

2023, European Year of Skills



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News

Green and digital transitions are opening up new opportunities for citizens and the EU's economy. The need for citizens to successfully cope with changes in the labour market and fully participate in society and democracy is becoming more and more concrete.

This is the background to the European Commission's proposal to devote the new year, 2023, to skills, an initiative created in cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States, social partners, public and private employment services, chambers of commerce and industry, education and training providers, workers and businesses all together.

The announcement was made by President Ursula von der Leyen during her [State of the Union address 2022](#), reiterating the importance for Europe to attract and involve all citizens, leaving no one behind, so that the economic recovery is socially fair and just, and brings real benefits. Skills development is more important than ever in the EU, to enable citizens to make the most of green and digital transitions and economic recovery, as well as to address labour shortages in order to support enterprises' competitiveness and sustainable growth: this is an important step towards improving and accelerating the recognition of citizens' qualifications in Europe.

The European Year of Skills will serve as a new impetus for learning, giving new boost to investment in skills throughout the EU. Special attention will be paid to active inclusion of more people in the labour market, primarily women and young people, especially those who are not in education, employment or training.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Commission will promote opportunities for skills upgrading and re-skilling, e.g. by signalling relevant EU initiatives, including possibilities for EU funding, to attract people from third countries with the skills needed in the EU, thereby increasing learning opportunities, enhancing their dissemination, realisation and mobility, and facilitating the recognition of qualifications and their application in the related domain.

To achieve its objectives, the EU will therefore be able to rely on the several **initiatives** already in place to support skills development, including the [new European Innovation Agenda](#) and the [European Strategy for Universities](#).

The European Year of Skills initiative is also in line with the action taken two years ago by the Commission on the [Pact for Skills](#), one of the core elements of the [Skills Agenda for Europe](#) on sustainable competitiveness, social equity and resilience. The Skills Pact sets 12 ambitious quantitative targets for skills development (improvement of existing skills) and retraining (training to acquire new skills) to be achieved within the next 5 years, and provides a unique platform for

cooperation, bringing together public and private organisations committed to providing concrete training to workers across Europe. With regard to the achievement of the [social target of Europe 2030 strategy](#), Member States agreed and submitted their contributions, i.e. to ensure that at least 60% of adults participate in training courses every year. This is also important for achieving the goal of an employment rate of at least 78% by 2030.

Furthermore, substantial **EU funding** is available to support projects aimed at improving skills levels and retraining. An in-depth study is available on the website of the [Department for European Policies](#).

Major attention to the enhancement of human capital, skills and labour policies is also ensured by Cohesion Policy resources, thanks to effective projects implemented by National and Regional Operational Programmes, which is the focus of issue 10 of **Cohesion Magazine**, '[Policies for human capital, labour and vocational skills](#)'.

Read more:

[Commission kick-starts work on the European Year of Skills](#) – Press release

[Adoption of the proposal](#) – 12/10/2022

[Il patto per le competenze celebra il suo secondo anniversario tagliando il traguardo dei 1000 membri \(IT\)](#)

[The Commission's European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience](#)

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