



ESCO work packages

Overview, status and planning

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1. Purpose of this document

With this document, the ESCO Secretariat (SEC) provides for information to the ESCO Maintenance Committee (MAI):

- An update on the scope, status and planning for the ESCO v1 classification deliverables
- An update on the ESCO communication deliverables
- An update on the ESCO IT deliverables
- Candidate deliverables for the ESCO v1.1 classification

2. ESCO classification deliverables

The SEC has revisited the objectives for 2016 (see figure 1). The SEC has adjusted the scope of the ESCO deliverables in light of the ESCO v1 core components, the main ESCO business cases (in particular EURES) and the additionally planned quality assurance steps. As a general rule, the SEC only wants to include only quality assured content in the ESCO v1 release. As a consequence, the SEC has put some deliverables in scope of ESCO v1.1 that is scheduled for delivery during the summer of 2017.

The ESCO core contains the three pillars: i) occupations (OCC), ii) knowledge, skills and competences (KSC), including the transversal skill thesaurus, and iii) the qualification integration framework. Upon delivery, the ESCO v1 classification will have qualifications that the qualification integration framework integrated already in the classification.

The core OCC and KSC will be published with rich sets of terms in all supported languages¹, relations linking the OCC and the KSC and a validated association with ISCO-08 unit groups. The SEC will reuse ISCO codes to organise the integration with the Regulated Professions database.

In order to deliver ESCO as a coherent functional classification, the SEC will contact the ILO and explore the possibility to re-publish ISCO-08 as Linked Open Data (LOD). In a similar fashion, the SEC intends to re-publish NACE rev. 2 and to discuss with UNESCO about ISCED-F 2013. For these classifications the SEC will deliver "preferred terms" for these classifications in all supported languages.

The EURES business case requires the ESCO v1 classification to support: (1) transcoding national classifications to ESCO, (2) data entry for end-users that maintain their profile using EURES, and (3) search and matching features. To support these functionalities well, the EURES team expressed the need for the ESCO core deliverables, the need for a link between occupations and areas of economic activity (NACE rev. 2), and an interest in the ESCO KSC collections.

¹ Bulgarian, Spanish, Czech, Danish, German, Estonian, Greek, English, French, Irish, Croatian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Maltese, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish.

