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Quality Assurance and skills development in the EU: the role of EQAVET in a changing labor market

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BACKGROUND

2020 VET RECOMMENDATION AND EQAVET

OSNABRUCK DECLARATION

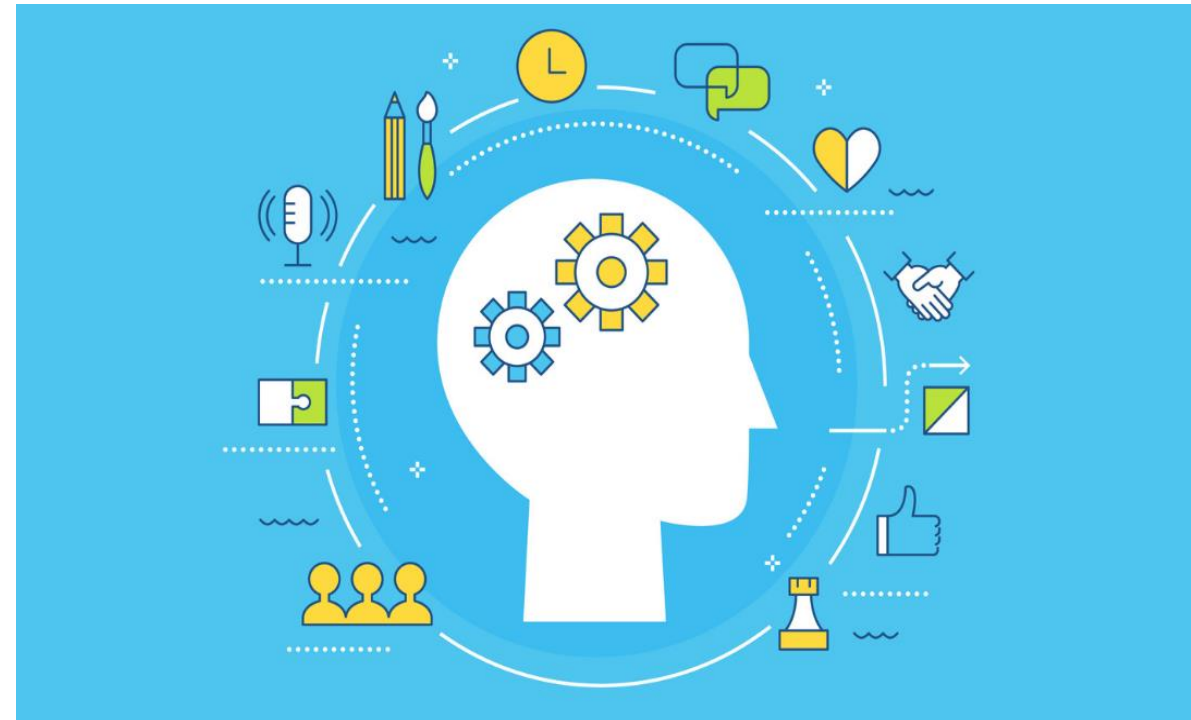
EUROPEAN INITIATIVES FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

CONCLUSION AND REFERENCES



COMPETENCE

means the proven ability to use
knowledge, skills and personal, social
and/or methodological abilities, in
work or study situations and in
professional and personal development
European Recommendation EQF
(2008)



- Globalization and transitions towards green and digital economies are significantly marking out the labor market, generating changes that require new skills and competences to ensure competitive growth.
- The digital transition has had multiple effects on the labor market, so requiring a necessary updating of both technical and transversal skills.
The acquisition of soft skills has become also crucial to managing emerging complexity.
The need of digital platforms also in the field of education has led to a transformation of traditional educational models.



BACKGROUND



- The European VET systems are called upon to respond to this fast-changing scenario by addressing challenges and developing innovative tools and strategies.
- ✓ In response to the complex challenges posed by economic and social change, the European Commission has recommended Member States to implement national policies to enhance **VET as a tool of social and cultural cohesion**, as well as **investment for the future**.



The European Council **Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on vocational education and training for sustainable competitiveness, social equity and resilience** adopts a systemic approach to quality implementation in VET, with innovative reform measures to support young people and adults in face the changing labor market, in particular:

- **providing knowledge, skills, abilities and competences** to manage labor market developments as well as the transition towards a green and digital economy;
- **promoting inclusiveness and equal opportunities**, and contributing to social equity and resilience;
- **promoting European VET systems** in an international context in order to be recognised worldwide.

