



Report of Higher Up! High-level discussion – A roadmap for Europe

12.11.2020 /
11:30 – 12:30

European Vocational Skills Week 2020
09-13 November 2020

EUROPEAN **VOCATIONAL**
SKILLS WEEK 2020





Report

Format:

Online

Speakers:

Ben Butters, CEO, EUROCHAMBRES

Maxime Cerutti, Director of Social Affairs, BusinessEurope

Conny Czymoch, Moderator

Manuela Geleng, Director for Skills, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Kornelia Haugg, Director-General, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany

Ludovic Voet, Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation

Number of Participants:

About 300

Summary:

Rapid and global developments like digital transitions, climate, ecological and demographic changes are transforming European labour markets and societies.

Pro-active re-skilling and up-skilling are necessary to support the recovery efforts, and to reap the benefits of the ecological transition and Europe's overall vision for digital transformation.

The right skills are crucial for the growth and sustainable development of businesses of all sizes. Companies need skilled people and talents to progress on the road to recovery and achieve green and digital transitions.

An excellent Vocational Education and Training (VET) can help young people and adults respond to these in a constructive way and offer higher level qualification opportunities. It can provide skills that will allow citizens to understand, adapt, follow and support the ecological and digital transitions and



better manage the challenges of the recovery. Despite negative demographic trends, excellent VET can encourage an increase in labour supply and productivity.

The European Commission together with Member States is ready to drive the skills revolution that will enable people and economies to thrive on today's volatile labour market.

The new Recovery and Resilience Facility with a budget of €560 billion will offer financial support for investments and reforms, including in relation to the green and digital transitions. The Just Transition Fund, strengthened by up to €40 billion, will, among other measures, support the retraining of workers in carbon-heavy industries. The InvestEU Fund will support four policy areas: sustainable infrastructure, research, innovation and digitization, small and medium-sized businesses, social investment and skills.

Together with the Skills Agenda and the VET Recommendation, in Osnabrück the Directors General of Vocational Training laid another milestone in shaping the future of EU VET policy.

The panellists identified opportunities and levers that digital transitions represent for VET excellence on the one hand. They discussed the roadmap for Europe regarding VET excellence.

The panellists focused on following area:

- What skills we need and how can we identify them?
- How can we support individuals and empower them to learn?
- How can we ensure high quality training that it is tailored to the needs of companies and individuals?
- How can we support individuals (young and adults) and companies in their upskilling and reskilling efforts on the systemic level? – Member State point of view?
- How can EU support Member States efforts in building excellent VET systems?