



# Report of Higher Up! VET Excellence – Plenary session

11.11.2020 / 14.00-  
16.45

European Vocational Skills Week 2020  
09-13 November 2020

EUROPEAN **VOCATIONAL**  
**SKILLS WEEK** 2020





# Report

## **Format:**

Online

## **Speakers:**

**Conni Czymoch** - moderator

**Anja Karliczek** - Federal Minister Ministry of Education and Research

**Margaritis Schinas** - Vice-President; Promoting our European Way of Life, European Commission

**Prof. Gunther Olesch** - Chief Representative of Phoenix Contact, Germany

**Roberta Piazza** - University of Catania

**Mario Patuzzi** – Head of unit of VET policies at German Trade Union Federation

**Athanasia Theodoridou** - Director of International Relations O.A.E.D. Manpower Employment Organization

**Amanda Rafter Ekenman** - Head of the Skills Department Installatörsföretagen

**Mayeul Kerling** - learner

**Marie-Luise Fuchs** - learner

**Petra Jendrich** - Chair Committee Vocational Education and Training of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs

**Tibor Dóri** - Association for Hungarian Digital Education

**Joost Korte** - Director General DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

## **Number of Participants:**

About 500

## **Summary:**



Professor Olesch, in his keynote speech highlighted the importance of vision. On EU level, we have the European Pillar of Social Rights to guide us. It is our compass for a social and inclusive recovery, and for just transitions towards climate neutrality and a digital Europe.

The first principle of the Pillar talks about right for all to education and lifelong learning. This principle is translated into concrete actions in the European Skills Agenda, which was adopted on 1 July 2020 and in the proposal for a Council Recommendation on vocational education and training.

No matter how diverse our VET systems are, our objectives are the same. VET should:

- cater for the skills needs of both young and adults.
- be reactive to the needs of the labour market and active participation in society.
- be integrated into economic, industrial and innovation strategies.

These objectives resonated during the conference.

Experts discussed impact of COVID-19, and how can we ensure that people can still upskill and reskill. We also listen to learners and practitioners explaining how VET can help us manage the green and digital transitions and not be managed by them.

This is extremely important, as twin digital and climate transitions have the potential to transform the world of work for the better, creating new jobs, better work-life balance and enhanced participation in the labour market.

However, when addressing the future of work challenges we need to remember that:

- Successfully tackling the digital and green transitions will mean we need to equip people with the necessary skills, often require reskilling/upskilling.
- We will also need to address the pressing need to support people with insufficient basic skills, as one in five Europeans are still struggling with reading and writing, while 44% of European citizens lack basic digital skills.
- No one can be left behind.