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DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Europe 2020: Employment Policies
Skills and qualifications

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MEMBER STATES WORKING GROUP ON ESCO (MSWG)
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Planning the scope for ESCO v1.1

1. Introduction

Following the release of ESCO v1 in July 2017, the Commission is now starting its planning for the scope of the next ESCO version. ESCO needs to be updated continuously, so that it can remain fit-for-purpose for the use in various IT applications that deliver high-quality services to end-users. New versions of ESCO can reflect changes such as:

- Changes in the labour market: new occupations emerge; occupations become obsolete; nature of occupations change and with it the knowledge, skills and competences requested by employers;
- Changes in curricula: new knowledge, skills and competences appear in education and training curricula, while others disappear;
- Changes in terminology: terms to refer to specific occupations, knowledge, skills and competences change; rules of the entire language change (e.g. spelling reforms, female forms of occupation names become more common);
- Changes in the requirements of IT applications: technological development or new expectations by end users change the way of service provision and thus the requirements towards the ESCO classification as a building block of the system.
- Updates of ESCO are also occasions to correct any identified mistakes in the classification such as misspellings of the terms, wrong metadata or relationships.

The overall approach to the improvement of ESCO and the preparation of new ESCO versions is described in the document "*Continuous improvement workflow for ESCO*"[1].

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/document/en/f834e202-0ebf-461a-9249-a00e91d86e94

2. Scope of the revision

To determine the scope of the new release, the Commission will identify possible work packages (update bundles) and assess the cost, time and effort needed to implement each work package.

Examples of work packages that could be reviewed and considered for updates are:

- Correcting concepts and terms following stakeholder feedback;
- Reviewing the level of granularity of occupations based on mapping tables;
- Identifying and removing concepts which are very rarely used;
- Increasing the consistency of skill concepts within groups of the skills hierarchy;
- Improving the coverage of the skills pillar for better use of the skills terminology for education and training purposes;
- Integrating skills from the Entrepreneurship Competence Framework (EntreComp)[2] into the skills pillar;
- Screening and adding the impact of new technologies on skills, in particular for digital skills.

The Commission is considering a release of ESCO v1.1 in two phases:

- Adding new skills (Skills identified as missing or newly emerging on the labour market) in a pre-release.
- Release of a new version after the implementation of ESCO in EURES is finished.

Newly released ESCO versions would not automatically be used for the implementation of ESCO under EURES. Article 3 of the Implementing Decision 2018/1020/EU clarifies the process for updating the list used in EURES. However, new ESCO releases would be developed in a manner that facilitates updating of EURES mapping tables if needed. The goal is, that the pre-release could be used for voluntarily mapping to new skills concepts, while the new version (ESCO v1.1) would be fit for purpose for use in EURES.

The Commission invites members of the Member States Working Group on ESCO (MSWG) to indicate any areas they might consider a priority for the next update by email to EMPL-ESCO-Secretariat@ec.europa.eu.

Following the analysis of update bundles, the Commission will consult the ESCO Maintenance Committee (MAI) and the MSWG for the decision on the scope of the next release.

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/entrecomp-entrepreneurship-competence-framework

3. Indicative Timeline

Oct 2018 – Aug 2019	Analysis of update bundles
Sep 2019	Discussion of a suggested scope for v1.1 with the MAI
Oct 2019	Discussion of a suggested scope for v1.1 with the MSWG
Oct 2019	Elaboration of quality and risk management plans
Feb 2020	Pre-release of new skills concepts
End of 2021	Release of ESCO v1.1