

LEARNING & SKILLS THEMATIC NETWORK



PRIORITIES

Within the very wide scope of Learning and Skills, covering both young people and adults, our network is focusing on:

- Work-based learning systems for better skills
- Recognition and validation of prior learning acquired in non-formal and informal environments
- Learning systems for soft and transversal skills
- Basic skills including a digital dimension
- Digital lifelong learning

MONS SKILLS CENTRE VISIT

In relation to our '**work-based learning systems**' theme, a study visit took place in November 2016 to the **FOREM Environnement skills** centre in Mons, Belgium.

The centre trains job-seekers, students and those in work in environmental technologies, energy and waste management. The visit was particularly interesting for countries such as Hungary and Croatia, which are currently looking into introducing competence-based training. It highlighted the relevance of work-based learning for highly skilled jobs, and the positive job outcomes when training is designed and delivered in collaboration with employers and linked to local labour market needs.



People

Member States: BEfr, BEnl, EL, ES, FI, HR, HU, LT, LU, PL, PT.

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WORKING METHODS & ACTIVITIES

Our network combines various activities and methods, and aims to connect policy issues and practices in a two-way process.

The **New Skills Agenda**, adopted by the European Commission in June 2016, aims to "make sure that people develop the skills necessary for the jobs of today and tomorrow". It is our policy blueprint, and it ensures the relevance of our activities this means they support EU policy priorities and their implementation at national level through relevant programmes and projects. In turn, the policy debate guides and nurtures our work. We played an active role in the first European Vocational Skills Week in December 2016, and will contribute to the second in November 2017.

Upskilling pathways, one of the main initiatives coming from the New Skills Agenda, was a key topic of our meeting in Rome in May 2017.

Close to 70 million Europeans struggle with basic reading and writing, arithmetic, and using digital tools in everyday life. Without these skills, they are at higher risk of unemployment, poverty and social exclusion.

Projects identified by the network members directly feed into a collection of good practices gathered by DG Employment via an online template, and will be further analysed by the network in relation with national and regional policy and legal contexts.



Investing in people
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