



# EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS



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# Today's presentation

- ① European Year of Skills:  
context and objectives
- ② EU Skills policy
- ③ The Year in Action
- ④ Stakeholder engagement





# 1. EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS: CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES



# Skills shortages as a *challenge* and skilled workforce as an *enabler*



**38 occupations** were classified as shortages in 2022



**74% of SMEs** reported that they face skills shortages in 2023



**adult learning remains low -** with a participation rate of around **37%**



**over 90% of jobs** require digital skills; however, **54% of the adult population** in Europe has **basic digital skills**

# European Pillar of Social Rights (2021 → 2030)

At least:

**78%** of the population aged 20 to 64 should be in employment by 2030  
Current level: 73.1% (2019)

**60%** of all adults should participate in training every year by 2030  
Current level: 37.4% (2016)

Reduce by 15 million  
the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030  
Current level: 91 million persons (2019)



“

European companies are grappling with a **shortage of staff** [...] Both low-end and high-end. We need everyone on board.

We need much more focus in our investment on **professional education and upskilling**.

We need **better cooperation** with the companies, because they know best what they need.

And we need to match these needs with people's aspirations.

But we also have to **attract the right skills** to our continent, skills that help companies and strengthen Europe's growth [...] we need to speed up and facilitate the **recognition of qualifications** also of third country nationals [...]

**This is why I am proposing to make 2023 the European Year of Skills**

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# Why a European Year of Skills?

To further promote a mindset of reskilling and upskilling



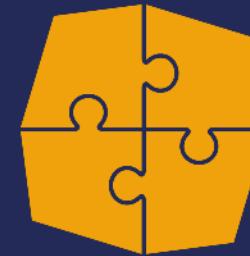
## Investment

Increased, more effective and inclusive investment



## Skills relevance

Strengthening skills relevance by close cooperation



## Matching aspirations

Matching people's aspirations and skills-set with labour market opportunities



## Attracting third country talent

Attracting people from third countries with the skills needed



# Who is involved in the Year?



## European Institutions

- European Parliament
- European Commission: DG EMPL and other DGs: initiatives, support with communication and engagement
- EU agencies, such as CEDEFOP, ETF, ELA
- Commission Representations and EP Information Offices
- CoR, EESC, EIB...



## Member States

- Strong involvement of Member States.
- Appointment of national coordinators to raise awareness, shape the Year, coordinate actions.
- Close cooperation with the Presidencies.
- Implementing bodies such as ESF+ managing authorities



## Existing platforms and networks

- Engaging a wide range of stakeholders
- Social partners
- Civil society
- Companies, chambers of commerce and industry, education and training providers, individuals



## International Actors

- OECD, UNESCO, ILO
- Cooperation with third countries, in particular partner countries





## 2. EU SKILLS POLICY



# European Skills Agenda

- Strengthening skills intelligence
  - National Skills Strategies & Public Employment Services
  - Recommendation on VET
  - European Universities
  - Skills to support twin transitions
  - STEM graduates, Entrepreneurial & transversal skills
  - Skills for Life
- 
- A Pact for Skills including Blueprints



# EU Tools to support skills policy

➤ Europass



➤ ESCO



➤ European Qualifications Framework



➤ SkillsOvate

SKILLS OVATE  
ONLINE VACANCY  
ANALYSIS TOOL FOR  
EUROPE



➤ Eures



➤ DigComp





## EU Networks and mutual learning

- European Alliance for Apprenticeships
- Digital Skills & Jobs Platform
- Pact for Skills
- EPALE
- Working Group on VET & adult learning
- Network of National Coordinators for adult learning





## Funding instruments to support skills policy

- European Social Fund
- Recovery and Resilience Facility
- Digital Europe Programme
- Erasmus +
- InvestEU





# 3. THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS IN ACTION



# The European Year of Skills lasts until May!

- The Decision on the European Year of Skills was adopted on 11 May.
- The Year will take place in the period of **9 May 2023 to 8 May 2024**.



# Initiatives

Individual Learning Accounts, Pact for Skills, European Alliance for Apprenticeships, Centers of Vocational Excellence and others



# Skills Agenda: highlights I

## Pact for Skills:

- Over 1,500 members, 18 large-scale partnerships
- Commitment to provide over 10 million upskilling and reskilling opportunities
- 160 million euro investment
- 2 million people benefited from up- and reskilling in 2022
- 15 thousand training programmes developed or updated

## Individual Learning Accounts:

- Around half of Member States are working on schemes of Individual Learning Accounts, in most cases supported by the ESF+ and RRF.
- A Mutual Learning Programme with 7 countries (BG, FR, HR, HU\*, IT, PL, RO) launched in 2023, to be expanded with further countries in 2024.



# Skills Agenda: highlights II

## European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA):

- 10th anniversary of the Alliance with almost 400 members and more than 1 million apprenticeship places offered

## Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)

- 400 million euros to fund 100 CoVE projects lasting 4 years in the period 2021-2027.



