



The ESCO Community Forum

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Purpose of this document

With this document, the ESCO Secretariat (SEC) provides information about the creation of an ESCO community forum (ESCO CF). The document is shared with the ESCO Maintenance Committee (MAI) for consultation.

ESCO Community Forum

The Commission considers launching an ESCO CF in order to support the everyday maintenance and use of the ESCO vocabulary. This forum would empower experts and users to share and discuss topics ranging from practical information on how to solve technical issues, emerging trends relating to skills or occupations, missing features, key performance indicators and requirements for improving the classification. The ESCO CF will be an information source and virtual place for discussions on the ESCO classification. It 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.

- **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 take into consideration the discussion with the MAI and will consult the communication unit of the Commission in order to investigate i) how to best organise an ESCO CF, and ii) if it should be organised as one community or as two separate communities.

The SEC will share with the MAI the details on the organisation, the tools and the timeline for the implementation of the ESCO CF at the next MAI meeting.