# Member States Working Group on ESCO

# Towards ESCO 2.0

12 November 2025, Brussels

*European Commission,*
*DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

European Commission

# Agenda

- ESCOv2.0 Scope.
- Methodological overview.
- The role of MSWG in ESCOv2.0. & Timeline.

# ESCOv.2.0. Scope

# Scope

- Major version ESCOv.2.0
- Continuous update process → achieving high-quality outcomes is the main priority.

01 **Restructuring the skill pillar**

02 **Data-driven maintenance of skill-occupation relations**

03 **Content update on priority sectors**

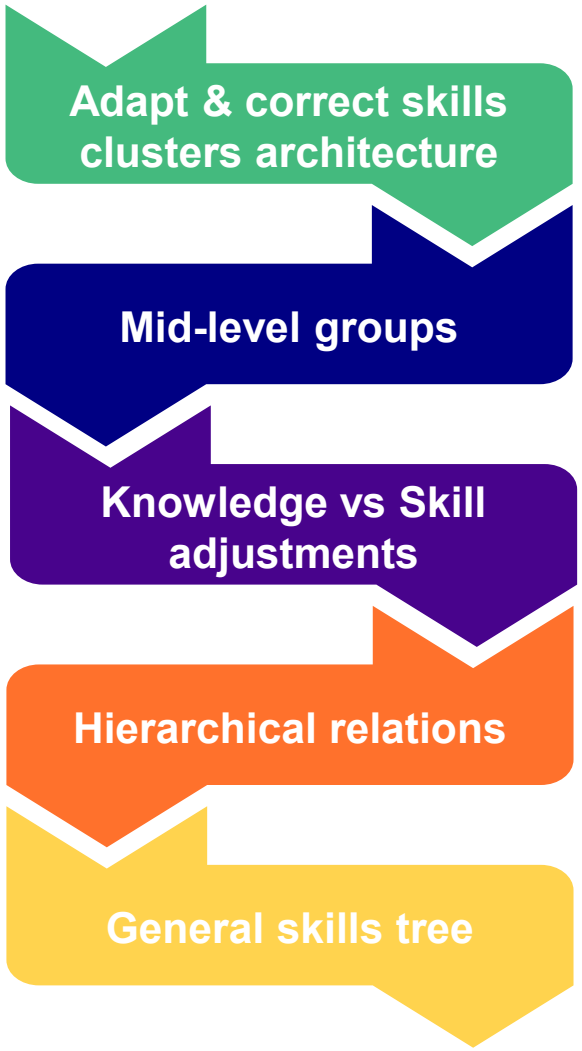
04 **Subclassification of STEM skills**

05 **Update of software tools in the ESCO skills pillar**

06 **Modelling of granularity in the ESCO model**

# Methodological overview

# 2.1) Restructuring the skill pillar




- Creation of top-level architecture for the new pillar
- Splitting architecture into knowledge & skills according to heuristic guidelines

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- Research 3rd party taxonomies and ontologies; industry research
- Development of structure according to heuristic guidelines

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- Develop separate strategy for representing each sector following heuristic guidelines
- Increase consistency in how skills vs knowledge concepts are created

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- Analysis of skills clusters
- Establish correct hierarchical relations

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- Define transversal vs general vs technical skills
- Creation of a new structure for general skills
- Identification of general skills according to criteria for analysing granularity

# 2.2) Data-driven maintenance of skill-occupation relations

Relations between occupations and skills were first defined in the context of each sectorial reference working group based on the experience and opinion of experts.

Knowledge & Skills are **ESSENTIAL** for an occupation in case they are usually relevant for the occupation, independent of the work context, employer or country.

Knowledge & Skills are **OPTIONAL** for an occupation in case they may be relevant or occur when working in an occupation depending on the employer, working context or country.

