



The ESCO Community Forum

16-17 March 2016

*European Skills,
Competences,
Qualifications
and Occupations*

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Purpose of this document

With this document, the ESCO Secretariat (SEC) provides information about the creation of two ESCO community forums (ESCO CFs). The document is shared with the ESCO Maintenance Committee (MAI) for information.

ESCO Community Forums

The Commission considers launching two ESCO CFs in order to support the everyday maintenance and use of the ESCO vocabulary. The first forum would empower experts and users to share and discuss topics on the content of the classification such as emerging trends relating to skills or occupations and the second forum on how to solve technical issues, such as missing features, key performance indicators and requirements for improving the classification. The ESCO CFs will be an information source and virtual place for discussions on the ESCO classification. They would contribute to the continuous improvement process of ESCO.

Stakeholders and their role in the community

The SEC expects two main groups of external stakeholders and the Commission users:

Domain experts

The role of the domain experts would be to discuss features and short-comings of the concepts of the ESCO classification. They will need to high-light emerging trends and indicate omissions and quality issues with the concepts and terms defined in the classification. Domain experts will typically come from the community that participated in the online consultation, the previous sectoral reference groups (SREF) and people who have experience by working with ESCO such as public and private employment services, social partners, representatives of professional associations, national ministries, educational institutions, training organisations, statistical organisations, European and national sector skills councils and networks.

(Potential) ESCO's users

(Potential) ESCO's users would share and discuss implementation options including feature requests, best practices and practical issues related to ESCO such as how to use the ESCO classification in their systems. Users would come from employment services, ministries responsible for national qualification databases, social media, job boards and other online service providers as well as European initiatives such as EURES, EUROPASS and the EU Skills Panorama.

Experts from national classifications systems

Experts for national and international classification systems have an interest to discuss changes in ESCO or to give feedback on its further development. The various classification systems are a major source for the continuous updating of the ESCO classification. Experts could share information on the latest updates of these classification systems, such as information on new or obsolete occupations, changes in occupational profiles, labour market statistics and other related issues.

Commission / ESCO Secretariat

The Commission through the ESCO Secretariat would take a moderating and supporting role in the discussions. It would provide information about ESCO and collect and organise the feedback gathered in the online discussions. This feedback would feed into the continuous improvement process of ESCO.

Next Steps

The SEC will soon have a meeting with the Communication unit of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion in order to discuss about the implementation of the ESCO community forums.