Information points report

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Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to inform the ESCO Maintenance Committee on Commission actions following their advice and on recent developments on the ESCO project.

The Commission services will not provide formal presentations on the topics covered in this document. We kindly invite the committee members to submit questions via e-mail before the meeting. We will collect the questions and report on them in the meeting.

Outcome of the meeting with the Joint Research Center (JRC)-Seville

Following the integration of the Digital Competences Framework (DigComp) in the ESCO transversal skills thesaurus, members of the ESCO team participated in a conference call with representatives from the JRC (JRC) on 3 April 2017. The aim of the conference call was to:

- Explain the process of integration of the DigComp competences in ESCO and
- List remaining, mainly terminological, issues which needed remediation in order to achieve 100% convergence.

The representatives from JRC endorsed the way the DigComp is displayed in ESCO. The terminological differences between ESCO and DigComp are principally due to the absence of terminological guidelines in DigComp. The Commission services developed the ESCO Terminological Guidelines which were followed by the Secretariat, the Taxonomy Expert Group, the Sectoral Reference Groups and the translators when formulating the terms in ESCO to achieve consistency.

The ESCO team shared with the representatives from JRC the ESCO Terminological guidelines available in 26 languages. JRC will consult the Guidelines and may use them or customize them for a future update of DigComp. The Commission services and JRC will continue working closely to ensure alignment in the future updates of ESCO and DigComp.

Results of the investigation on the existing European competence frameworks

During the previous ESCO Maintenance Committee meeting on 15-16 March, the committee members asked the Commission services to investigate on other European competence frameworks that exist or that are under development to make sure that ESCO is aligned with them. Through desk research and after consulting colleagues the Commission services developed the following list:

Name	Developer	Publication date	Description	Web page
European e-Competence Framework (e-CF) 3.0 for ICT Professionals	CEN Workshop on ICT skills	2016	A reference framework of 40 competences organized in five ICT business areas and related to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).	http://www.ecompetences.eu/
Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) v6	SFIA foundation	2015	A reference framework of skills required by professionals in roles involving information and communications technology. These are organized in six categories, 17 sub-categories and seven levels of responsibility.	https://www.sfia-online.org/en/sfia-6
The Digital Competence Framework (DigComp) 2.1 for Citizens	The Joint Research Centre - Seville on behalf of DG Employment, social affairs and inclusion	2017	A reference framework of 21 digital competences organized in five competence areas and eight proficiency levels that describe what it means to be a digitally-savvy citizen.	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1315&langId=en
The Entrepreneurship Competence Framework (EntreComp)	The Joint Research Centre - Seville on behalf of DG Employment, social affairs and inclusion	2016	A reference framework of 15 competences organized in three areas and eight proficiency levels that describe what it takes to be entrepreneurial.	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1315&langId=en
The Digital Competence Framework for Consumers (DigCompConsumers)	Joint initiative of DG Justice and Consumers and the Joint Research Centre	2016	A reference framework of 14 competences organized in three areas which consumers need to function actively, safely and assertively in the digital marketplace.	https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/digcompconsumers
Digital Competence Framework for Educators (DigCompEdu)	The Joint Research Centre - Seville on behalf of DG Education and Culture	Under development	A reference framework of 23 competences organized in six competences areas and in the proficiency levels ranging from A1 (Newcomer) to C2 (Pioneer). DigCompEdu provides an instrument for (self-) assessment, based on research and	https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/digcompedu

			stakeholder consultations.	
Common Digital Competence Framework for Teachers (in Spanish and English)	Instituto Nacional de Tecnologías Educativas y de Formación del Profesorado (INTEF), Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport	2017	A reference framework of 21 digital competences organized in five competence areas and six proficiency levels. It is a self-evaluation tool of teaching digital literacy.	https://es.slideshare.net/educacionlab/common-digital-competence-framework-for-teachers
European Framework for Digitally-Competent Educational Organisations (DigCompOrg)	The Joint Research Centre - Seville on behalf of DG Education and Culture	2016	A reference framework of 75 descriptors organized in seven thematic elements and 15 sub-elements. It reflects all aspects of the process of systematically integrating digital learning in educational organisations from all education sectors.	https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/digcomporg
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: learning, teaching, assessment (CEFR)	Council of Europe	2001	A framework of reference designed to provide a transparent, coherent and comprehensive basis for the elaboration of language syllabuses and curriculum guidelines, the design of teaching and learning materials, and the assessment of foreign language proficiency. It is used in Europe but also in other continents.	http://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/home
Open EDU	The Joint Research Centre - Seville on behalf of DG Education and Culture	2016	A support framework for higher education institutions (HEIs) to open up education in 10 areas.	https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/opening-education-support-framework-higher-education-institutions
EU Customs Competency Framework (EU Customs CFW)	DG Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD)	2014	The framework includes four groups of competencies: the core values, and professional, operational and managerial competencies. All competencies are further specified with well-defined proficiency levels: 'awareness', 'trained', 'advanced' and 'expert'. Public and private sector core customs	https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/eu-training/eu-customs-competency-framework_en

			roles ("Job descriptions") complete the EU Customs CFW package.	

