European Commission

Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

VOCATIONAL SKILLS FOR A COMPETITIVE EUROPE



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#UnionOfSkills

Vocational education and training (VET) helps people gain practical, job-ready skills in sectors with strong demand for workers, such as healthcare, construction, manufacturing, energy and defence. Through the new European VET Strategy, the European Commission will better support EU Member States in modernising their VET systems to keep pace with technological developments, strengthen partnerships between employers and training providers, and help learners gain experience in other countries.

What is new

European sectoral training accelerator

Short, flexible training modules, developed with industry, which VET providers can add to national programmes. The pilot, starting in 2027, will test how the skills gained can be certified within national systems.

VET business partnerships

Training centres, set up jointly by companies and VET institutions, give learners **access to innovative technology** and the skills to use it effectively, helping businesses **adopt new technologies**. Starting in 2028, under the proposed European competitiveness fund.

EU mobility marketplace

From 2028, it will help VET learners and apprentices **go abroad for training and gather experience** in different workplaces.

Why it matters

Nearly
60%
of EU employment
are VET jobs

Almost
70%
of occupations with the highest labour shortages
rely heavily on VET

3.6 million
workers
to be replaced every year in VET jobs

Over
10 million
VET learners in the EU

Over
80%
of recent VET graduates
are in employment

Who will benefit



Learners

Keep pace with new skills requirements and technologies, strengthen basic skills, receive training for future-proof careers, have more opportunities to train abroad



Employers

Easier access to skilled workers trained on the latest technology



VET providers

More cooperation opportunities and support for innovation

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