

The Commission is taking the next step towards upskilling and reskilling Europe

High-level conference on upskilling and reskilling in the Post-COVID era

30 June 2021 - The European Commission hosted an international event focussing on the upskilling and reskilling challenges that the EU is facing in the post-Covid 19 era on 29-30 June. The event attracted over 800 registered participants from industry, social partners, public authorities and education and training providers.

New technologies are transforming the way people work and acquire new skills. They offer a great potential for the development of smart services as well as new and better jobs.

The event marks a milestone in the implementation of the Pact for Skills launched by Commissioners Nicolas Schmit and Thierry Breton in November 2020. The Pact for Skills aims to mobilise all stakeholders - industry, social partners, education and training providers, public authorities at all levels and the workers themselves - to take action to boost lifelong learning, and have at least of 60% of adults in training each year by 2030. It is part of the Strategy, the first flagship initiative of the European Skills Agenda and a core element of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. High-level Roundtables have been organised by the two Commissioners with key stakeholders from each industrial ecosystem to contribute to the design of the upskilling and reskilling transition pathways.

Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, highlighted that “the Pact for Skills is an important initiative for boosting reskilling and upskilling of Europe’s workforce. It is a fundamental priority for our industry”.

During the event it was made clear that the COVID-19 pandemic forced governments and businesses to adapt the skills of the workforce to cope with a fast-changing labour market. Speakers shared good practice learning cases, and possible upskilling and reskilling scenarios towards 2030. Participants discussed recommendations for creating new training and jobs opportunities. They agreed that new innovative and just-in-time training offers need to offer attractive solutions to the workforce. Active industrial and labour market policies, lifelong learning, increased public and private investment, individual learning accounts, micro-credentials, demand side incentives, sectoral and regional brokerage and foresight platforms, as well as demand and supply matching tools are examples of how to move forward and ensure nobody is left behind.

Several of the speakers and panellists and a range of further top experts from all over Europe, the US and beyond have recorded short video messages and statements. These are shared you on the YouTube “Skills for Industry” Channel together with the streams of the two days of the conference:

See: <https://skills4industry.eu/skills-industry> (web site, documents, resources etc.) and <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKfAFdelRvEe9Cc5-kBUfww> (Skills4Industry Channel)