- **28th MSWG Focus Meeting (2025)**

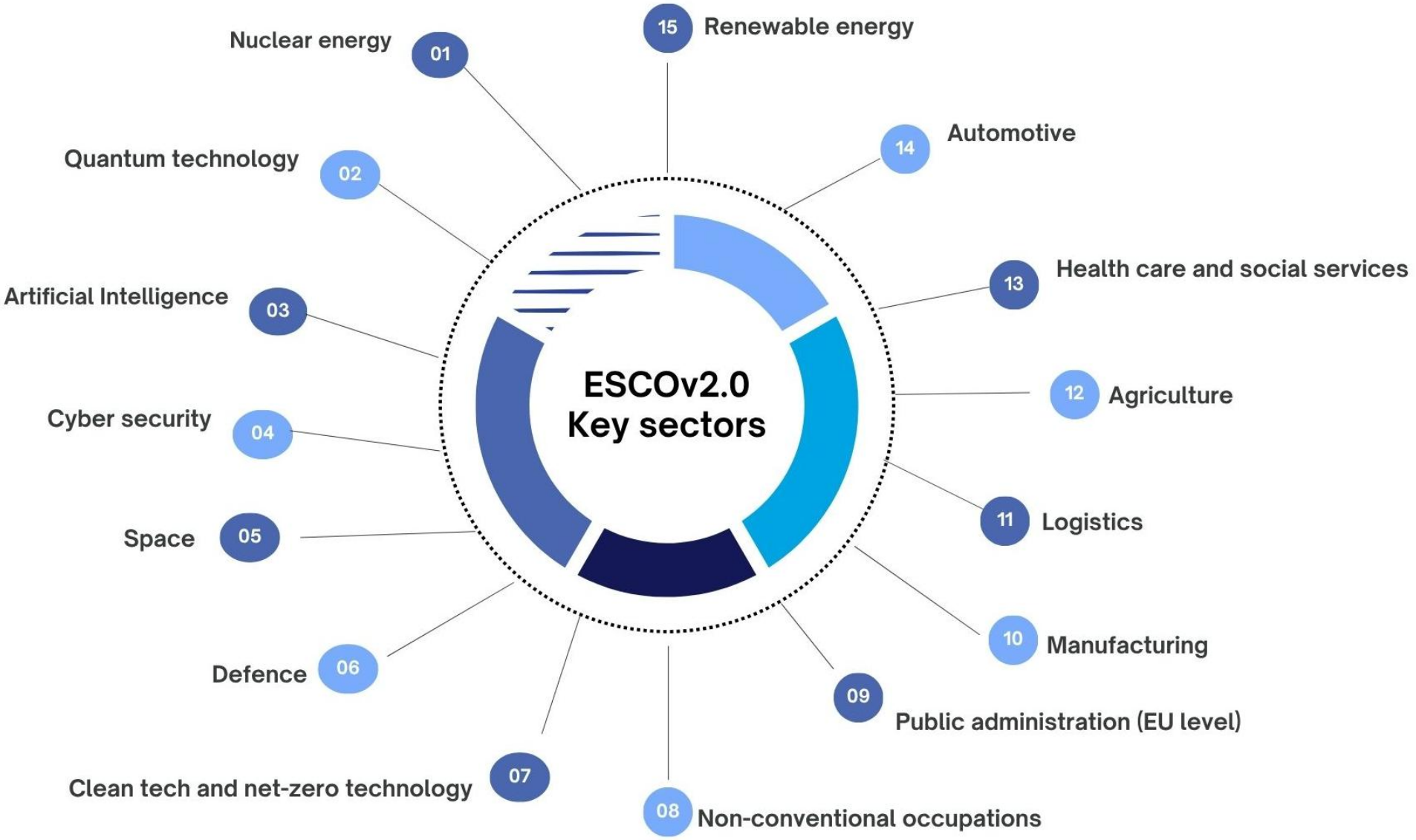
❖ Approaches to improve the links between occupation and skills.

❖ Aim to establish a continuous improvement process: quality and missing relations.

