European Commission

The European Year of Skills

Fostering skills development in the EU for more sustainable, resilient, and fair societies



An adequate skill offer is a precondition for well-functioning and inclusive European societies and economies. EU-funded projects working within the context of the European Year of Skills show how investing in skills not only transforms lives but also reinforces Europe's position in the world.

Research and Innovation

Demographic and technological changes, changing global trade patterns, and the green transition are rapidly altering the needs of our labour market. Moreover, the past few years have been challenging for Europe: the coronavirus pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis, and persistent political upheavals have highlighted the need for improved strategies and measures to respond to the new reality.

All these challenges bring skills development to the fore, introducing a new parameter to the approach Europe needs to take. The European Year of Skills officially began on 9 May 2023 and will run for 12 months, supporting skills-related actions and initiatives across Europe, and bringing together workers and businesses with the common goal of creating fairer and more resilient societies.

In line with initiatives such as the European Skills Agenda and the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Year of Skills aims to promote education in and for the labour market, including skills relevant to ensuring a fair green and digital transition, while encouraging an inclusive approach to education and lifelong learning.

13 EU-funded projects

This results pack showcases the work of 13 research projects funded under Horizon 2020 working within the context of the European Year of Skills. The aim of the pack is to contribute to an evidence-based debate on the challenges associated with skills development, such as ensuring that skills are relevant to societal needs, matching the aspirations and skill sets of job seekers to opportunities in the labour market, assessing the impact of new technologies and increasing the attractiveness of the EU market to workers from abroad.

The overall goal of the projects is to deliver on the Commission's priorities, in particular the European Green Deal and A Europe Fit for the Digital Age, ensure alignment with principles outlined under the European Pillar of Social Rights, and pave the way for an economy that works for the benefit of all citizens.

BEYOND4.0

Inclusive Futures for Europe BEYOND the impacts of Industrie 4.0 and Digital Disruption

Coordinated in the Netherlands

BEYOND4.0 investigated how companies deploy new technology in a way that creates jobs and inclusive growth, with emphasis on cultivating digital as well as non-digital skills.



© BEYOND4.0

CHAMELEONS

Championing A Multi-Sectoral Education and Learning Experience to Open New Pathways for Doctoral Students

Coordinated in Ireland

CHAMELEONS created a new educational model for doctoral students offering a variety of skills to improve their learning experience as well as employment prospects in academic and non-academic environments.



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DocEnhance

Enhancing skills intelligence and integration into existing PhD programmes by providing transferable skills training through an open online platform

Coordinated in Norway

DocEnhance developed a range of materials focusing on transferable skills training aimed at students with advanced degrees to help facilitate their transition into employment.



© Franny-Anne

EURAXESS Hubs

Piloting EURAXESS talent hubs to support researchers' careers

Coordinated in Hungary

The EURAXESS Hubs network utilised existing digital infrastructure to offer skills-related support across three areas: academic environments, non-academic contexts, and scientific entrepreneurship.



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EUROSHIP

Closing gaps in social citizenship. New tools to foster social resilience in Europe

Coordinated in Norway

EUROSHIP created a clear framework encouraging policy interventions that support citizens' access to social rights, including improving young adults' skills and increasing their job prospects.

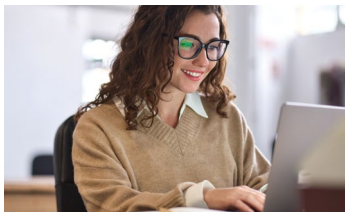


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HECAT

Disruptive Technologies Supporting Labour Market Decision Making
Coordinated in Ireland

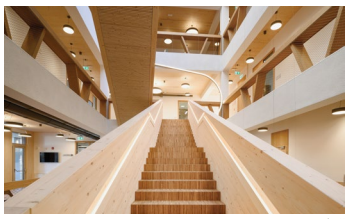
HECAT developed technology to assist public employment services and job seekers in making informed decisions regarding labour market conditions, skills acquisition, and access to sustainable employment.


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InnoRenew CoE

Renewable materials and healthy environments research and innovation centre of excellence (InnoRenew CoE)
Coordinated in Slovenia

InnoRenew CoE, a research facility dedicated to the development of open science, aimed to introduce innovative solutions to complement and expand the existing tradition and skills of the forest sector in Slovenia.


© Miran Kambič

MIMY

EMpowerment through liquid Integration of Migrant Youth in vulnerable conditions
Coordinated in Luxembourg

MIMY focused on young third-country national migrants with a view to helping them discover how they can increase their skills sets, e.g. their language, maths, and digital skills, to better integrate into society.


© Monkey Business

MIRNet

Twinning for excellence in migration and integration research and networking
Coordinated in Estonia

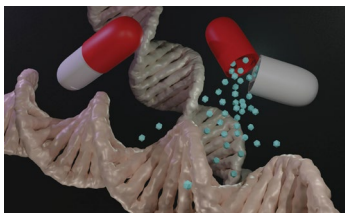
MIRNet focused on institutionalising migration and integration research by improving migration and integration research skills, which will help inform migration policy development and implementation at various levels.


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NANO4TARMED

Advanced hybrid theranostic nanoplatforms for an active drug delivery in the cancer treatment
Coordinated in Czechia

NANO4TARMED, with a focus on developing advanced nanocarrier systems for anticancer drug delivery, aimed to provide researchers with training on the writing of scientific papers and project proposals, strengthening their scientific profile.


© Love Employee

PILLARS

PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE LABOUR MARKETS
Coordinated in Germany

PILLARS aimed to show how to acquire workforce skills aligned with market needs via transforming the way education systems disseminate relevant knowledge.


© goodluz

prodPhD

Social network tools and procedures for developing entrepreneurial skills in PhD programmes
Coordinated in Spain

prodPhD proposed multidisciplinary teaching and learning methodologies that will allow the introduction of entrepreneurship education in any PhD programme, providing students with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to become entrepreneurs.


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ySKILLS

Youth Skills
Coordinated in Belgium

ySKILLS set out to predict which children and adolescents in Europe are more at risk of ICT negatively affecting their wellbeing, and to understand how digital skills can function as resilience builders against these risks.


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EU initiatives for a better skilled workforce

Skills mean more and better jobs because a skilled workforce is a key driver of growth, enhancing the innovation power and competitiveness of all companies, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Equipping the EU workforce with the skills needed will also help companies navigate the green and digital transitions and ensure that the European economy grows in a sustainable and competitive manner.

The European Year of Skills aims to address skills gaps in the European Union and boost the EU skills strategy, supporting innovation and competitiveness. It will contribute to the upskilling of people by highlighting national efforts as well as existing and new EU initiatives and EU funding possibilities. Furthermore, it will support skills-related activities and events across Europe.

The projects featured in this results pack perfectly align with the European Year of Skills initiative, showcasing efforts to promote skills development in the EU. This work is a significant contribution towards delivering on Europe's vision for a versatile workforce that is better-equipped to handle the challenges of an evolving employment and societal landscape.

Learn more about
European Year of Skills: bit.ly/30vW4qe
Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion: bit.ly/3Y5stap
European Research Executive Agency: bit.ly/3Qeq7Ux

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