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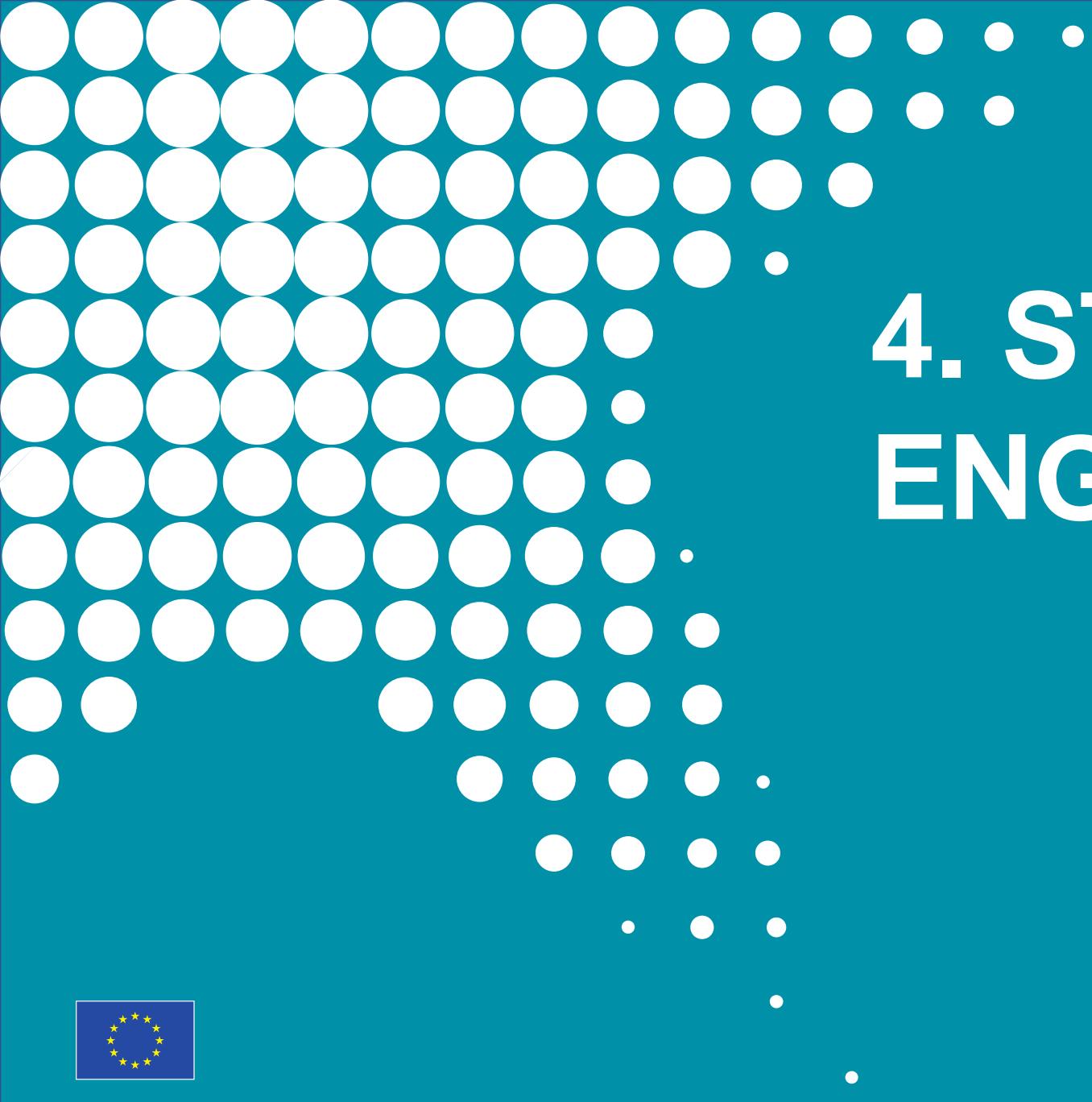
## Skills in the spotlight: EU events

- **9 May:**  
The European Year of Skills Festival - **6700+ people**
- **8 - 9 June:**  
Making Skills Count - **1200+ people attended**

## Skills in the spotlight: local events

- Over 1200 planned so far – 800+ already implemented
- Spread across **38 countries**. Most events in Belgium, Italy, Spain, Germany and France
- Around 70% of the events address more than one of the **specific objectives** of the Year. Investment in skills and skills relevance are addressed the most.





## 4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



## Engaging key stakeholders: National Coordinators

- 39 countries have appointed their national coordinator(s), including all Member States. Full list available [here](#);
- **National Coordinators** meet throughout the Year to exchange on national activities and learn from each other. Being the bridge between the EU and national level, they drive and shape the Year at national, regional and local level.
- Exchanges reveal **elaborate national plans**:
  - focusing on implementing EU initiatives (e.g.: Individual Learning Accounts);
  - fostering training and adult learning in line with the needs of the labour market;
  - setting up new projects to give visibility to skills and to promote a mindset of up and reskilling.



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## The impact of the EYS at the *local level*

- 1. Promote implementation of existing initiatives that have a local impact:** in particular CoVEs and Pact for Skills, but also ILA, Microcredentials etc.
- 2. Local stakeholder engagement** through National Coordinators, and direct involvement in conferences and key skills fora; access to funding, share of good practices, etc., etc.
- 3. Visibility of local initiatives and stories:** website, events map, social media campaigns (influencer), media Partnerships (ex. People of Sofia)



# EYS website

- In my country
- On the ground: success stories on upskilling and reskilling. Share yours too!
- Events. Add yours too!
- News
- Coming soon: Experts' corner.



Get inspired, get involved, get skilled!



# Thank you for your interest!

We look forward to collaborating with you to make the European Year of Skills a success!

Useful link: [European Year of Skills webpage](#)  
#EuropeanYearOfSkills

