



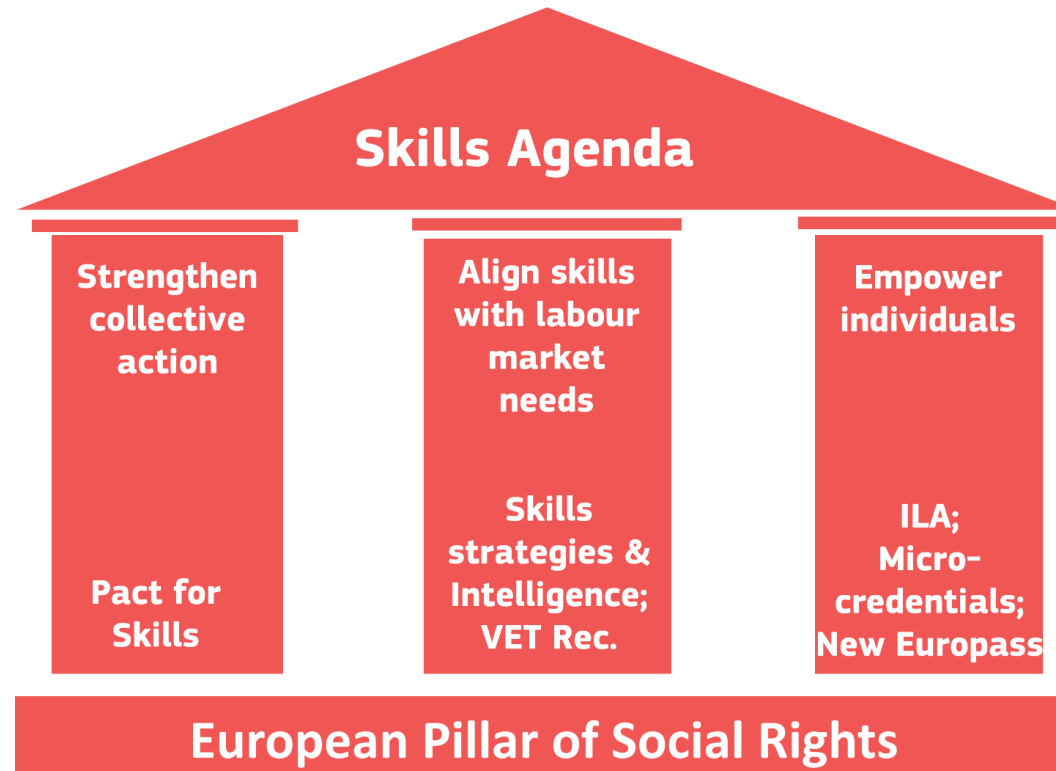
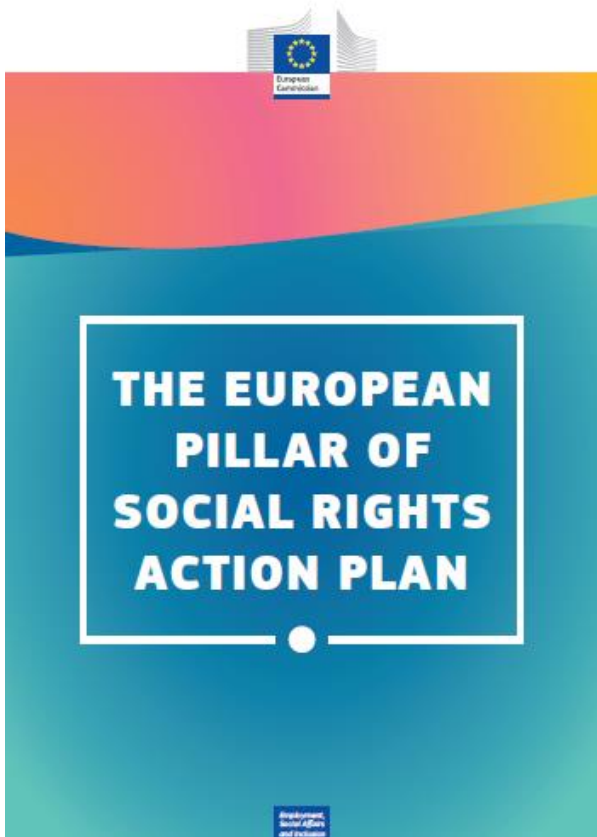
# The EU Skills Agenda and other initiatives supporting up- and reskilling of individuals

## Presentation

A photograph of the European Union flag, which is blue with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle. The flag is being held up by two hands, and it is waving in the wind. The background is a blurred green landscape with trees.

*MELLearn seminar  
Klara ENGELS-PERENYI  
European Commission "Skills Agenda" unit  
15 December 2022*

# Adult skills development in policy focus



# New European Agenda for Adult Learning – Council Resolution

Governance

Supply and take-up  
of lifelong learning  
opportunities

Accessibility and  
flexibility

Quality, equity,  
inclusion and  
success in adult  
learning

Green and digital  
transitions

A portrait of Ursula von der Leyen, a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a white jacket, looking slightly upwards and to the right with a smile.

