

Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Europe

Shaping a more inclusive future of VET in times of transition

#BrusselsFutureTalks
#EuropeanYearOfSkills

12 March 2024
17:00-19:00 CET, Brussels

Jointly organised by

This event is part of the



Since the **Osnabrück Declaration** at the latest, Vocational Education and Training (VET) has been high on the agenda of the European Union: The aim is to “develop the European Education and Training Area through future-oriented and innovative education and training systems in order to support the digital and green transition and improve employability and competitiveness and thus stimulate economic growth” (Osnabrück Declaration 2020).

Today, the **EU Skills Agenda** bundles the efforts to improve the development of VET. Still, the potential of VET may not yet have been fully utilised, for example, to serve the central promise of the SDGs, “Leave no one behind”. To harness the potential of VET we will discuss:

- What recent learnings and conclusions can be drawn from the involvement of **newer EU member states**, e.g. the Baltic states, as well as **third countries**, e.g. Switzerland, in the development of VET?
- How and how far does VET contribute to resolving the **gender gap** in the labour markets (e.g. in STEM subjects) and for a better **inclusion** of disadvantaged individuals?

This event will shed light on the dynamics around international cooperation and inclusion against the backdrop of the digital and green transition and other current developments in VET policy. It will address the challenges ahead:

- How can **VET and technological innovation** continue to grow together and become more inclusive?
- How can the **social partners and companies** be optimally integrated in the development of VET as far as it is related to the twin transition and to societal change?
- Funding instruments, such as the Centres of Vocational Excellence, have generated a strong resonance; what are the upcoming desiderata with regard to **future funding initiatives** and policy support?

As a **contribution to the European Year of Skills**, this 8th edition of the Brussels: FutureTalks series will take a **future-oriented** focus on the main opportunities that are provided by the European and international cooperation in VET: What is needed for a more inclusive and innovative development of VET?

This event is organised by DLR Projektträger and SwissCore, the Swiss Contact Office for European Research Innovation and Education, as well as the Swiss Mission to the EU and will take place at the Mission of Switzerland to the EU, Place Luxembourg 1, 1050 Brussels. A virtual participation is not possible.



AGENDA

17:00-17:10 WELCOMING REMARKS

- **Rita Adam**, Ambassador, Head of the Mission of Switzerland to the EU
- **Astrid Fischer**, DLR Projektträger, Head of the Division of "Education, Gender"

**Moderation by Angela Schindler-Daniels, DLR Projektträger Brussels Office,
together with Laurin Reding, Swiss Core**

17:10-17:20 THE POWER OF VET IN AND FOR EUROPE

- **Anna Barbieri**, European Commission, DG "Employment, Social Affairs, Inclusion", Team Leader Apprenticeships

17:20-17:50 CHALLENGES AND DESIDERATA IN POLICY-MAKING FOR VET

- **Jérôme Hügli and Catherine von Wyl**, Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)
- **Frank Petrikowski**, Permanent Representation of Germany in Brussels
- **Maija Zvirbule**, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the European Union

17:50-18:00 QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION WITH THE AUDIENCE

18:00-18:40 PANEL DISCUSSION: EMPOWERING EUROPEAN VET IN CHALLENGING TIMES

- **Mergim Jahiu**, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET)
- **Hannes Barske**, Germany, Head of Department "International Cooperation in Vocational Education & Training", DLR Projektträger
- **Grace Papa**, Political Secretary Domestic Workers Gender Equality and Diversity, European Federation of Food Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT)
- **Florian Schröder**, Managing Director of the German-Baltic Chamber of Commerce (AHK Baltic states)

18:40-19:00 QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION WITH THE AUDIENCE

19:00-20:00 NETWORKING RECEPTION

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Taking a visionary and action-oriented approach, the DLR **Brussels: FutureTalks** provide a platform for outside-the-box discussions, focusing on how to shape Europe's future today. Addressing various topics in different settings throughout the year, **Brussels: FutureTalks** insights and takeaways are geared to offer new and sustainable visions for the 21st century!

Together, we have the tools and knowledge to help shape Europe's future. Join us for the full series of **Brussels: FutureTalks** – paving the way for tomorrow, today!