The 2020 Recommendation adopts the **EQAVET framework** defined by the 2009 Recommendation and relaunches the activities of the European EQAVET network.



EQAVET NETWORK FOR QUALITY IN VET

The EQAVET network aims to:

- ✓ Promote the development of the European Quality Assurance Framework, with descriptors and indicators
- ✓ Support an approach to enhance the quality of VET systems by involving social partners, regional and local authorities, and all relevant actors
- ✓ Develop a quality culture by supporting the evaluation and improvement of vocational education and training systems and providers
- ✓ Promote the implementation of a European dimension for quality assurance in VET





The European EQAVET network, promoted by the European Commission, includes the **National Reference Points (NRPs)** of Member States and candidate countries. NRPs are jointly engaged in the development and improvement of VET systems in line with the implementation of the European Quality Guidelines and Recommendations. NRPs, as intersection between European and national VET policies, ensure the national diffusion of European policies and a shared framework to promote a quality culture.

The Italian National Reference Point has been established since 2006, is located at **INAPP**, and supports the national process of defining a quality assurance system through the development of a dissemination of practices and tools for a continuous improvement.



Osnabrück Declaration
on vocational education
and training
as an enabler of recovery
and just transitions to
digital and
green economies

Endorsed on 30 November 2020



On 30 November 2020, the **Osnabruck Declaration on Vocational Education and Training** was adopted in support of the transition to a digital and green economy. It complements the vision and strategic objectives set out in the 2020 Recommendation on VET through short-term actions, to be completed by 2025.

The Declaration has four broad objectives:

- **resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible vocational education and training;**
- establishing a culture of lifelong learning;
- promoting sustainability through education and vocational training;
- a European education and training sector and an international dimension of education and vocational training.



EUROPEAN SKILLS AGENDA 2020

The **European Skills Agenda** is a five-year plan to help individuals and businesses to develop skills and to put them to use, by:

- ❖ strengthening **sustainable competitiveness**,
- ❖ ensuring **social fairness**,
- ❖ building **resilience** to react to crises, based on the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Agenda includes **12 actions**, involving Member States, companies and third sector organizations. It is a **collective action**, calling companies, social partners and stakeholders upon to work together within the EU's industrial ecosystem, defines a **clear strategy** to ensure that skills are proper for the labor market, identifies financial means to promote skills' investment, and sets ambitious **skills development** and training targets to be achieved within five years.



In order to support the goals of European Skills Agenda, the European Commission established **The European Year of Skills**, which ran from May 9, 2023, to May 8, 2024, to **encourage lifelong learning and boost skills development**, particularly in digital and green technologies. It aimed to address skill shortages in the EU labor market and help individuals acquire the skills needed for quality jobs. The initiative also **supported the goals of the European Skills Agenda**. In Italy the national coordination has been entrusted to **INAPP**, responsible to share good practices and work with European Commission in order to link the European level with the national one. Conferences, discussion forums, working groups and meetings, promoting events and awareness campaigns of upskilling and reskilling opportunities have been promoted and carried out by INAPP.



European Recommendation on a Code of Practice on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation (2024)

The aim of the Recommendation is to provide detailed guidance and tools for Research and Innovation (R&I) actors, facilitating the **development of interactive models** and the promotion of the role of intermediaries and digital platforms that facilitate a **better matching between supply and demand of innovation** and the promotion of a global mutual understanding of the respective objectives and activities of industry and academia.

A fruitful collaboration between industry and academia is the key to accelerate the **adoption of innovative solutions** and the development of new technologies, to ensure a fair green and digital transition.



CONCLUSION



In the last years the social and geopolitical transformation in the European countries had a decisive impact on the implementation of critical thinking in the culture of diversity; in this sense, the European Commission is committed to modernize the VET systems and update the skills in order to be competitive in the current labor market. Adaptation to a technologically advanced and interconnected world is crucial to maintain Europe's competitiveness in a global landscape: re-skilling is a strategic priority in European policies and is essential that education systems evolve in step. The acquisition and development of up-to-date skills is important both to ensure a prosperous future for individuals, but also foster Europe's competitive growth and embrace new areas of knowledge, such as artificial intelligence, data management, environmental sustainability and digitalisation.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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