



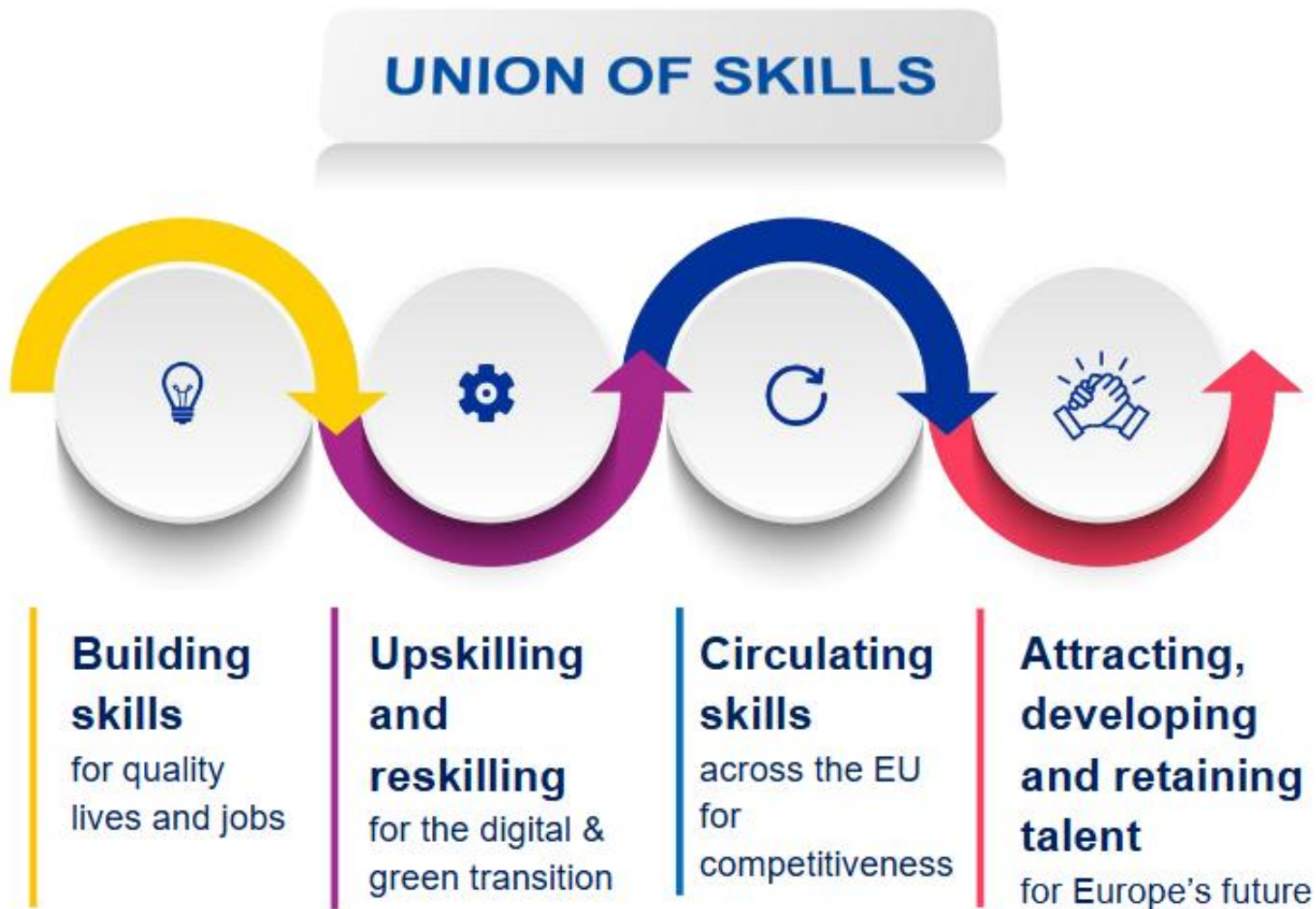
EU policy and Erasmus+ Programme in the VET field

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Union of Skills – main goals



Objective: “The Union of Skills aims to ensure that everyone in Europe, no matter where they are, is empowered to build solid skills foundations and **engage in lifelong upskilling and reskilling**, in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights.”

