



European Year of Skills 2023 and skills for the green transition

5 June 2023



Tim Van Rie

*DG Employment, Social Affairs and
Inclusion*

Skills for the green transition

Technical skills

Labour market

Occupation/
sector specific

Example:
Installing solar panels

Transversal skills

Work and beyond

Encompassing

Example:
Environmental awareness

Skills for the green transition (principles)

Linking two of the key priorities of 'this' Commission (2019-2024)

A European Green Deal

Climate neutrality, Resource efficiency

An Economy That Works for the People

Fairness, Social prosperity, Quality jobs

Linked priorities in action

Skills Agenda (2020)

European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (2021)

=> Specific actions on skills and social, including a 'green' dimension

REPowerEU (2022) Affordable, secure and sustainable energy

Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age (2023)

=> Strategies on energy and green manufacturing, including skills actions

Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality

- Adopted on 16 June 2022 by Member States
- Commonly agreed **policy guidance**

- Analysis in some ways **similar to CLIMACT**
 - A positive, but modest net employment impact of green transition
 - Possibly offsetting job polarisation due to digitalisation (medium skilled)
 - BUT: depends on specific occupation, region, accompanying measures

Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality

Policy packages for a fair green transition

**Active support
to quality
employment**

**Education,
training, lifelong
learning**

**Fair tax-benefit
systems, social
protection**

**Access to
essential
services,
housing**

Latest development: European Semester

- Commission **Country Reports** published 23 May

Each report covering ‘Annex 8 – Fair transition towards climate neutrality.’

- Commission proposal for **country-specific recommendations**

“Step up policy efforts aimed at the provision and acquisition of the skills needed for the green transition.”

ANNEX 8: FAIR TRANSITION TO CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

This Annex monitors Belgium's progress in ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality and environmental sustainability, notably for workers and households in vulnerable situations. In 2021-22, the number of jobs in the green economy rose in Belgium. Green skills are key to support the fair green transition, in line with the Council Recommendation⁽⁶³⁾, and the implementation of REPowerEU. Belgium's recovery and resilience plan (RRP) as well as the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), outline important reforms and investments for a fair green transition⁽⁶⁴⁾. The RRP supports training and labour market reforms aimed at increasing training for the unemployed and improving efficiency in activating jobseekers.

Upskilling and reskilling in declining and transforming sectors slightly increased, but skills mismatches remain important. An increasing job vacancy rate coupled with low employment and high inactivity rates suggest that there are substantial skills mismatches including in sectors requiring low- to middle-levels of skills. Skills are key for smooth labour market transitions and preserving jobs in transforming sectors. In energy-intensive industries, workers' participation in education and training increased from 6.1% in 2015 to 8.5% in 2022 (EU: 10.4%), while 40% of citizens believe they do not have the necessary skills to contribute to the green transition (EU: 38%)⁽⁶⁶⁾. To address this challenge, the RRP invests in training infrastructure related to the green transition (in Wallonia).





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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



Why a 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?

★ European Institutions

- European Parliament
- European Commission: DG EMPL and other DGs: initiatives, support with communication and engagement
- EU policy agencies, such as CEDEFOP ELA and ETF
- Commission Representations and EP Information Offices
- CoR, EESC, EIB...

★ 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

★ Member States

- Strong involvement of Member States.
- Appointment of national coordinators to raise awareness, shape the Year, coordinate actions.
- Close cooperation with the Presidencies.
- Implementing bodies such as ESF+ managing authorities

★ International Actors

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



How can you get involved?

- **Communication** is key to European Years: spread the word and share updates on social media under the hashtag **#EuropeanYearOfSkills**.
- Contact your country's **National Coordinator(s)**.
- By **organising events** at national, regional and local levels related to skills policy.
- **By making use of EU funding opportunities, tools and networks** to support your actions and liaise with other stakeholders.



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Funding instruments to support skills policy

➤ European Social Fund



➤ Recovery and Resilience Facility



➤ Digital Europe Programme



➤ Erasmus +



➤ InvestEU



Thank you for your interest!

We look forward to collaborating with you to make the European Year of Skills a success!

Useful link: [European Year of Skills webpage](#)
#EuropeanYearOfSkills



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