelong learning systems that leave no one behind?

AGENDA

14.00 **Welcome and introduction**

14.20 **First panel discussion: Creating institutional capacities for lifelong learning systems**

Learning cities – Medellin speaker to be confirmed

Tamer Atabarut, Director, Bogazici University Lifelong Learning Centre (BUYEM)

Ravit Dom Eini, CEO, Amal educational network

15.00 **Coffee Break**

15.10 **Second panel discussion: Securing funding for lifelong learning systems**

Robert Palmer, Skills development expert, Training Funds

Anna Canato, Head of Education and Public Research Division, EIB

Fanny Broussan, Manager of Partnerships, Public Employment Service, Belgium

Marzia Sica, People Objective Manager, Compagnia San Paolo

15.55 **Conclusions and closure**



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