Building skills for life

- Action Plan on Basic Skills
- STEM Education Strategic Plan
- 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills
- Basic Skills Support Scheme (pilot)
- AI in education initiative
- EU Teachers & Trainers Agenda

Upskill and reskill to ensure future-oriented skills

- Pilot a Skills Guarantee for workers
- Roll out of targeted EU Skills Academies
- Expand the use of micro-credentials
- Reinforced Pact for Skills
- Expand the European Alliance for Apprenticeships
- Support the implementation of Individual Learning Accounts
- VET strategy
- Skills Portability Initiative

The Herning Declaration: A Renewed Commitment for 2026–2030

Endorsed on 12 September 2025 by

- Ministers responsible for VET from
 - EU Member States
 - EU Candidate Countries
 - EEA countries

- the European Commission
- European social partners

Supported by

- European level VET providers' associations (VET4EU2)
- Eurochambers
- Learner's representatives

Reaffirms the
commitment to

- [2020 VET Recommendation](#)
- [The Osnabrück Declaration](#)

Takes into consideration
the objectives of the
Union of Skills and its
initiatives

Acknowledges emerging
challenges such as

- demographic shifts
- labour and skills shortages
- and the rise of AI

Outlines 17 concrete
actions—13 at national
level, 4 at European
level—for 2026–2030.

Focus of the Herning Declaration

Enhancing the attractiveness, quality, and inclusiveness of VET, promoting parity of esteem with general and academic education.

Aligning VET with labour market demands, addressing skills shortages, and fostering social fairness and lifelong learning.

Supporting digital and green transitions through targeted skills development and inclusive apprenticeships.

Promoting innovation, excellence, and wellbeing in VET learning environments, including the responsible use of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Promoting mobility, cooperation, and supporting international dimensions of VET across Europe.

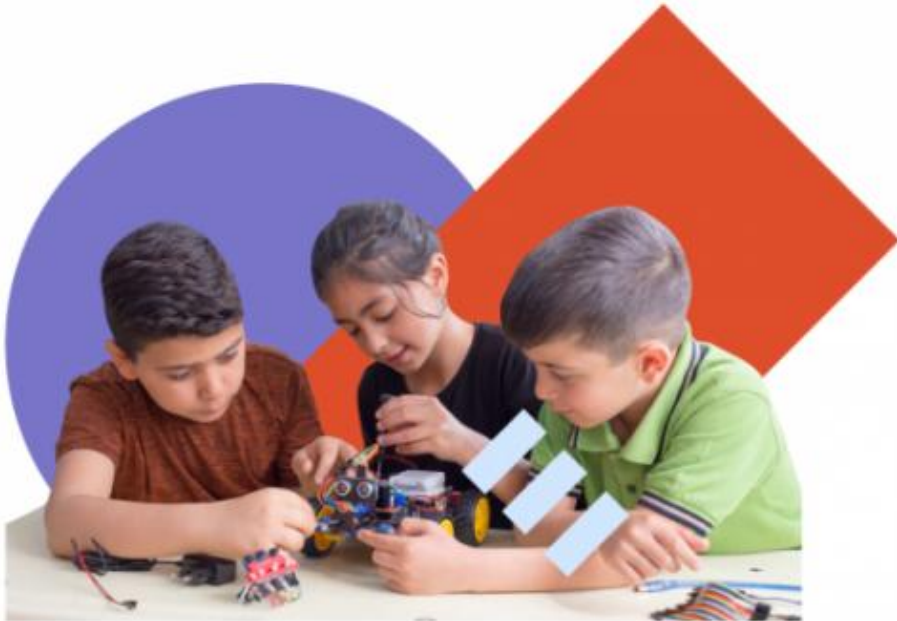
European Education Area – What is it?

- Strategic framework for cooperation in the field of education and training:
 - supporting EU Member States in their reforms of education and training systems;
 - strengthening of synergies with other policy areas, such as research and innovation, social policy, employment and youth :
 - defining targets and indicators to guide the work and monitor progress:
 - E.g. the percentage of 15 year olds who are not adequately qualified in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15 %;



“Remove barriers to learning and improve access to quality education for all”

European Education Area – Where we want to go...