Updated list of unreviewed occupations and Commission decision

On the 22nd ESCO Maintenance Committee meeting on 7-8 December 2016, the Commission services presented a document listing 32 occupations that had been quality assured but not reviewed in one of the major validation steps:

- the work of the sectoral Reference Groups (SREF),
- the online consultation with stakeholders,
- the gap analysis against ISCO-08 and the national classifications,
- the cross-check against some national classifications (to determine in which of them those occupations appeared).

The representatives of some Public Employment Services provided feedback on that list and validated 12 additional occupations according to their own expertise.

In addition the Maintenance Committee members provided contacts and organisations that could help the Commission services to validate that list of occupations. Among them, the British Cleaning Council pointed out the relevancy of the *amusement park cleaner* that fits the UK classifications and is included in the Council categories.

As a result, **19 occupations** could not be validated in those ways:

Un-reviewed ESCO occupations
bed and breakfast operator
camp counsellor
charcoal mixer
cigarette stamper
cigarette tester
competition policy officer
cut tobacco bulker
fibre machine tender
fibreglass machine operator
filling machine operator
hair removal technician
heat sealing machine operator
insulating tube winder
mattress making machine operator
nitroglycerin separator operator
personal shopper
recreation model maker
ride technician
speed reading instructor

As these occupations are neither validated nor confirmed as irrelevant by a sufficient number of experts, the Commission services will keep them in ESCO v1 but will also flag them for the continuous improvement process.

Update on the organisation of the ESCO conference

With this information point, the Commission services would like to update the Maintenance Committee on the latest developments concerning the organisation of the ESCO conference planned in October 2017.

Draft agenda

Annex I contains an updated draft agenda and provides an overview of the activities and discussion themes that will shape the conference. The agenda will be refined in the near future as soon as we get confirmations from the speakers.

Speakers

The Commission services have started identifying and contacting potential speakers for the different workshops, showcases, keynote speeches and panel discussion that will take place during the two days of the ESCO conference. The targeted speakers represent companies that have piloted ESCO in their services, academia and researchers experts in the field of education and training, human resources, e-recruitment or labour market processes, innovative private companies in this field and representatives of EU institutions. The Commissioner for Employment, Social affairs and Inclusion will address the audience through a video message. For opening day 2 of the conference, we invited the Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Venue and time

The event will take place on the 9th and 10th of October in Brussels.

Results of European big data hackathon

During the conference, we have foreseen a short introduction to the results of the European big data hackathon[1] that took place from 13th to 15th of March. The three winning teams will be invited to present their projects and showcase how ESCO can be used in such pioneering initiatives.

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[1] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cros/EU-BD-Hackathon_en

Annex 1

Draft agenda of the ESCO conference 2017
Brussels, 9-10th of October

9th of October: Technical workshops
These working sessions on day 1 will include short explanations on ESCO features and/or presentations of concrete show cases/pilot projects illustrating how ESCO works in applications. Their focus is on purpose, functionality, added-value and technical implementation aspects of ESCO. The selected showcases are indicative and can be subject to change.

09.00 – 09.15	- Registration and welcome coffee -			
09.15 – 09.30	*Welcome*			
09.30 – 10.00	*Main features of ESCO v1*			
10.00 – 11.00	LABOUR MARKET | WORKSHOP *Boosting job search & matching with ESCO* *DG EMPL (ESCO)* *DG EMPL (EURES)* *SME specialised in job matching (TBC)*	EDUCATION | WORKSHOP *Building the qualifications pillar* *DG EMPL (ESCO)* *Member State representative responsible for national qualification database (TBC)* *Amazon Training & Certifications (TBC)*	BIG DATA | WORKSHOP *ESCO supporting big data analyses* *Cedefop* *Eurostat*	
11.00 – 11.30	- Coffee break -			
11.30 – 12.00	LABOUR MARKET | SHOWCASE *Semantic job search* *SME specialised in HR software (TBC)*	EDUCATION | SHOWCASE *Study on comparison of VET curricula* *Cedefop*	MISC. | SHOWCASE *Talent management in the media sector* *European Broadcasting Union (TBC)*	BIG DATA | SHOWCASE *Insights from social media big data* *LinkedIn (TBC)*
12.00 – 12.30	EDUCATION | SHOWCASE *Transparent qualifications* *Lyons Business School (TBC)*	MISC. | SHOWCASE *The challenge of recording refugee skills* *DG EMPL*	BIG DATA | ACADEMIC *Big data analyses of the labour market* *Speaker TBC*	Additional session TBC
12.30 – 14.00	- Lunch -			

