



Information on recent ESCO developments

MAI-30-02

24 May 2019

*European Skills,
Competences,
Qualifications
and Occupations*

Purpose of the document

This document provides an overview of the following topics:

- Update on the technical assistance to Member States
- State of play of the Communication strategy and events
- New expert group on transversal skills

Update on the technical assistance to Member States

Technical visit to Madrid to support the Spanish authorities on the implementation of ESCO

On 10 April 2019, upon invitation by the EURES Spain National Coordinator, the Commission visited the Central Public Employment Services of Spain (SEPE) in Madrid to offer technical assistance on the implementation of ESCO in their systems.

The Commission presented the following topics:

1. The use of the mapping platform (live demonstration)
2. The hierarchy of the ESCO skills pillar
3. Possibilities to codify the list of ESCO occupations and competences to facilitate the mapping
4. Update about the situation in other countries
5. Call for proposals for financial assistance
6. Reply to questions coming from the initial draft mapping between ESCO and Spanish occupations (presented by regional PES)

This was one of the regular meetings of the working group which is established by EURES Spain dealing with the study of the two implementation scenarios (mapping to or adopting ESCO). Spain will now carry out a feasibility study until June 2019, in order to decide whether to map to or adopt ESCO.

EURES Training

On 14-15 May, the Commission will organize a EURES training in Brussels. The aim of the session is to provide a peer learning exercise for the EURES National Coordination Offices, which would be complementary to and would build upon the training webinar of 9 November 2018. The exercise would also be a useful preparation for the ESCO Call for proposals. This group training will include a detailed part on the mapping exercise. The agenda includes the following topics:

- An illustration of the ESCO pillars and architecture;

- Presentations & Peer Learning: countries will present their experience implementing ESCO, the main challenges encountered from a technical and conceptual point of view;
- An illustration of the ESCO mapping methodology with a particular focus on Occupations and Skills;
- An exercise on mapping and group discussion to reveal shared difficulties and results.

State of play of the Communication strategy and events

ESCO and Digital Labour Market conference in Poland

On 2-3 April 2019, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy of Poland with the Commission and the Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers in Poland (ZPP) organised a conference on ESCO, the New Europass and the EQF. The conference took place in Warsaw, at the premises of the Commission's Representation in Poland. The main purpose was to inform different stakeholders on recent developments focusing on implementation and use cases.

The Commission presented the EU policy goals and frameworks as well as the technical aspects of ESCO, the EQF recent developments, the New Europass and the Framework for digitally signed credentials. In addition to this, national implementers presented testimonials of ESCO use cases. Most of the questions raised by the participants concerned the mapping exercise, the future of the skills hierarchy and the qualifications pillar.

New expert group on transversal skills

The Commission is currently setting up an expert group that will analyse the current transversal skills thesaurus of ESCO and will propose a reviewed version. This follows the presentation during the 29th Maintenance Committee on the need for an agreed terminology on transversal skills and competences. This expert group, in which CEDEFOP will be represented, will be composed of five experts in the areas of terminology, HR, validation and descriptions of learning outcomes.

Following the advice of the Maintenance Committee, this group will work in coordination with the expert group developing the ESCO skills hierarchy. To ensure this is the case, one expert will be member of both groups.

The group shall start its activity in June 2019 and the results of their work will be presented to the ESCO Maintenance Committee and the Member States Working group at the end of the year.