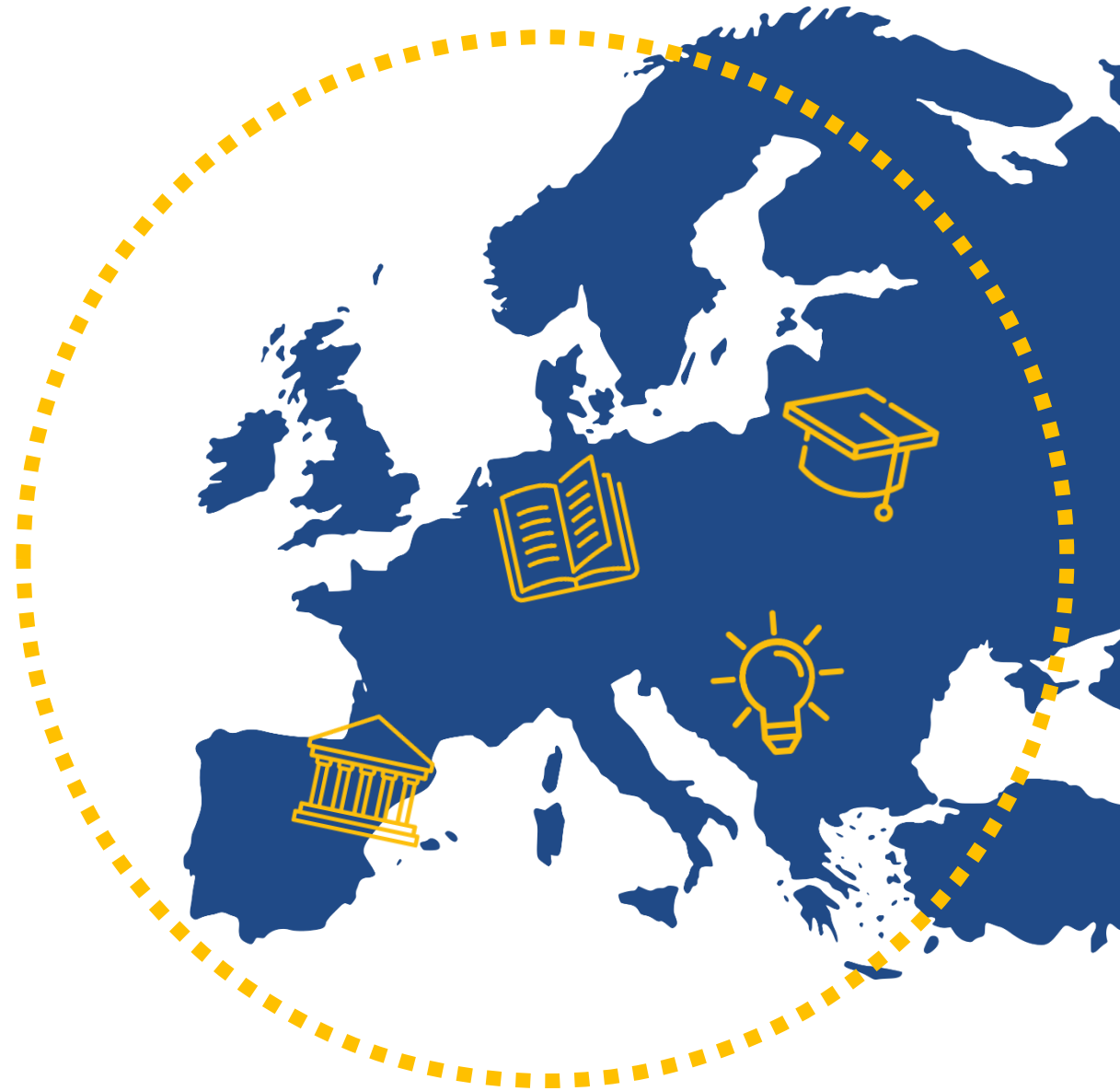


- Removing barriers to learning and improving **access to quality education for all**
- Spending a learning period abroad is a standard part of education.
- School and higher education qualifications should be **automatically recognized** throughout the EU.
- Speaking **two languages** in addition to one's mother tongue should become the norm.
- **Excellence in education** should be a reality for all, regardless of socio-economic background
- Citizens must have a strong sense of their **identity as Europeans** and of Europe's cultural heritage and diversity.

...and how can we get there?

*Those are some of the objectives of the **European education area**: a strategic framework for long-term development of European education systems ...*

*... with **Erasmus+** as its key instrument.*



Erasmus+ KA1 – Accreditation

- Long-term – strategic planning (Erasmus Plan)
- Regular access to funding every year

The accreditations are based on the objectives of the **European Education Area**.