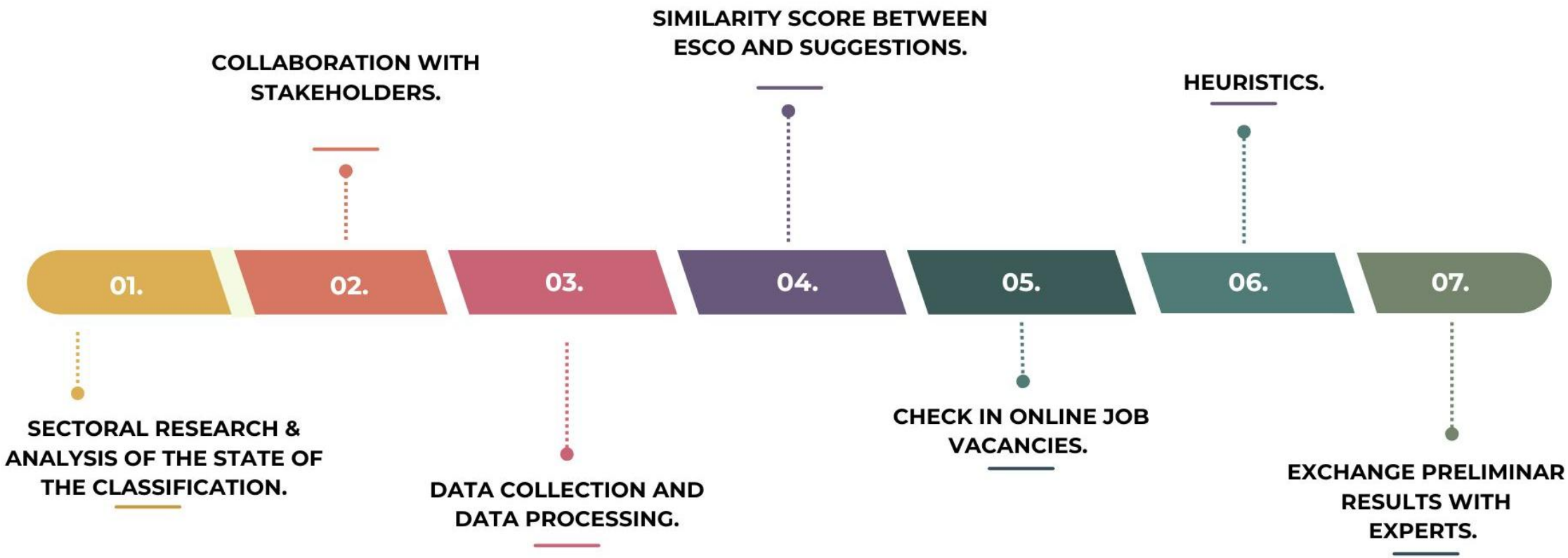
❖ Agreements:

- Application of the suggested approach.
- Based on Natural Language Processing of OJV and CV data to extract OCC-SKILL patterns.

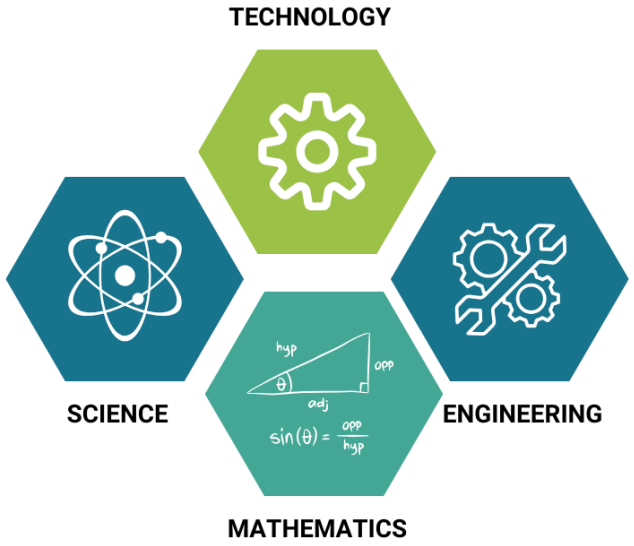
# 2.3) Content update on priority sectors



# *Workflow of external experts' proposals*



# 2.4) Subclassification of  STEM skills




2025 STEM Education Action Plan foresees:

- Development of STEM competence framework for learners, at all stages of education.
- Taxonomy of STEM skills within ESCO classification

ESCOv2.0. will include a separate label for STEM skills.

STEM skills dataset available for download, API calls and portal users in line with existing praxis for green, digital and research skills.

# 2.5) Update of software tools in ESCO skills pillar

- List of existing **software tools** in the classification will be reviewed and updated in ESCOv.2.0.
- Pilot project on ICT concepts → 23rd meeting of the ESCO MSWG.
- To avoid commercial preferences, specific software's products → alternative or hidden labels (E.g. Microsoft access will be a hidden label for 'office software').
- Solution based on a multi-level structure: creation of a category for software within the broader ICT cluster + sub-categories for types of software.

