



Brussels, 27 January 2020

## **11TH MEETING OF THE MEMBER STATES WORKING GROUP ON ESCO, 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

### **NOTE ESCO MSWG 11 - 6**

#### **INFORMATION ON THE BLUEPRINT FOR SECTORAL COOPERATION ON SKILLS**

The Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills was launched in January 2017 as one of the 10 actions set in the new Skills Agenda for Europe<sup>1</sup> and aims at improving skills intelligence and address skills shortages in specific economic sectors.

Focus of the framework is the development of partnerships gathering a multitude of stakeholders such as business, trade unions, research institutions, education and training institutions and public authorities, working together at European level with the following objectives:

- gathering information (skills intelligence) on how major trends are likely to affect growth, competitiveness and employment in the sector and feeding such information into Cedefop Skills Panorama;
- developing a comprehensive skills strategy and long term action plans to support sectoral economic growth strategies;
- developing concrete actions to satisfy sectoral skills needs, such as vocational education and training curricula and qualifications for new occupational profiles;
- designing a long term action plan to be rolled out at the national and regional levels.

As part of their mission, Blueprints also promote within sectoral stakeholders the use of EU tools such as ESCO. The project length is maximum 4 years, with funding coming from a multitude of sources, including from Erasmus +.

Projects have already started in the domains of:

- automotive,
- maritime technology,
- space geo-information,
- textile, leather, clothing and footwear,
- tourism,

---

<sup>1</sup> COM(2016) 381 final

- construction,
- steel;
- additive manufacturing,
- maritime shipping.

Another six projects (bio economy, new technologies and innovation in agriculture, batteries for electro-mobility, defence technologies, energy value chain – digitalisation, energy-intensive industries and microelectronic manufacturing and design) kicked off in January 2020.

### **Example: ESCO in the Blueprint on textile, clothing, leather and footwear**

The Blueprint project “Skills4Smart TCLF Industries 2030” started in January 2018 and will end in December 2021. The project brought together 21 public and private stakeholders of the textile, clothing, leather, and footwear (TCLF) sectors from 9 countries, under the coordination of their respective European umbrella associations (Euratex, CEC and COTANCE).

The project analysed current skills gaps of the TCLF sectors and worked to update training and curricula offers by designing eight new VET Programmes for newly emerging occupations. More information on the project can be found here: <http://www.s4tclfbblueprint.eu/>.

In this regard, ESCO has been used to analyse existing occupational profiles, address skills needs and create new occupational profiles.

By linking occupations with skills and knowledge concepts, ESCO allowed project participants to look at previously existing and new occupations from the point of view of the skillset that is needed to perform specific tasks. The decision to adopt the ESCO structure facilitated the collection of information on emerging trends via surveys or questionnaires targeting employers, and allowed the project to develop 8 new occupational profiles combining existing ESCO skills with new skills resulting from the surveys.

At the same time, the project provided valuable feedback on the granularity and sectoral coverage of ESCO, showing the existing trade-off between a European-level classification of occupations and skills and the level of detail of sector specific job profiles.

The work done by the TCLF Blueprint also provided suggestions on how the ESCO vocabulary could be adapted to include the technological development and increased use of ICT tools and software in the industry and the emerging of green skills and competences in the manufacturing process. The Commission is currently analysing the new occupational profiles created by the project with the aim of including them in the next version of ESCO.