



European  
Commission

# Making Skills Count

## Draft Programme

8 – 9 June, Square, Brussels

8 June 2023  
Making Skills Count

<b>08:30 – 09:30</b>	<b>Registration and welcome coffee</b>
<b>09.30 – 9:40</b>	<b>Welcome by the Master of Ceremony</b> <i>Master of Ceremony Ali Al Jaberi</i>
<b>09.40 – 10:15</b>	<b>A European Year to Make Skills Count</b> <i>Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights</i>
<b>10.15 – 10.45</b>	<b>Opening panel: Why do skills matter?</b> <b>Moderator: Master of Ceremony Ali Al Jaberi</b> <i>The Swedish Presidency</i> <i>Ludovic Voet, Confederal Secretary, the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)</i> <i>Maxime Cerutti, Director of Social Affairs, Business Europe</i>
<b>10.45 – 11:00</b>	<b>Inspirational speech</b> <i>Valeriya Ionan, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine</i>
<b>11:00– 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>Panel 1: ‘Skills-first’ – what is it, what added value, and which way-forward?</b> <i>‘Skills first’ approaches focus on filling vacancies relying on skills rather than formal qualifications or job titles. Recently, this approach has been gaining momentum in recruitment and talent management. The European Union has been advocating such approaches for a number of years through its skills policy agenda and support tools.</i> <i>This panel will explore the following questions: how can a skills first approach improve access to jobs for individuals and generate a larger pool of candidates for employers? What impact will a skills first approach have on incentivising individuals’ training and career choices? How should EU policies and</i>



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	<p><i>tools for qualifications, skills validation, and career guidance adapt to a skills first approach?</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Master of Ceremony Ali Al Jaberi</b></p> <p><b>Saadia Zahidi</b>, Managing Director, World Economic Forum (WEF)</p> <p><b>David Barnes</b>, Global Vice President for Workforce and Social Policy, International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)</p> <p><b>Kate O'Sullivan</b>, Vice President of Global Public Policy &amp; Economic Graph, LinkedIn</p> <p><b>Isabelle Barthes</b>, Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll European Trade Union</p>
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Pitches at the Marketplace</b></p> <p><i>Project promoters from all over Europe will pitch their cutting-edge projects on skills development.</i></p>
<b>13:00 – 14:15</b>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
<b>14:15 – 14:30</b>	<p><b>Wake-up for new skills!</b></p> <p><i>Master of Ceremony Ali Al Jaberi</i></p>
<b>14:30 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>Panel 2: Skills for the green and digital transition and for net-zero industry</b></p> <p><i>The Green Deal Industrial Plan and the Net Zero package of measures adopted recently highlight the urgency of tackling skills gaps in order to achieve the green transition and the climate targets, which EU countries have agreed to. This panel will explore which technical – including green and digital – skills are most needed by the labour market to achieve the twin transition, in the EU and globally. Which approaches already exist, how can the relevant skills be identified, and how can people be equipped with them.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Pilvi Torsti</b>, Director, European Training Foundation (ETF)</p> <p><b>Susan Gill</b>, Manager of Green Skills, Further Education and Skills Service (SOLAS Ireland)</p> <p><b>Glenda Quintini</b>, Senior Economist on Skills and Employability, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</p> <p><b>Iñigo Araiztegui</b>, Director of Internationalisation, Center of Vocational Excellence Tknika</p> <p><b>Mariyana Hamanova</b>, Executive Director, CleanTech Bulgaria</p>



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<p><b>15:30 – 16:30</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 3: Skills make business cents: how upskilling enhances value and productivity in companies</b></p> <p><i>Investing in people and their skills is one of the most productive investments we can make - as a society, as individuals, as organisations and as public authorities. But investment in training is often invisible, especially when it comes to workplace training by employers. This panel will discuss how can we get better at valuing and incentivising training and its contribution to value creation in businesses and other organisations. How can company reporting, and financial accounts foster a culture change of viewing staff training as an investment not a cost. And how do boardrooms consider training as part of strategic organisational management.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Jurgen Siebel</b>, Executive Director, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)</p> <p><b>Vikas Aggarwal</b>, Regional Head of Public Affairs, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)</p> <p><b>Chiara del Prete</b>, Chair of the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) Sustainability Reporting Technical Group</p> <p><b>Romain Lasserre</b>, FO French Labour Confederation of Workforce</p>
<p><b>16:30 -17:00</b></p>	<p><b>Pitches at the marketplace</b></p> <p><i>Project promoters from all over Europe will pitch their cutting-edge projects on skills development.</i></p>
<p><b>17:00 – 17:15</b></p>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p><b>Dragoş Pîslaru</b>, Chair of Employment and Social Affairs Committee, European Parliament</p>
<p><b>17:15 - 19:00</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Marketplace:</b> <b>twenty cutting-edge projects on skills development from across Europe</b></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Networking Cocktail and Buffet</b></p>



