



# Information points report

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## **Purpose of this document**

The purpose of this document is to inform the ESCO Maintenance Committee on Commission action following their advice on ESCO and on recent developments on the ESCO project.

The Commission will not provide formal presentations on the topics covered in this document. We kindly invite the MAI members to submit questions via e-mail before the meeting. We will collect the questions and report on them in the meeting.

## **Debrief on the communication about the results of the ESCO gap analysis**

### **Background information and purpose of the information point**

During the 20<sup>th</sup> ESCO Maintenance Committee meeting, the Commission services presented the results of the gap analysis between ESCO and eight national occupational classifications (NOC). The Committee members suggested sharing these results with the owners of the NOC, in order to give them a chance to communicate their view and provide additional feedback.

The purpose of this information point is to inform the Committee on the implementation of their advice.

### **Current status**

The Commission services created eight reports for each national occupational classification (NOC). The main goal of the reports was to show the custodians of the NOCs the contribution of their classification to the process of filling occupational gaps in ESCO, thus making it easier for them to understand the results of the gap analysis

Between the end of October and mid-November, the Commission services shared the eight reports with the owners of the NOCs. So far, we did not receive any feedback on them. In case the situation changes, the Commission services will inform the Committee members.

## Qualifications pillar: progress update

### Country visits: state of play

A total of 13 country visits have been performed since March 2016. All the countries have received the corresponding country report with technical recommendations in order to facilitate the linkage of their National Qualifications Databases to the LOQ<sup>1</sup> and ESCO portals according to the technical requirements.

Country	Call for proposals
Bulgaria	2014
Belgium (Flanders)	2014
Croatia	2014 and 2015
Greece	2015
Iceland	2015
Italy	2014
Latvia	2014 and 2015
Norway	2015
Romania	2015
UK (Scotland)	2015
Slovakia	2014
Slovenia	2014 and 2015
Turkey	2014

Table 1. List of country visits performed (March-November 2016)

### Link of National Qualifications Databases to LOQ and ESCO portals: first estimations

Following the assessment performed during the country visits, the Commission services expect at least<sup>2</sup> 7 national qualifications databases, containing approximately 15 000 qualifications, to be linked to the European portals by the launch of ESCO v1 (Belgium/Flanders, Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia and UK/Scotland). The

<sup>1</sup> Learning opportunities and qualifications in Europe portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>

<sup>2</sup> Other countries which are developing national qualifications databases and that were not visited by the Commission might have their databases linked to ESCO by mid-2017 (ie: Austria, Germany).

rest of the visited countries will most likely not be able to link to the European portals by mid-2017 due to different reasons:

- They did not complete their referencing to the EQF (i.e. Turkey)
- They are still developing their database and it will only be ready by the end of 2017 (i.e. Iceland, Norway)
- They need to take a decision at political level (i.e. Italy)

## **Pilot project on qualifications**

The Commission services are currently carrying out a second phase of the pilot project on qualifications. This pilot is exploring:

- The distributed publishing of qualifications: the publishing of qualifications involving several stakeholders providing different data, from awarding bodies to accreditation institutions. The pilot will simulate and showcase this distributed publishing process and will allow to visualise all this complementary data in a single point;
- Displaying the annotation of Learning Outcomes descriptions with ESCO skills/competences: the pilot will showcase how annotated content will be visualised using a sample of qualifications.

We are expecting to work with around ten qualifications, from different EU countries, covering different EQF levels, different subjects and different languages. For the moment, we have confirmed the participation of UK-Scotland, Slovakia, Greece and Microsoft. We are waiting for the final confirmation of Sweden.

The pilot project is expected to end in February 2017 and the results will be shared with the ESCO Maintenance Committee.

## **Study on how to link the Qualifications pillar with the Skills pillar**

The Commission is planning to carry out a study to research and demonstrate how best to annotate learning outcomes description of qualifications with concepts from the ESCO skills/competences pillar. The study will focus on the methodology and will provide guidelines to users wishing to annotate learning outcomes with ESCO skills/competences. The study will include a testing of the proposed methodology with learning outcomes descriptions from several countries and several levels of qualifications. The study will also aim at demonstrating the added value of this annotation through use cases. The study will build on the results of the qualifications pilot phase II and is now scheduled for Q1 2017.

