EU policies on adult skills development

ETF Peer-Learning Seminar

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Our context – Changing labour markets

- **Atypical forms of work**
- **More frequent professional transitions**
- **Shifting employment between sectors**
- **Shifting skills needs**
- **Demographic changes**
EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS
European companies are grappling with a shortage of staff [...] Both low-end and high-end. We need everyone on board.

We need much more focus in our investment on professional education and upskilling.

We need better cooperation with the companies, because they know best what they need.

And we need to match these needs with people’s aspirations.

But we also have to attract the right skills to our continent, skills that help companies and strengthen Europe’s growth [...] we need to speed up and facilitate the recognition of qualifications also of third country nationals [...] 

This is why I am proposing to make 2023 the European Year of Skills
Why a European Year of Skills?

The Year would promote a mindset of **reskilling and upskilling**

- boosting **competitiveness** of companies (in particular SMEs),
- realising the **digital and green transitions** in a socially fair, inclusive and just manner

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**Attracting people**
Attracting people from third countries with the skills needed by the Union

**Matching aspirations**
Matching people’s aspirations and skills-set with labour market opportunities

**Skills relevance**
Strengthening skills relevance by close cooperation

**Investment**
Increased, more effective and inclusive investment
EU SKILLS POLICY
European Pillar of Social Rights
European Pillar of Social Rights

At least 78% of the population aged 20 to 64 should be in employment by 2030. Current level: 73.1% (2019)

60% of all adults should participate in training every year by 2030. Current level: 37.4% (2016)

15 million fewer people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030. Current level: 91 million persons (2019)
European Skills Agenda

- Strengthening skills intelligence
  - National Skills Strategies and Public Employment Services
    - Recommendation on VET
    - European Universities
  - Skills to support twin transitions
  - STEM graduates, Entrepreneurial & transversal skills
    - Skills for Life

- A Pact for Skills including Blueprints

**Skilling for a job**

**Unlocking investment**

- Individual learning accounts
- Micro-credentials
- Europass

- Framework to unlock Member States’ and private investments in skills
EU Council Recommendations: providing policy orientation
INDIVIDUAL LEARNING ACCOUNTS
Council Recommendation on individual learning accounts *(link here)*

**Objectives**

1. Support *all working-age adults in accessing* training

2. Increase their *incentives & motivation to seek* training

**Financial and non-financial support**

- Personal accounts
- Registry of eligible opportunities
- Guidance & validation
- Paid training leave

**Way forward**

- EU funding
- Monitoring implementation
- Mutual learning
Mutual learning on ILA

Objectives

- Support implementation in MS
- Facilitating exchange across and within MS

Format

- Around 7 countries
- Country delegations of 5-7 persons
- 2 seminars in Brussels, 1 online
- Activities in the home country

Where are we now?

- Invitations to Member States
- Expressions of interest
- Confirmation of participating Member States
- Creating country delegations
EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS: WHAT’S NEXT?
State of the play

The European Year of Skills 2023 will start as soon as the proposal is adopted

Before the Adoption:
- Inter-institutional negotiations (ordinary legislative procedure)
- Open Public Consultation
- Opinions by European Economic and Social Committee and European Committee of the Regions

During the Year:
- Promoting relevant EU initiatives, including EU funding opportunities
- Events and awareness-raising campaigns
- Promoting tools and instruments for increased transparency and easier recognition of qualifications
Major events planned

- 9 May: European Year of Skills ‘festival’
- 8-9 June: Making Skills Count’ event
- 23-27 October: The VET week
- 11-16 November: The Employment and Social Rights Forum
- Beginning of 2024: The concluding event
Major flagship initiatives

17 January 2023

- Commission Communication on “Harnessing talent in regions”

Q2

- Commission proposal for Council Recommendations on the enabling factors for successful digital education

- Proposal for a Council Recommendation on improving the provision of digital skills in education and training

- Launch of the pilot for the European Digital Skills Certificate

- Reinforced Quality Framework for Traineeships

Q3

- Package on recognition of professional qualifications of third country nationals

- Launch of the Cybersecurity Skills Academy

- Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on updated learning mobility framework
Thank you for your interest!

We look forward to collaborating with you to make the European Year of Skills a success!

Useful links: European Year of Skills webpage; EU Skills Agenda #EuropeanYearOfSkills