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08:45 – 09.15	<b>Registration and welcome coffee</b>
09.15 – 09.20	<b>Welcome by the Master of Ceremony</b> <i>Master of Ceremony Ali Al Jaberi</i>
09.20 – 09.30	<b>Skills for better jobs: why giving value to skills matters</b> <i>Margaritis Schinas, European Commission Vice President for Promoting our European Way of Life</i>
09.30 – 09:45	<b>Introduction to workshops</b>
09:45 – 11.15	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> round of workshops</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 1:</b> Unlocking skills and recognising qualifications in a cross-border context <i>Validation of skills, to make them visible and valued</i> <i>Europe needs more and better skilled workers. In the context of the green and digital transitions this means the need for up- and reskilling, the need to validate skills and the need for a better recognition of qualifications. The workshop will explore existing approaches to recognition of (vocational) qualifications across borders, including qualifications obtained in third countries. The workshop will also discuss the validation of skills as a key tool for making skills visible. Speakers will present different approaches, challenges and opportunities for recognition and validation, with a view to mobilising the European workforce and attracting skilled workers from third countries.</i></p> <p><b>Moderator: Giulia Meschino</b>, Secretary General, European Vocational Training Association (EVTA)</p> <p><b>Anna Kahlson</b>, Senior Advisor, Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education</p> <p><b>Swinda Krause</b>, Project Coordinator, ProRecognition (Germany)</p> <p><b>Ilse Korving</b>, Advisor on Credential Evaluation, Foundation for Cooperation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market (SBB), the Netherlands</p> <p><b>Yvse Magnan</b>, Executive Vice President, Products and Services, Direction Régionale Formation Le Forem</p> <p><b>Workshop 2:</b> Building new skills the economy needs, <i>How to motivate and support people to acquire the right skills (Individual Learning Accounts, Upskilling pathways, micro credentials, Pact for Skills, guidance)</i> <i>The workshop will explore the systemic reforms that Member States need to put in place to addressing skills challenges as well as the elements of skills ecosystems that support the provision of a labour force with the right skills. It will discuss how different stakeholders can contribute to building these skills and how to best meet the learning needs of the vulnerable groups. The workshop will</i></p>



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*showcase innovative models to empower individuals to participate in learning, including guidance provision.*

**Moderator: Johnny Sung**, Honorary Fellow, The Centre for Skills, Knowledge, and Organisational Performance, University of Oxford

**Co-moderator: Lidia Salvatore**, Expert on Adult Learning and Continuing Vocational Training, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)

**Rikardo Lamadrid Intxaurreaga**, Director of Technology and Advanced Learning, Ministry of Education of the Basque Government

**John Evers**, Secretary General, Association of Austrian Adult Education Centres

**Dario Baron**, Senior Expert Advisor, Ministry of Labour and Pension System of the Republic of Croatia

**Ann-Sofi Sjöberg**, Expert, Sjöberg Improving Transitions AB (Sweden)

**Workshop 3: Digital credentials to support better recognition of skills and diplomas**, *European Digital Credentials for Learning. How can they provide more transparency of skills (the example of micro-credentials)*

*The workshop will discuss the digital transformation of credentials and recognition of skills and qualifications. Participants will discuss the specific benefits of digital credentials, how these can support recognition and improve the visibility of skills, in particular micro-credentials.*

**Moderator(s): Koen Nomden and Céline Jambon**, Team Leader and Policy Officer, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

**Simone Ravaioli**, Chair, W3C Verifiable Credential Education Committee

**Evelien Willems**, Policy Officer, Nuffic (ENIC-NARIC national information centre, the Netherlands)

**Lluís Alfons Ariño Martín**, Chief Information Officer, University of Rovira I Virgili

**Anthony Camilleri**, Partner, Knowledge Innovation Centre

**Ricarda Peili**, Senior Desk Officer on Digital Credentials, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

**Workshop 4: Funding skills** *Funding opportunities, challenges and good practices from the perspective of business, practitioners and managers*

*The workshop will discuss existing opportunities and challenges for supporting investment in skills by European Union Funds, in particular in the business context, focusing on good practices and explore the challenges that persist in having access to such funding and required skills. Speakers from different Member States with different roles and perspectives will share their experience in applying for, using and managing EU funds for the development of training in and for companies (with specific attention for SMEs).*



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	<p><b>Moderator: Egbert Holthuis</b>, Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</p> <p><b>Hugo Dionisio</b>, Research Department Specialist, General Confederation of the Portuguese Workers (Confederação Geral dos Trabalhadores Portugueses, CGTP-IN)</p> <p><b>Jeanne Cristiansen-Gozzer</b>, Employment and Vocational Training Advisor, Brussels- Capital</p> <p><b>Emilio Cabanes</b>, Director of ICT Projects and Digital Economy and Deputy Director of the National Reference Centre for VET in E-commerce and Digital Marketing, EOI Business School (Escuela de Organización Industrial)</p> <p><b>Sergi Queralt</b>, Senior Policy Advisor, Employers' Group of Professional Agricultural Organisations (GEOPA)</p>
<b>11:15– 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:30- 13:00</b>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> round of workshops</b></p> <p><b>Workshop 1:</b> Unlocking skills and recognising qualifications in a cross-border context <i>Validation of skills, to make them visible and valued</i></p> <p><b>Workshop 2:</b> Building new skills the economy needs, <i>How to motivate and support people to acquire the right skills (Individual Learning Accounts, Upskilling pathways, micro credentials, Pact for Skills, guidance)</i></p> <p><b>Workshop 3:</b> Digital credentials to support better recognition of skills and diplomas, <i>European Digital Credentials for Learning. How can they provide more transparency of skills (the example of micro-credentials)</i></p> <p><b>Workshop 4:</b> Funding skills <i>Funding opportunities, challenges and good practices from the perspective of business, practitioners and managers</i></p>
<b>13:00 – 13:20</b>	<b>Snapshot of workshops</b>
<b>13:20 – 13:30</b>	<p><b>Closing remarks</b></p> <p><b>Stefan Olsson</b>, Deputy Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</p>
<b>13:30-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>