



ESCO (2012) MAI 004 FINAL

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MINUTES

3rd meeting of the ESCO Maintenance Committee

18-19 April 2012

Hotel Sheraton, Brussels

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr Tony BIRD chaired the meeting.

The agenda for the 3rd meeting of the ESCO Maintenance Committee was approved.

The minutes of the 2nd meeting of the ESCO Maintenance Committee were approved without further remarks.

2. ESCO Board meeting of 27 February

Mr Martin LE VRANG gave a summary of the meeting of the ESCO Board on 27 February 2012 in Brussels.

Actions to be taken:

- The ESCO Secretariat will present the EQF web portal to the ESCO Maintenance Committee on one of the next meetings.

3. SINAPSE collaboration community

Mr Koen NOMDEN presented the collaboration platform SINAPSE that will be used to share documents, to have discussions online and exchange information.

Actions to be taken:



- The ESCO Secretariat will ensure that all members of the ESCO Maintenance Committee receive an invitation to SINAPSE as well as some information on how to use the system.
- While invitations to meetings of the ESCO Maintenance Committee will still be sent by e-mail, the ESCO Secretariat will upload meeting documents to SINAPSE instead of mailing them to the participants.

4. Revision of ESCO by the Reference Groups

Ms Katrien VANDER KUYLEN presented the planning for establishing new Reference Groups in the second quarter of 2012.

Actions to be taken:

- None.

5. UK Taxonomy and Agripass

Mr Tony BIRD gave an overview of the UK taxonomy and Agripass.

Actions to be taken:

- None.

6. an approach to competence taxonomy based on the Czech experience

Ms Jolana BLAŽÍČKOVÁ presented an approach to competence taxonomy based on the Czech experience.

Actions to be taken:

- Jolana will share with the other members of the ESCO Maintenance Committee the 7 step approach that was used to reduce the amount of concepts in the Czech competence classification to larger clusters.

7. The EURES Job Mobility Portal

Ms Pascale WOODRUFF presented the key features of the EURES Job Mobility Portal and explained how ESCO could contribute to the upcoming developments.

Actions to be taken:

- The ESCO Secretariat will upload the EURES Vision 2010-2014 to the SINAPSE platform.



8. Competences, Tasks, Labour Market Activities – Achieving Interoperability between European systems

Ms Gerd GOETSCHALCKX summarised the informal discussions she had with the ESCO Secretariat. Following the presentation the ESCO Maintenance Committee discussed *inter alia*

- the need to include labour market activities (= link to economic activities) because they are essential for labour market services;
- the need to include context related competences linked to these labour market activities;
- the different dynamic of systems at different levels that needs to be taken into account, highest dynamic at national level (labour market services, education and VET, etc.);
- that a European interoperability classification should also support labour market services with structured data (cfr. demo cases) which leads to the concept of a hybrid structure with a bridge in between.

Actions to be taken:

- None.

9. ESCO Business Cases and data model

Mr Martin LE VRANG gave a presentation on the ESCO Business Cases as well as a summary of the current status of the ESCO data model.

Following the discussion the ESCO Maintenance Committee made the proposal that metadata should be added for all concepts in ESCO, not only for ambiguous ones.

Actions to be taken:

- The ESCO Secretariat will share the document on Business Cases as soon as it has been endorsed by the ESCO Board.

10. ESCO data model: open questions

Ms Katrien VANDER KUYLEN summarised key questions that need to be discussed in order to finalise the data model for ESCO. After that, five open questions were discussed by the ESCO Maintenance Committee:



i. Granularity of occupations

The ESCO Maintenance Committee agreed that the question of granularity should be developed in a bottom-up approach based on a review of the granularity in national systems.

Actions to be taken:

- Members of the ESCO Maintenance Committee will review the national classification systems within two weeks in order to be able to draw conclusions on the next meeting.
- Reference Groups will continue to identify occupations and specialisms. The outputs can be adapted to the decision of the ESCO Maintenance Committee afterwards. A decision is to be taken before the Reference Groups start to develop occupational profiles.

ii. Polyhierarchy in the occupations pillar

The ESCO Maintenance Committee agreed that the relationship between ESCO occupations and ISCO unit groups is required as a mono-hierarchical structure for statistical purposes. However, ESCO and the work in the Reference Group do not need to focus on the ISCO structure.

