

Minutes of the expert groups

Brussels, 18 June 2018

Seventh Meeting of the Member States Working Group on ESCO¹
Brussels, 18 June 2018
Webinar

1. Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

The agenda was adopted with no further changes.

2. Nature of the meeting

The seventh meeting of the Member States Working Group on ESCO (MSWG) was attended by:

- representatives of 18 Member States' (MS) authorities on labour market and education and training (BE, HR, DK, EE, FI, DE, IE, IT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SE, SL, ES). SE could not participate in all the meeting because of technical problems.
- representatives of two observer countries (IS, NO),
- representatives of European social partners (UEAPME),
- Commission services.

The Commission (COM) chaired and opened the meeting.

The main goals of the meeting were: a) to provide an update on skills related policies, b) to report on the state of play of the implementing acts under article 19 of the Eures regulation and on the technical assistance for mapping to ESCO, c) to inform about the work on further structuring the skills pillar, d) to update on the ESCO KPI framework and e) to discuss the communication plan for the period 2018 – 2022.

The meeting was held online, in the form of a webinar. Some members experienced technical problems with the audio. All the presentations from the meeting are available in the [ESCO Portal](#). The meeting was also recorded.

3. List of points discussed

3.1 Update on skills policy points

COM updated the MSWG on the latest policy developments, in particular:

- Update on the Europass Decision:

The final text of the Decision was adopted by the Council in April 2018 and published on the Official Journal of the European Union on 2 May. COM informed members about the procedure for the creation of the Europass Advisory Group, which foresees an invitation to

¹ Published in the Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities, code number E03344

Member States to appoint two members to the AG and an open call for social partners. A business analysis to prepare the new Europass platform is currently ongoing. According to current planning, the platform should be launched in September 2019, while technical specifications should be ready by November 2018.

- Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027:

COM presented to members the proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027) and provided an overview of the specific areas related to employment and education, which will be grouped under the cluster "Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values" with a financial allocation of €139,5 billion.

- Study on the further development of the ESCO Qualifications pillar:

The study on the further development of the ESCO Qualifications pillar started on 1 June. COM introduced 2 project deliverables, the shape and implementation of quality assurance of private, sectoral and international qualifications and the concept and technical linking of learning outcomes to ESCO skills. The first expert workshop will take place on 19 June.

During the subsequent discussion, Romania asked about the possibility to participate to the first workshop online. COM replied that this was not possible.

3.2 Implementing ESCO

- Implementing acts and technical assistance for mapping: state of play:

COM informed members about the positive opinion of the EURES Committee on the Implementing Decisions for the use of ESCO in EURES. The Implementing Decisions will be now adopted in the coming weeks by the Commission, which will trigger the start of the 3-year period in which to directly use or map to ESCO.

COM provided an overview of technical assistance for mapping to ESCO. COM introduced the mapping platform, the implementation manual, the helpdesk and the training that will be offered to Member States. Training will consist of webinars and/or country visits. COM plans to have one training session in November 2018 and a second session in January 2019, according to members' requests.

COM specified that the results of the skills mapping pilot will be integrated into the implementation manual but will be also sent to members as a separate document.

COM asked members to provide comments and to signal any their requests for training by end of June 2018.

During the subsequent discussion, members raised the issue of protection of personal data in ESCO. Members also asked for more information about the scope of the mapping platform.

COM clarified that the issues of protection of personal data and compliance with GDPR will be addressed by the EURES Committee, and undertook to inform members about future developments. COM clarified that the mapping platform could be used for occupation and skills classifications.

→ Operational follow up

- COM to publish the final report of the skills mapping pilot in the ESCO portal and integrate results into the implementation manual.
- COM to finalise the implementation manual and upload it on the portal.
- COM to collect members 'expressions of interest for training by end June and define possible training dates.

3.3 A structure for the skills pillar

COM provided members with an overview of the discussion on structuring the skills pillar that took place during the last MAI meeting. COM committed to test three approaches in the short term:

- a hierarchical flat structure using the Canadian model, where the skills are divided according to their nature;
- clustering skills by field of education and training using the ISCED classification, and
- clustering skills by field of economic activity, using the NACE classification.

In the longer term, COM will continue the work on skills contextualisation.

During the subsequent discussion, members asked for clarifications about the potential impact of skills clustering on the mapping exercise. Members also asked how the existence of different structures in different countries could have an impact on the mapping obligation.

COM explained that the work on skills clustering will not have any consequence on mapping to ESCO, since the content of the classification itself is stable, and confirmed that the existence of different national structures will not affect data interoperability.

→ Operational follow up

- COM to start testing the above mentioned approaches for clustering skills, work on the methodology and provide an implementation timeline.
- COM to report on next steps during the next MAI meeting.

3.4 ESCO KPI framework

COM updated the MSWG on the current status of the ESCO KPI framework and the discussion held with the MAI. COM presented three categories of KPIs, namely business KPIs, quality KPIs and technical KPIs. COM provided a presentation of five thematic draft dashboards:

- Use of ESCO as a de facto standard,
- ESCO in EURES,
- Evolution of the ESCO qualifications pillar,
- Conceptual and terminological coverage of ESCO, and

- Level of granularity of ESCO.

During the subsequent discussion, members asked if the Commission intends to look at regional languages and occupations when analysing the granularity of ESCO. Members also raised the importance of having clear indicators for measuring and interpreting KPIs.

COM confirmed that ESCO will only look at European occupations. COM agreed with the need of having clear interpretation and contextualisation of the results of KPIs.

3.5 ESCO communication plan

COM had a first discussion with members on the ESCO communication plan 2018-2022. COM confirmed that the targeted stakeholders and key messages of the communication will remain the same as defined in the previous communication strategy (2016-2018). COM expressed the intention to develop new promotional material in the coming months, such as testimonial videos, manuals and an annual report. COM asked members to suggest other potential target groups and messages, any other potential initiative and product and to indicate how the Commission can best support the MSWG in communicating ESCO at national level. Members were asked to submit their written comments by 14 September.

During the subsequent discussion, members raised their concerns about focusing the communication on the link between employment and education, as the qualifications pillar is still incomplete. Members also suggested including social partners among targeted stakeholders.

COM confirmed that it will also reach out to social partners. COM explained that strengthening links between the world of education and the labour market is a key mission of ESCO, already reflected and operational in many of the existing use cases which make good use of the skills and occupations pillars.

→ Operational follow up:

- MS are invited to provide comments by 14 September 2018.

4. Conclusions and next steps

COM closed the meeting and thanked the participants for their active participation.

The next MSWG in Brussels is tentatively scheduled for 22 October.

5. List of participants

The list of participants will be provided with the minutes.