In practice this means:

1. Expansion and integration of mobility
2. Capacity building of individual organizations
3. Creation of a European network of actors in the education sector





European Council Recommendation **Europe on the Move**

- May 2024 - Recommendation “Europe on the move - learning mobility opportunities for all” covers all sectors of education, youth and sport.
- General objective:

Learning periods abroad are a standardized and accessible option for all in the European Education Area.

- Elaboration process:
 - public consultation: more than 1,000 responses received
 - European Citizens Panel: 21 recommendations
 - Specialized study



Specific targets

- Making mobility a reality for all and strive to achieve EU-level targets by 2030 through the following:
 - a) in higher education, the share of graduates with a learning mobility experience abroad should be at least 23 %;
 - b) in VET, the share of vocational learners benefiting from a learning mobility experience abroad should be at least 12 %

Europe on the move– obstacles to learning mobility in VET

- Language barriers
- Age barriers
- Emotional distress caused by separation from family/ psychological obstacles
- Lack of recognition of learning outcomes during mobility periods abroad
- Issues related to the legal and administrative rules on apprenticeship status
- Financial barriers



Europe on the Move – Recommendations

- Work towards learning mobility schemes that are inclusive, environmentally sustainable, benefit from the use of digital technologies and promote common EU values
- Offer systemic mobility opportunities: making learning mobility abroad an integral part of VET and apprenticeships training systems through **flexible mobility windows**, elective courses and other opportunities
- Support engagement in learning mobility activities by
 - ✓ building a lifelong learning mobility culture at all learning stages of education and training;
 - ✓ valuing the work of educators, staff and youth workers who prepare and implement learning mobility projects and activities by incorporating them into their profession, and recognising the added value of staff mobility;
 - ✓ encouraging authorities to manage mobility schemes, both in sending and hosting roles, to reduce the administrative burden for organisations;
 - ✓ developing a variety of mobility formats and activities.

KA2 - Centres of Vocational Excellence

- Indicative budget of 400 million euros to fund 100 projects in the period 2021-2027
- Diversity in terms of topics, sectors, size, geographical scope, etc.

Find information about **existing projects**:



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EU Support for Vocational Excellence

Call Year	2021	2022	2023	2024
Budget	44 million	48 million	56 million	56 million
Number of applications	84	76	109	132
Number of funded projects	13	13	15	16
Number of countries involved in applications	55	54	64	63
Number of countries involved in selected projects	37	31	27	32



The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA)

is a multi-stakeholder platform launched in 2013 to strengthen the **quality, supply** and overall **image** of apprenticeships across Europe, while also promoting the **mobility** of apprentices.

BENEFITS for members:

- Knowledge sharing
- Networking
- Community building



EAfA is open to...

Governments and stakeholders from all EU, EFTA, candidate and EAfA partner countries, including businesses, VET providers, social partners and public authorities

Future perspectives for the Erasmus+ Programme

- Continued growth of the program is already programmed until 2027 (10-20% annually, depending on the year and scope)
- Interest from educational providers is also growing, and growing faster and faster
- A new program will start in 2028:
 - New European Commission proposal for the Multianual Financial Framework 2028 - 2034
 - Budget requested for Erasmus + : 41 billion (around 26 billion in current Programme)

European Commission proposal for the new Erasmus+ regulation

Overall principles and objectives:

- Erasmus+ dual objective: **Skills development & democratic participation.**
- Focus on **inclusiveness.**
- Ensure that **everyone has at least one Erasmus+ experience in their life** - as a school pupil, VET or adult learner, volunteer, student, or in up-/reskilling.

Interinstitutional process

- **Spending Review** - assessed each of the current spending programmes. Its conclusions were drawn up by mid-2024.
- Now in the **interinstitutional negotiations phase**. DG EAC supports negotiations in the Council and Parliament. General presentation of the proposal at the EDU Committee (Council of Ministers) on 8 Sep.
- Internally, we start prep of implementation with NAs (accreditation to be discussed early Oct - KA1 joint working group)

Erasmus+ 2028 - 2034

Proposal structured around **two pillars** offering a leaner menu of opportunities

Learning opportunities for all

Learning mobility and
volunteering

Talent and excellence
development

Capacity Building support

Cooperation among
organisations
and institutions

Support to policy
development

Alignment with the new architecture of EU funds

- Synergies with other EU or national instruments: ESF, European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), Horizon Europe, National or regional programmes
- Resources allocated to Member States under shared management can be injected into the Programme.
- Actions can receive funding from different EU programmes + possibility to apply a single set of rules.
- Study on synergies to be launched by EAC shortly

Thank you



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