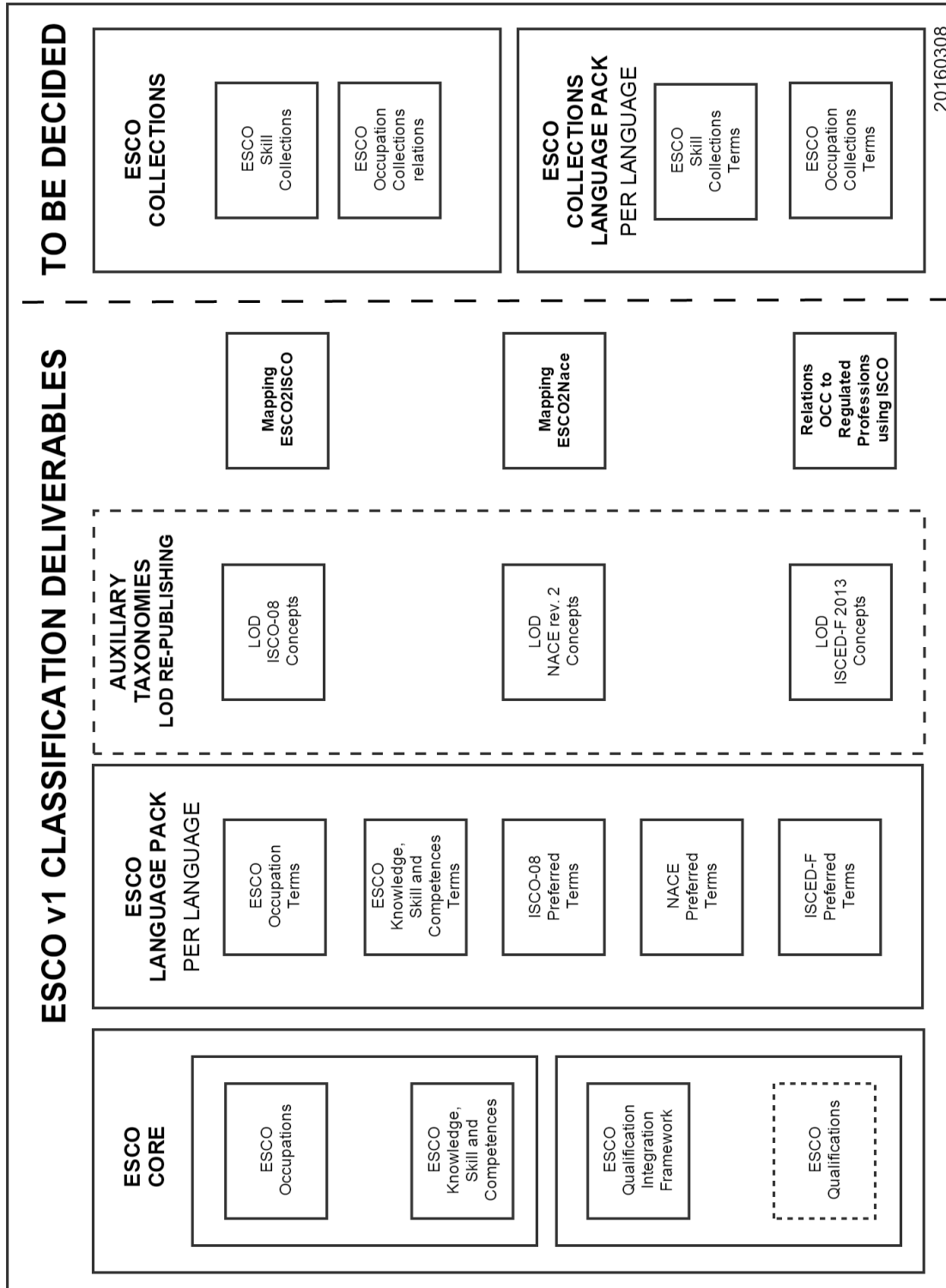


Figure 1. ESCO v1 deliverables (updated).

2.1. Planning for the ESCO v1 classification deliverables

ESCO 2016 timeline

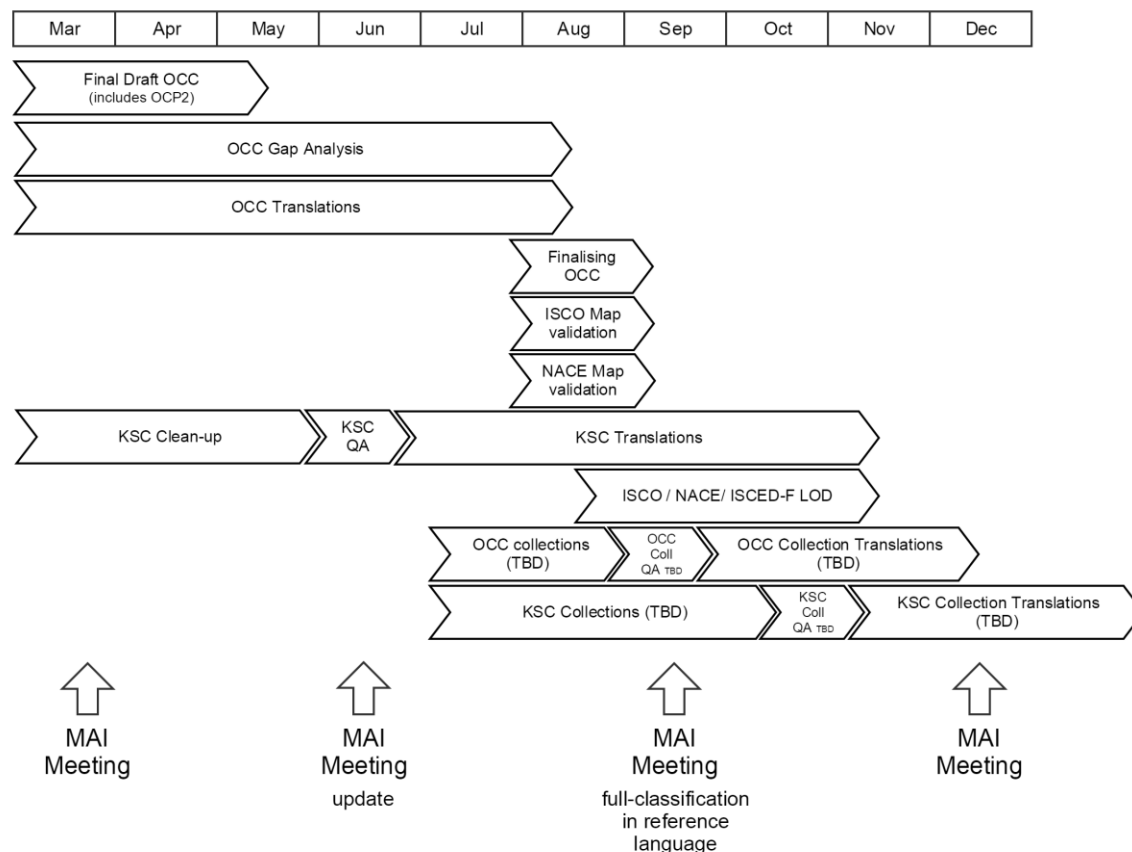


Figure 2. Planning for ESCO v1 deliverables (March 2016 – December 2016)

2.1.1. ESCO Occupations

Concepts

The SEC is finalising the ESCO Occupations using the information gathered during the online consultation, the gap analysis with ISCO-08, and the gap analyses with the national occupation classifications. Additionally, the SEC will review the relations in the occupation hierarchy. Except for the gap analysis with the national occupation classifications this work will be completed by May. The gap analyses will be finished in summer 2016.

Mapping to ISCO-08

The SEC and TEG have finalised the ISCO-08 mapping with the ILO expert. A final validation of the ISCO-08 occupations to cover final changes to the set of ESCO v1 occupations will be implemented in summer 2016.