Actions to be taken:

- Reference Groups will identify occupation concepts but not group them in the ISCO structure.
- The hierarchical relationships with ISCO are established by Eurostat in collaboration with the ESCO Maintenance Committee. In unclear cases, Eurostat can consult the International Labour Organization (ILO).

iii. Granularity of occupational profiles

The ESCO Maintenance Committee agreed to determine the level of granularity for occupational profiles (i.e. how many skills/competences are needed to describe one occupation) in the same manner as the granularity of occupations (see no. 1).

Actions to be taken:

- Members of the ESCO Maintenance Committee will review the national classification systems within two weeks in order to be able to draw conclusions on the next meeting.

iv. Polyhierarchy in the skills/competences pillar

The ESCO Maintenance Committee agreed to not preclude the possibility of using polyhierarchy in the skills/competences pillar. Reference Groups will start to discuss clusters of skills/competences.



The sectoral Reference Groups will focus on job-specific skills/competences; the Cross-sector Reference Group on transversal skills/competences.

Actions to be taken:

- The ESCO Secretariat will share the study on skills/competences classifications in the EU-27 with the members of the ESCO Maintenance Committee.
- Based on this the ESCO Maintenance Committee will identify further steps.

v. Relationship between occupations and skills/competences

The ESCO Maintenance Committee discussed the dimensions "*level*" and "*frequency*" to describe the relationship between occupations and skills/competences. It also reviewed possible ways of labelling these relationships.

Actions to be taken:

- The EQF Advisory Group should give its opinion whether the EQF descriptors can be used to describe a relationship between occupations and skills/competences.
- In the beginning ESCO should focus on indicating if a relationship exists or not rather than describing the relationship. However, information that is available in the Reference Groups now should be documented.
- The Reference Groups will be consulted in order to verify what type of information is easily available for them.

11. AOB

The following dates will be blocked for the next meetings of the ESCO Maintenance Committee:

20-21 June 2012

19-20 September 2012

6 November 2012 (joint meeting of the ESCO Board and the ESCO Maintenance Committee)

~~7-9 November 2012 (ESCO Stakeholder Conference)~~ [Remark of the ESCO Secretariat, 14/06/2012: The ESCO Board decided on its meeting of 1 June 2012 to postpone the ESCO Stakeholder Conference to February 2013.]

5-6 December 2012 (tbc)



Participants

ESCO Maintenance Committee Members

Ekeland, Anders	Statistics Norway, Senior Adviser
Heathwood, Cathy	Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), Principal Officer Qualifications and Skills Accreditation
Wechsler, Dietmar	BW Bildung und Wissen Verlag, Service provider and information expert in the fields of education, training, occupations and careers
Goetschalckx, Gerd	VDAB, Co-ordinator R&D
O'Connor, John	National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, Development officer
Diekmann, Knut	Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, Director Principals of Further Vocational Education Policy
Goulet, Valerie	Pôle emploi, Pole ROME Adviser
Blažíčková, Jolana	TREXIMA, Head of HRD and Labour Market Department
Bird, Tony	Lantra Sector Skills Council, Head of Business Development
Nordhaus, Hans Ulrich	DGB, Member of the Executive Board

Permanent observers to the ESCO Maintenance Committee:

Franco Lopez, Ana	EC/ESTAT, Head of section, European Commission
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ESCO Secretariat

Le Vrang, Martin	ESCO Secretariat (DG EMPL)
Niedra, Ginta	ESCO Secretariat (TenForce)
Scatoli, Carlo	ESCO Secretariat (DG EAC)
Vander Kuylen, Katrien	ESCO Secretariat (TenForce)
Nomden, Koen	ESCO Secretariat (DG EAC)

EURES Team

Woodruff, Pascale	EURES IT & Communications Project coordinator
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Excused

Šlekytė, Donata

Lithuanian Labour Exchange at the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Deputy Head of Labour Resources Division

De Ruijter, Judith

AO Consult, Senior researcher/advisor

Wass, Gunnar

PES Sweden, Senior handling officer

Mijangos, Garbine

EC/DGT, Lead translator for the ESCO project, European Commission