14.00 – 15.00	LABOUR MARKET | WORKSHOP *The common EURES IT platform & the mapping process* *DG EMPL (ESCO)* *DG EMPL (EURES)*	EDUCATION | WORKSHOP *E-profiles in the new Europass* *DG EMPL (Europass²)*	MISC. | ACADEMIC *Machine learning in knowledge engineering* *Professor, Electronics and Informatics Dept. (ETRO), VUB (TBC)*	Additional session TBC
15.00 – 15.30	LABOUR MARKET | SHOWCASE *A presentation on innovative approaches in PES* *A PES of a Member State (TBC)*	EDUCATION | SHOWCASE *OPENSKIMR: A map to employability* *Management Centre Innsbruck / Academy Cube (TBC)*	EDUCATION |ACADEMIC *Open badges* *Simone Ravaioli, Digitary (TBC)*	Additional session TBC
15.30 – 16.00	- Coffee break -			
16.00 – 16.30	Eurostat hackathon winners - showcase²			
16.30 – 17.00	LABOUR MARKET | ACADEMIC *Digitisation of the labour market and the role of online platforms* *Speaker (TBC)*	EDUCATION | WORKSHOP *E-profiles in the new Europass* *DG EMPL (Europass²)*	LABOUR MARKET| WORKSHOP *Continuous improvement of ESCO* *DG EMPL*	Additional session TBC

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² European Big Data Hackathon

10th of October: High-level event

09.00 – 9.30	- Registration and welcome coffee -
9.30 – 10.00	*Official opening of the event* *European Commissioner for Employment, Social affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility Marianne Thyssen (TBC)* *Michel Servoz, Director-General of Directorate-General Employment, Social affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility (TBC)*
10.00 – 11.30	*Changing labour market and education paradigms -* keynote addresses *LinkedIn CEO (TBC)and/or* *McKinsey Senior partner (TBC)and/or* *Academy/research representative*
11.30 – 12.00	- Coffee break -
12.00 – 12.30	*Vision and added value of ESCO* Presentation by DG EMPL
12.30 – 14.00	- Lunch -
14.00 – 15.30	*Digitisation of the labour market - changing trends and implications* *Panel discussion* - *DG EMPL Director-General (TBC)* - *VDAB CEO (TBC)* - *MNC or SME representative (TBC)* - *Private sector representative (TBC)* - *Academia/research representative, (TBC)*
15.30 – 16.00	*Closing of the ESCO conference* *Speaker TBC*
16.00 – 16.30	- Farewell coffee -

Update on the consultation of the Member States Working Group on the ESCO skills

The Commission launched the third round of consultation with the Member States on a pre-release version of ESCO containing the EU language versions for the skills pillar on 3 May 2017. The consultation is currently ongoing and will last until the 16 June 2017.

The goal of this consultation is to give the opportunity to the Member States to assess the adequacy of the different linguistic versions for mapping (existing) national skills classifications to ESCO according to the requirements of the new EURES Regulation.

This consultation round contains the ESCO pre-release version of the ESCO skills pillar in the 24 official EU languages and Norwegian. The Icelandic translations of skills are still pending and they will be presented separately at a later stage. This pre-release version contains also the previously translated occupations in the EU languages and Norwegian and most of the updates suggested by the MSWG in the last consultation

Following the results of the consultation, the Commission will assess the remaining changes to be made to the classification. The publication of ESCO version 1 (v1) in all EU official languages and Norwegian is expected for July 2017. The Icelandic translation of ESCO v1 might be published at a later stage.

The translations have been done by the Commission's Directorate General for Translation (DGT), which has followed specific ESCO terminological guidelines. Translators relied also on the support provided by experts appointed at national level, notably on doubtful terminological cases.

Update on the future of the ESCO Maintenance Committee

With the release of ESCO v1, the mandate of the ESCO Maintenance Committee will come to an end. It fulfilled its role of providing the Commission with valuable technical advice on the development of ESCO, and on its quality assurance.

After the release of ESCO v1, the project will enter into a process of continuous improvement. The goal of this process is to make the classification better, to keep pace with changes in the labour market and in education and training, and to ensure it is fit for purpose for the use in various IT applications that deliver high-quality services to end-users.

The Commission discussed this process with the committee members on their 23rd meeting of 15-16 March 2017. The draft document describing the continuous improvement process explains the strong need for stakeholder involvement in this process and indicates the role for a future ESCO Maintenance Committee:

> The future ESCO Maintenance Committee "*provides advice on the technical and conceptual development of ESCO. It formulates opinions on the approach for technical implementation, on quality control principles and on the revision of ESCO data. Additionally, the ESCO Maintenance Committee advises the Commission on the implementation of ESCO in concrete business cases. The ESCO Maintenance Committee will continue playing an important role on the continuous improvement of the ESCO classification. The future ESCO Maintenance Committee will include custodians of national and international classifications, ESCO implementers and cross-sectoral domain experts.*"

The institutional set-up of the future ESCO Maintenance Committee will be decided at a later stage, taking into account the overall governance on European level in matters related to skills and qualifications.