

A conference on the challenges, perspectives and
best practices of Education, Training and Skills
in the context of the

**European Year of Skills
2023**

GROUND ED IN THE PRESENT SKILLED FOR THE FUTURE



31 MAY 2023

09.00 - 13.00



SQUARE DE MEEÛS 19,
1050 BRUSSELS

REGISTER

IN COOPERATION WITH



CONCEPT NOTE

The designation of **2023 as European Year of Skills** aims to address the current situation of the EU labour market, responding to the shortage of skilled labour across Europe. The European Commission's initiative, however, is inscribed against the backdrop of the harsh **demographic crisis, manifold educational challenges** and **migratory issues**, which permeate the context of skills provision in the EU. The main goal of the activities planned within this initiative's framework is to **promote citizens' active involvement in the European internal labour market processes, provide upskilling and reskilling for all and increase employability and competitiveness.**

In the 21st century, the era of the digital and green twin transitions, where the Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated digitalisation and the climate crisis calls for more **expertise in the areas of sustainability and ecology**, the **demand for technical skills** has increased dramatically in almost all directions, caused by new challenges in both the private and public sectors.

Undeniably, within the framework of the European Year of Skills 2023, the EU has tried to address the main challenges, but there are equally relevant topics that allow to **understand skills provision more holistically** and enlarge the main focus of policies and strategies. By looking deeper into these areas, it is possible to realise that **skills are to be understood far beyond competitiveness and employability**, reflecting on the need to be more practical and critical and considering ecological skills, the **inclusiveness and responsibility of digital spaces, as well as informal skills learnt in the family and the role of vocational training in tackling social exclusion as part of the equation.**



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The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE), Don Bosco International (DBI) and the Federation of Catholic Family Associations in Europe (FAFCE), will address these aspects of skills provision, education and training, giving examples of good practices with experts from faith-based organisations and civil society and focusing on the importance to respond accurately to the challenges of formation and learning today.

PROGRAMME

09:00 – 09:05

Welcome remarks

Fr Manuel Barrios Prieto, *COMECE General Secretary*

09:05 – 09:15

Keynote speech

Ms Mariya Gabriel, *Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*
(video message)

09:15 – 10:00

Panel I: ecological and digital skills for inclusive and responsible digital learning*

Ms Michela Zabaglia, *Project manager in the European Year of Skills team, DG EMPL*

Mr John Paul de Quay, *Founding member of the 'Ecological Conversion Group'*

Dr Martin Holler, *Director* and **Mr Thorsten Ringwald**, *Head of Department Office*
Management Training, VET centre 'Mosbach-Heidelberg'

10:00 – 10:15

Coffee break

10:15 – 11:00

Panel II: VET for technical skills and inclusion

Mr Andrea Lapegna, *Deputy Director, Lifelong Learning Platform - European Civil Society*
for Education

Mr Ivan Toscano, *Management Officer, CNOSFAP*

11:00 – 11:15

Coffee break

11:15 – 12:00

Panel III: informal skills learnt in the family

Monika Arnaud, *Belgium Responsible of the 'Chantiers Éducation'*

Ms Kinga Joó, *International Advisor to the President of the National Association of Large*
Families (NOE), EESC Member and Rapporteur on the Opinion on The European Care strategy

12:00 – 12:15

Closing remarks

Fr. Miguel Angel García Morcuende, *SDB General Councillor for Youth Ministry and*
President of DBI

Mr Vincenzo Bassi, *FAFCE President*

12:15 – 13:00

Standing lunch

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