Regulated Professions

The SEC will implement the integration between ESCO and the Regulated Professions Database using ISCO-08 codes. As a consequence, the SEC can deliver the integration with the regulated professions database without any changes to the classification. The SEC will continue discussions with DG GROW on future updates of the regulated

professions database and any further improvements of the links between the database and ESCO.

Mapping to NACE rev. 2

The SEC and the TEG are currently reviewing the mappings of occupations to NACE rev. 2 from the perspective of the EURES use case and investigating how to validate them. To meet the planning of the ESCO v1 delivery, the SEC will have them validated by autumn 2016.

Translations

The occupations of the first 11 ESCO sectors have either been translated, or are already submitted to the translations process. The SEC expects that this process will accelerate as a consequence of the streamlined process supported by the ESCO translation platform. The SEC will provide the translation platform for DG Translations in April. Key in the management approach for the translation is that the SEC can manage the process on the level of individual approved concepts instead of on complete sectors of concepts. As a consequence, discussion on an individual concept will no longer block the translations for a whole sector. The SEC is working with DG Translations to have the terms for the OCC in all supported languages finalised in August.

2.1.2. ESCO Knowledge, Skill and Competences

Concepts

The TEG is currently working on the clean-up of the KSC concepts. In this process the TEG revisits the KSC concepts, and identifies and merges redundancies. The SEC expects this process to complete in May. The SEC will execute in June a final quality assurance after completion of the clean-up.

Translations

The SEC has organised the translations for the transversal skills, the Hospitality and Tourism sector as well as the ICT sector. The SEC will submit the other KSC concepts for translation after completion of the KSC clean-up and quality assurance. The SEC expects to deliver the KSC concepts in all supported languages in November.

2.1.3. ESCO Qualification Integration Framework

The SEC has created an initial version of the services that will be responsible for the harvesting and republishing of the metadata associated with qualifications. Currently, the SEC is working with Sweden, Spain and Microsoft to pilot these services. The service that will "harvest" the qualifications for ESCO will be delivered by end of 2016.

2.1.4. ISCO-08, NACE rev. 2, and ISCED-F 2013 mapping

Concepts

The SEC will engage in discussions with the ILO (ISCO-08), UNESCO (ISCED-F) and internally with Eurostat (NACE rev. 2) to discuss the re-publishing of the classifications as LOD. This would support seamless integration in the ESCO tools and services.

Translations

The SEC will organise that preferred terms will be provided with ESCO v1 in all ESCO supported languages for the ISCO-08 concepts, the NACE rev. 2 concepts, and the relevant concepts from ISCED-F 2013.

2.1.5. ESCO Skills and Occupation Collections

The SEC is investigating if the development of the ESCO Skills Collections, and ESCO Occupation Collections can be organised within the ESCO v1 time-frames. In case it cannot be delivered as part of ESCO v1, the ESCO Skill Collections will be added to the ESCO v1.1 deliverables that are due in the summer of 2017.

3. ESCO v1 IT deliverables

The SEC will deliver at the end of 2016 with the ESCO v1 classification tools and services that support its use and life cycle management. Some of the tools and services mentioned will be made available during the course of 2016 due to project needs (e.g. Translation platform, April 2016; Qualification integration framework, autumn 2016). For an overview on the IT deliverables see Table 1.

Table 1. ESCO life cycle management tools and services

Manage data integrity	ESCO Model, and ESCO validation rules
Manage classification	Taxonomy Management System 2.0 (TMS 2.0)
Manage terms/translations	Translation platform
Manage conversion tables	Mapping platform
Manage ESCO publication components	Data Catalog Vocabulary (DCAT), ESCO Packaging system
Harvest qualifications	Qualification Integration Framework
Publish ESCO (for human interaction)	ESCO Portal 4.0
Publish ESCO (for machine interaction)	Linked Open Data architecture (including URI redirect, LOD API, SPARQL endpoint), Local API, Web Service API
Manage collaboration with stakeholders	Platform for discussion and online consultation

4. ESCO v1 communication deliverables

To support the stakeholders to understand and use ESCO, the SEC will make available with ESCO v1 a set of communication tools. For an overview on the ESCO communication deliverables see Table 2².

Table 2. ESCO communication deliverables

ESCO handbook	Stand-alone publication on the development of ESCO
ESCO developers' toolkit	Resources and documentation needed by software developers
ESCOpedia 2.0	Updated ESCOpedia, reflecting current state of ESCO
ESCO v1 communication package	Simple communication messages on ESCO (e.g. including press releases, video, etc.)
ESCO v1 conference program	Program for the launch of ESCO v1

² Please see also documents nos. ESCO(2015) SEC 004 DRAFT and ESCO(2015) SEC 095 FINAL.

ESCO communities	The communities to collect feedback from ESCO users on its content and technical implementation
Showcases	A.o. EURES, Europass, Academy Cube

5. Candidates for the ESCO v1.1 classification deliverables

Based on the refined scope definition of ESCO v1, the SEC is defining candidates for the scope of the ESCO v1.1 classification deliverables. The list currently includes:

- Work context
- Mappings to e-CF
- Skill and occupation collections (tbc)