# 2.6) Modelling of granularity of ESCO skills

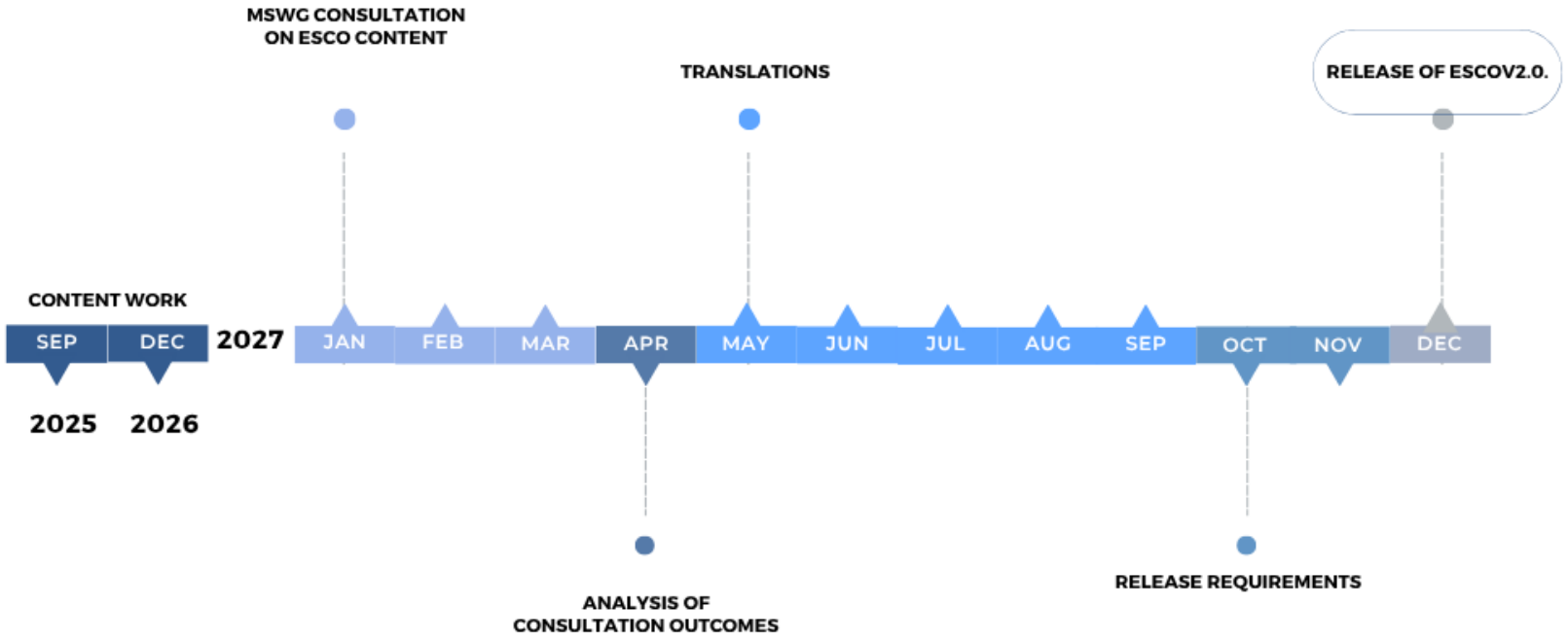
- Major version will introduce changes to the **ESCO data model.**
- This enables the addition of **metadata**, indicating which skill concepts represent **tasks.**
- Note for the current MSWG titled ‘Strategy update and options for modelling granularity’.

- Dependency on the progress of restructuring the skill pillar.
- It will only be carried out after its full implementation.
- Modelling of granularity will be determined by the timeline of the version.

# The role of MSWG & Timeline

# Role and timeline

- Consultation on the content developed in ESCOv2.0.
- Focus: review of PTs & NPTs of new content / software tools / STEM data set.
- Process and tools for providing input to be defined as at a later stage.
- Focus Meetings → specific work strands (granularity, healthcare, social services).
- ESCO Secretariat responsible for compliance with terminological guidelines and quality assurance.



# Q&A

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