## Meetings with stakeholders

The purpose of this information point is to brief the ESCO Maintenance Committee members on feedback that stakeholders delivered on ESCO since the last Committee meeting.

### Translation and interpretation industry

The stakeholders in the translation and interpretation industry have been involved in the development of the ESCO occupational profiles for this particular sector through a coordinated way via the Language Industry web platform (Lind) Expert Group.

The members of this group participated in the online consultation and contributed to the improvement of the ESCO content via bilateral meetings. We participated in the last LIND expert group meeting on 26 October 2016. We presented the ESCO occupational profiles of this industry as well as the recent developments related to the EURES Regulation and the Europass decision. The members of the group hailed the current state of the ESCO occupational profiles.

### ICT service activities

The Commission services involved experts from the CEN (European Standardization Committee) Workshop on ICT skills since the beginning of the development of ESCO v1 as members of the Sectoral Reference Group on ICT service activities. This reference group ensured that reference frameworks developed by the WS, e.g. eCF, are taken into account in the development of ESCO v1. The Commission services participate in the meetings of the Workshop providing updates on the advancement of ESCO v1 and ensuring the initiatives and projects of the Workshop are aligned and compatible with ESCO v1.

In the last CEN Workshop meeting on 29 November 2016, we presented the status quo of ESCO v1. DG GROW and the Secretariat of the Workshop, whose major project is the European eCompetence Framework, highlighted the need for eCF and ESCO to be aligned. Jutta Breyer, team leader of the latest CEN project "Job profiles in action" committed to forge a bond with ESCO.

### Social partners in the chemical industry

The Commission services met with European Social Partners of the chemical industry on 6 October 2016. We provided a status update of ESCO and an explanation of the next steps.

Social partners pointed out the importance of keeping them actively involved in the continuous updating process.

### German consultative ESCO group

The Commission services participated in a meeting of the German consultative ESCO group on 9 November 2016, bringing together inter alia government experts from different departments, PES, Social Partners and chambers of commerce. Participants discussed various topics on ESCO, in particular the future of the qualifications pillar and its relationship with the skills pillar, the role of ESCO in Europass, and the preparations for using ESCO in the interoperability platform of EURES.

## **Social partners and ex-Reference Group members of the live performance sector**

The Commission services met with representatives of the life performance sector on 21 November 2016. We provided a status update of ESCO and an explanation of the next steps. The representatives raised the following points:

- The reference group members explained that the ISCO hierarchy is not well suited for their sector, which is scattered over various ISCO groups, and therefore hoped the sectoral breakdown of ESCO would remedy this. Therefore, they would have preferred if the sectoral breakdown is published together with ESCO v1.
- The sector representatives made us aware of some specific cases, where the clean-up or gap analysis led to a mistake. We will correct these cases in ESCO v1 or v1.1.
- The representatives pointed out, that a semantic order within the occupational profiles would add value.
- The representatives welcomed that after ESCO v1 a continuous improvement process will start and that the Commission services intend to continue seeking stakeholder input.



## Status and progress of the ESCO translations

The ESCO translation process is planned in two steps: 1) translation of occupations and 2) translation of knowledge, skills and competences. Since the last Committee meeting, the translation work has continued as planned with the translations of occupations.

We expect the translation of occupations in the 24 official languages to be finish in December 2016, the translations for knowledge, skills and competences in March 2017. Translations into two non-EU languages (Icelandic and Norwegian) are expected by February 2017.

The consultation of the Member States Working Group on the translated versions would consequently take place from January to March 2017 (phase I: occupations) and from March to April 2017 (phase II: knowledge, skills and competences).

### Risk mitigation

We are currently following closely the following issues:

- Translators are using a dedicated translation platform for the translation of ESCO data. This platform has experienced some technical challenges including low performance under high user load. We implemented and continue to prepare measures improving the technical platform.
- We provided trainings to DGT translators on 3 August, 9 September and 22 September.
- We updated the ESCO data set under translation, due to content changes deriving from the gap analysis. Such updates involve interdependent sub-tasks and communication challenges.
- All Member States Working Group countries except Greece have appointed a national contact point for the translation of ESCO. Some of the national contact points were not fully aware of their role in this process or were not responsive. In these cases we re-contacted the Member States.
- In one or two cases, the Member States representatives have not been contacted by translators. We are flagging these cases to DGT.