



European  
Commission



**DISCOVER  
YOUR TALENT!**

European Vocational Skills Week

## **Introduction to the second European Vocational Skills Week and its messages**

**DISCOVER YOUR TALENT!**

20-24 November 2017

**Join in!**

#EUVocationalSkills

**The European Commission is organising a second European Vocational Skills Week in 2017, to build on the success that you helped us create last year!**



European  
Commission

## WHAT DOES VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING MEAN FOR YOU?

### Are you a:

- Young or adult learner;
- parent;
- teacher and/or trainer;
- careers adviser;
- VET researcher;
- VET provider;
- Erasmus+ or European Social Fund (ESF) national agency/authority;
- Public Employment Service (PES);
- business, chamber, employer association or trade union?

### ...then the European Vocational Skills Week is for you

110 million Europeans have benefited from **vocational education and training (VET)**. As a result, thanks to well-trained staff with up-to-date technical skills, companies and organisations are becoming stronger and more competitive. This also helps to contribute to smart and sustainable growth.

Work-based learning, traineeships, apprenticeships, tailored courses, and on-the-job training aim to unlock everyone's professional potential by combining theory and practice. **VET is increasingly attractive** to both employers and their workforce. It is available in every field, from science and engineering to healthcare and finance, in both private and public sectors.

### WHAT'S ON OFFER?

Thanks to you, the European Commission's first European Vocational Skills Week in 2016 was so successful that we're now organising a second one. The **second European Vocational Skills Week** will take place from the **20-24 November 2017**.

### HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

Following the hundreds of events organised in 2016, we're once again looking for **VET stakeholders to hold a variety of their own related events at local, regional or national level** – but this time, over a longer timescale (September-December 2017). You can bring stakeholders together in your own country or join up with stakeholders from other countries. Popular ideas from last year include open days, thematic conferences or campaigns on initial and continuing vocational training. Discover how vocational skills at all levels can support innovation and competitiveness, whilst boosting people's employment prospects!

You can find information about how to get involved and how to register an event of your own on our webpage: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/VocationalSkillsWeek>. Your event or activity will then be added to our electronic registration map, which is being updated all the time. So stay in touch, and be the change that you want to see in VET!



European  
Commission

## WHAT ABOUT THE WEEK IN BRUSSELS?

Last year's emphasis on **excellence in VET to promote VET as a first career choice** will continue, flanked by three sub-themes. Firstly, we will promote **mobility in VET**, because learners that are mobile gain skills that increase their employability and life prospects. Secondly, we will foster sector-specific solutions through **sector skills cooperation**. Thirdly, we will draw out the crucial role of employers in **business-VET partnerships**.

The Week itself will be full of the following activities:

- **Monday 20 November:** national opening events in participating countries, bringing together national and regional government representatives, social partners, teachers and trainers, VET providers, Commission representatives and other VET stakeholders;
- **Tuesday 21 November:** a Member State-led "Employers Day", working closely with PES (Public Employment Services);
- **Wednesday 22 November (Brussels):** a VET conference, with morning plenary and afternoon parallel sessions, focusing on the three sub-themes of the Week, as well as key policy issues that contribute to the modernisation and attractiveness of VET;
- **Thursday 23 November (Brussels):** the Business-Education Summit held in the context of the European Pact for Youth, featuring the apprenticeships/traineeships offering of the private sector across Europe; also, a hearing on career-long professional learning;
- **Friday 24 November (Brussels):** Closing event showcasing the results of the Week, with high-level representatives, EU VET ambassadors, and an awards ceremony.

In addition, an event on the European Quality Assurance framework on vocational education and training (EQAVET) and one on the European Credit System for vocational education and training (ECVET) will be organised respectively on 21 November 2017 (Lille) and 22 November 2017 (Brussels).

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR LEARNERS?

VET delivers the skills, qualifications and experience that people need to be **more employable**. It can help them to develop their skills and they can evolve professionally to meet their own needs, as well as those of their employer.

Apprenticeships and **work-based learning** ease the transition between education and the workplace, and VET often helps people to move professionally between countries or sectors. VET courses can also lead to higher education qualifications in most countries where flexible pathways are established.

With so many graduates today struggling to find a job, **VET can provide a quicker route to employment**. Also, **experienced employees may take vocational courses to stay up-to-date** with new developments, to adapt their job skills or to re-skill for a new profession.



European  
Commission

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU AND YOUR ORGANISATION?

Finding and attracting the right staff can be tough, especially in a world where employers are fighting over the best talent. Do yourself a favour by providing new recruits with training and apprenticeship opportunities, so that they have the **skills and knowledge** they need to help increase your company's competitiveness and innovation.

Offer your existing staff continued training, refresher courses or the opportunity to learn new skills. By boosting their professional competence, your organisation will become more **efficient and competitive**. Happy and proficient staff are also more likely to stay loyal, committed, and engaged in your company's success.

## IN SUMMARY – WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ✔ Join an event associated with the Week;
- ✔ Organise an event associated with the Week;
- ✔ Promote the message and the Week on social media.

The European Commission looks forward to working with you on our **second European Vocational Skills Week**, 20-24 November 2017!

### Find out more



<http://ec.europa.eu/social/VocationalSkillsWeek>



[EMPL-VOCATIONAL-SKILLS-WEEK@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-VOCATIONAL-SKILLS-WEEK@ec.europa.eu)



[#EUVocationalSkills](https://twitter.com/EUVocationalSkills)

### Related initiatives

[New Skills Agenda for Europe](#)

[European Alliance for Apprenticeships](#)

[Youth Guarantee](#)

[Erasmus+](#)

[European Social Fund](#)

[Drop'pin@EURES](#)

[Your first EURES Job](#)

### Partners

[Cedefop \(European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training\)](#)

[European Training Foundation](#)