



ESCO (2014) SEC 013 DRAFT

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DRAFT MINUTES

11th meeting of the ESCO Maintenance Committee

19-20 March 2014

Marriot Hotel, Brussels

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Tony BIRD chaired the meeting.

The minutes of the 10th meeting of the MAI were adopted unanimously.

The agenda for the 11th meeting of the MAI was approved unanimously.

2. Thematic bloc 1: finalising the data model and the methodology for ESCO v1

Jens Bjornavold and Karin Vander Sanden presented the discussion and conclusions of the two learning outcomes (LO) workshops held on 19 and 24 February in Brussels. They also explained how these results would impact on the construction of the Skills and Competences pillar.

The MAI acknowledged that a rigid distinction between Skills, Competences and Knowledge (SCK) is neither feasible nor desirable. However, it should be bore in mind that ESCO will not only be used for job matching but also for career guidance. Awarding bodies are eager to better respond to the needs of the enterprises and this should be taken into account in the construction of the SC pillar.

The MAI agreed with the conclusion of the workshops that the SC pillar should be enriched with LO terminology. This would be the first necessary step for linking the SC and Q pillars. However, the MAI members noticed that this task is very challenging and it would require more investigation and discussions. Therefore, the MAI agreed to:



1. Enrich the SC pillar with LO terminology;
2. Communicate to the BOA that linking the SC and Q pillars would require a more structured mapping process, for which further investigations and discussions would be necessary.

Therefore, for the time being the MAI members advised to move forward with point 1 above. In this regard, the ESCO Secretariat (SEC) has an important role to play.

The SEC will provide the SREF with additional terminological material and with detailed guidance. More precisely, the SEC will provide:

1. A set of qualifications from different countries, attaining to different levels and described in different languages;
2. The list of action verbs developed by Cedefop;
3. Clear guidance about how and when to use this material.

The action verbs are very important because they will help the SREF describe different levels of complexity. The MAI pointed out that guidelines for using them exist in several member states. Therefore the MAI invited the SEC to look at these sources for the development of guidelines for using action verbs in ESCO.

Actions to be taken:

- The SEC will develop a paper explaining how the SREF will enrich the SC pillar with additional sources. The SEC will circulate this paper to the MAI members by the end of April;
- Gerd Goetschalckx will send the SEC the Flemish guidelines for the use of action verbs.

3. Thematic bloc 2: maintenance of the ESCO Portal

Vito Spinelli delivered a brief update on the use of ESCO v0 and the users' interaction with the ESCO Portal.

The MAI stressed the importance of making technical information available to interested developers and everyone willing to make use of ESCO in their portals/applications. This technical documentation should be released gradually as it becomes available. In this way future API users will be able to make early plans to use ESCO.



Actions to be taken:

- The SEC will send the MAI members additional statistics on Portal access by country.

4. Thematic bloc 3: understanding the PES requirements (showcase @VDAB)

Gerd Goetschalckx showcased the VDAB job matching services and the VDAB Portal.

5. Thematic bloc 4: ESCO revision and quality control process

The MAI members agreed to hold an additional one-day meeting on 24 April. At this meeting the SEC will invite a delegation of the SREF foreseen to deliver for publication in ESCO v0.1. This meeting will be held again on June and on September in order to validate the data for ESCO v0.1 within the foreseen timeline.

The MAI and SEC discussed some issues related to the HOSP SREF. Some MAI members volunteered to have a phone call with some members of the SREF, in order to identify potential roadblocks and take action.

The MAI informally reviewed the output that some SREF submitted for feedback. The SEC will deliver this feedback to the SREF.

Massimiliano Molinari presented a checklist detailing the quality assurance tasks for each of the ESCO management bodies. This checklist is a starting point and it will be further developed and refined.

The MAI kindly asked the SEC to indicate the nature of each point of the agenda of the next meetings (information point, consultation, decision required, etc...).

Karin Van der Sanden informed the MAI on the process for updating the cross-sectoral skills/competences thesaurus in cooperation with the SREF. The thesaurus will be uploaded in CTC (the cooperative taxonomy creator) and it will be usable by the SREF to develop their occupational profiles. The feedback of the SREF about the thesaurus was overall very positive and they are starting to use it.

Actions to be taken:

- The SEC will officially communicate to the SREF and to the MAI members the date of the additional meeting;
- The SEC will prepare feasible deadlines for the sign-off of content for ESCO v0.1;
- The MAI members that volunteered to contact the HOSP SREF members will inform the SEC about the outcome;
- The SEC will inform the SREF members that they will be contacted by one of the MAI members;
- The SEC will share with the MAI a common approach for communicating to the SREF during the phone call;
- The SEC will change the agenda template of the MAI meetings in order to state the purpose of each agenda item.

6. Thematic bloc 5: MAI communication and quality control tool

Bart Peremans (a contractor from the company Tenforce) presented the CTC tool and outlined its main functionalities.

The MAI warned that the approval of the SREF data should be implemented very carefully in the tool. The "approve" button should be changed into a "reviewed" button in order to better communicate the purpose of the revision process. The control over this button should be kept only by the chair and vice-chair of the MAI.

The MAI members agreed that the tool should be used during the meetings in order to facilitate the revision, not for replacing the process.

Actions to be taken:

- The SEC will provide the MAI members with demo login credentials so that they can provide a more detailed feedback.

7. Thematic bloc 6: publication of the next ESCO releases

Aldo Laudi presented four alternative approaches for the revision of the remaining 16 areas of economic activity. The presentation included an impact assessment of each approach on the costs and on the quality assurance process.



The MAI members expressed a strong preference for the 3rd option: smaller Sectoral Reference Groups monitor the online consultation process. However, the MAI members advised the SEC to be careful about the selection of the people taking part to the online consultation. This should not be completely open: it should be restricted only to experts.

8. Thematic bloc 7: ESCO as an interoperability tool for the PES (way forward)

Martin Le Vrang updated the MAI on the status of implementation of the mapping pilot phase with the Public Employment Services. At this stage the SEC is selecting the national occupational classifications that will be used for the testing. The mapping pilot will take place from May until September.

Actions to be taken:

- The SEC will share the presentations with the MAI members.

The next MAI meeting is scheduled on 18-19 June.

Participants

ESCO Maintenance Committee Members

Heatwood, Cathy	Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), Principal Officer Qualifications and Skills Accreditation
Goetschalckx, Gerd	VDAB, Co-ordinator R&D
Bird, Tony	Bird and Associates
Bergenhill, Rita	PES Sweden
Diekmann, Knut	Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, Director Principals of Further Vocational Education Policy
Ekeland, Anders	Statistics Norway, Senior Adviser
Franco Lopes, Ana	EC/ESTAT, Head of section, European Commission



Pelletier, Dimitri
Wechsler, Dietmar

Pole Emploi
BW Bildung und Wissen Verlag, Service provider and information expert in the fields of education, training, occupations and careers

ESCO Secretariat

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Spinelli, Vito
Perera Orcastegui, Cristina
Laudi, Aldo
Van Der Sanden, Karin
Bjornavold, Jens
Chaves, Pedro
Molinari, Massimiliano

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Excused

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De Ruijter, Judith
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Nordhaus, Hans Ulrich
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EC/DGT, Lead translator for the ESCO project, European Commission
DGB, Member of the Executive Board
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