Linking the Skills Pillar and the Qualifications Pillar of ESCO Pilot for testing

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The potential of linking qualifications to skills

Enrich information on qualifications by linking their learning outcomes to skills

Employers grasp qualifications' labour market value in a cross-border context

Individuals improve chances on labour market through better matching

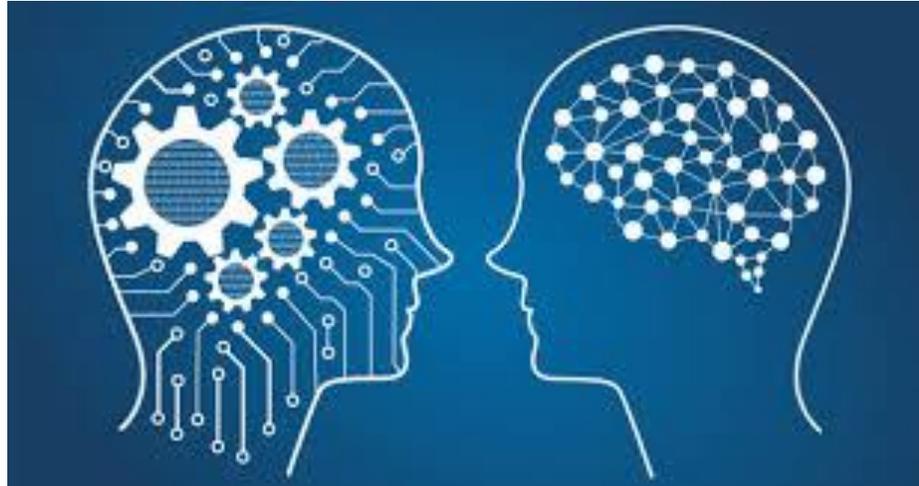# Automated approach for linking qualifications to skills

Test an automated approach based on Natural Language Processing

Initial degree of human intervention

Tests in national qualifications databases

Qualification owners – awarding bodies to control enriched content

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

Enable computers to understand and process common human language instead of only programming languages

Purpose of testing

To observe extent and how machine learning has positive effects

Give insight in extent and nature of human intervention to correct errors

Explore use of ESCO mapping platform

Pilot features

Examine limited number of diverse qualifications in different national databases

Different description styles in min 3 languages

National Qualification Frameworks referenced to EQF

VET and Higher Education qualifications

Candidate Member States

European Commission

Follow up to testing

If positive result, adapt ESCO to show links between qualifications and skills

Possibilities for linking:

➡ Manual linking if MS databases provide no automatic linking possibilities

➡ Automated linking to be validated and corrected by human experts

Comparability of learning outcomes

Learning outcomes descriptions need to become more comparable

Guidelines on writing learning outcomes

Usefulness of a common format for learning outcomes

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Linking is voluntary

Voluntary character of ESCO

Explore support to interested countries in building linking capacity

Workshops or technical tools to be discussed with ESCO MSWG and EQF AG

Timetable

15 March 2019	Deadline for expression of interest in piloting the linking of learning outcomes to ESCO skills
April – September 2019	Testing period
October 2019	Report on the results of testing
November/December 2019	Discussion of the testing results in the EQF AG – ESCO MSWG
As from January 2020	Possible launch of the further development of ESCO to allow linking of learning outcomes to ESCO skills

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Thank you