*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.***



# 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**.



## Investment

Increased, more effective and inclusive investment



## Skills relevance

Strengthening skills relevance by close cooperation



## Matching aspirations

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



## Attracting people

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

# Who will be involved in the Year of Skills?

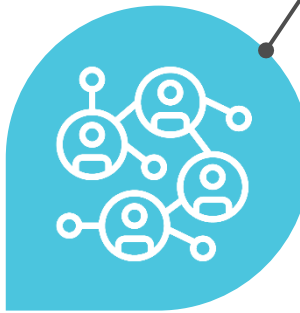
## The Commission and its Agencies

- DG EMPL
- Other DGs: initiatives, support with communication and engagement
- European Commission's Agencies



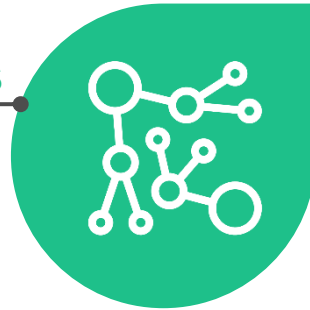
## Member States

- Strong involvement of **Member States**.
- Appointment of **national coordinators** to raise awareness, shape the Year, coordinate actions.
- Close cooperation with the **Presidencies**.



## Existing platforms and networks

- Engaging a **wide range of stakeholders**
- Social partners
- Individuals, companies, chambers of commerce and industry, public authorities, education and training providers



## International actors

- **OECD, UNESCO, ILO**
- Cooperation with **third countries**, in particular partner countries



# 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



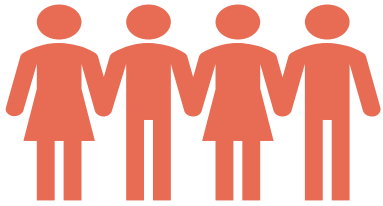
Personal accounts  
Registry of eligible opportunities  
Guidance & validation  
Paid training leave

## Way forward



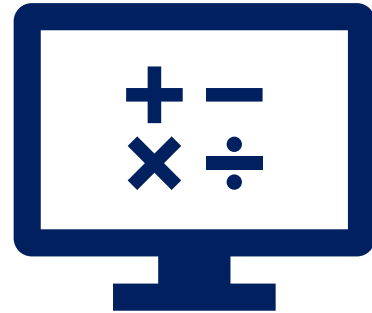
EU funding  
Monitoring in EMCO  
Mutual learning

# Evaluation of the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways



Target group

low skilled adults



Objective

Provide them with **opportunity to acquire:**

- minimum level of **literacy, numeracy and digital competence**
- and/or a wider set of skills
- and/or encourage them to make a **progress towards a qualification**



Rationale

**Three-step personalised support**

- Skills assessment
- Provision of tailored and flexible learning offer
- Validation and recognition of skills
- + outreach, guidance and support measures



# Pact for Skills

- **13 Large-Scale Skills Partnerships** now launched in key industrial ecosystems. Together, committed to provide **up- and reskilling opportunities to close to 6 million people** in the coming years.
- **Over 1000 members** from all Member States and sectors.
- **Very different types of stakeholders:** large multinational companies, SMEs, local training providers, chambers of commerce, social partners, regional authorities, sectoral clusters, national authorities and diverse kinds of networks and associations.

# Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality (adopted on 16 June 2022)

## Policy packages for a fair green transition

### Active support to quality employment

- Job transitions, job creation
- Working conditions
- Involvement, restructuring

### Education, training, lifelong learning

- Strategies, partnerships
- Skills intelligence, curricula
- VET, adult training (ILAs, micro-credentials)

### Fair tax-benefit systems, social protection

- Taxation of labour
- Social protection, well-designed income support
- Insurance solutions

### Access to essential services, housing

- Energy investments, renovations, social housing
- Mobility and transport
- Consumption (nutrition)

# Policy package on education, training and lifelong learning

**Rationale:** ensuring effective access to **education and training** during the green transition, in particular for people and households in vulnerable situations

## **(5) Equal access to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning**

- a) National skills strategies;** stakeholder **partnerships**, including under the Pact for Skills;
- b) Up-to-date labour market and skills intelligence and foresight;** consider adapting education and training curricula in accordance with national and regional circumstances;
- c) High-quality accessible, affordable and inclusive initial education and training,** including vocational education and training;
- d) Support schemes for apprenticeships and, where possible, paid traineeships and job shadowing schemes** with a strong training component;
- e) Increase adult participation in training;** individual learning accounts and micro-credentials.

# European Qualifications Framework and Europass

- The European Qualifications Framework (EQF) improves the transparency, comparability and portability of qualifications. It serves as a translation tool, making it easier to understand qualifications across borders and sectors.
- Europass allows people to effectively communicate their skills and qualifications in Europe. The European Commission provides this service free of any charge and in 30 different languages.
- Europass recent developments: European digital credentials. With Europass, people can safely store and share these credentials. Core issue: ensuring inter-operability.
- Open Public Consultations on the evaluation of EQF and Europass on-going

# Thank you