

WORKSHOP

Solving future skills challenges in the Danube region

Date: 11 – 12 June 2019, Chisinau

Venue: Summit Events & Conference Center, Tighina 49/3 Street

Introduction

Skills are key for the Danube region's growth, inclusiveness and future prosperity. It is people's skills that underpin an economy's capacity to innovate and adopt innovation successfully. Skills can thus act as a catalyst for growth and economic job creation. Skills are also central to employability and facilitate finding jobs that allow people to realize their potential, contributing to individual well-being and societal cohesion in the Danube region.

Danube Region countries are improving continuously education process and acquisition of right skills, according to the last economic and technologies developments. A lot of initiatives/projects aiming at increasing education outcomes, employability of labor force and reducing inequalities in the Danube Region have been implemented.

Efforts done and the results achieved so far, as well, different experiences and scale of problems across the Danube Region countries offer significant opportunities for mutual learning.

Despite of an open and increasingly knowledge-based economy, Danube region countries still are struggling with low productivity growth and a slow recovery of investment. At the same time, Danube region is facing the challenge of adapting to demographic trends and rapid technological change.

A coherent and forward looking strategy for human capital and skills can help Danube region to tackle most of those challenges at once: enhance the innovation capacity of its economy, react to the global technological race, leverage on the right pool of skills, avoid lost generations and social losses, while enhancing equality of opportunities, as well as synergies and spillovers between capital accumulation, productivity and potential growth.

Indications of skill gaps and mismatches in Europe are considerable though. Many Europeans work in jobs that do not match their talents. At the same time, firms face difficulties to find people with the right skills. Existing studies in the field suggest that the limited availability of people with the right skills is increasingly viewed as an obstacle, that it is an impediment to investment. This concern is broadly shared across the EU, among firms of different size and operating in different sectors.

With free mobility of workers within Europe, challenges in terms of skills cannot be considered only a local-national challenge. Labor markets as well as education and training systems in EU face specific challenges. Yet some issues are common across the Danube region: strengthening the quality and relevance of education and training and ensuring access to it.

What can be done if ideas and people are often mobile but investment in education and skills typically local? What are ways to best support smart investment in human capital in the Danube region?

In order to promote skill development in Danube region going forward, a better understanding of current gaps and mismatches is needed, together with a thorough assessment of what works and what not when it comes to policy measures.

The Workshop

The proposed 2-days workshop will assemble experts (educational institutions, public administration, research, NGOs, employers) from the Danube Region to discuss about current developments and challenges with regards to measuring skills mismatch, skills development approaches and share successful examples of skills development measures in different countries of the Danube Region.

Based on the findings of the workshop, the potential for future cooperation across the Danube Region on the issue (in the framework of existing funding tools) will be explored. The workshop is organized by Ministry of Health Labour and Social Protection of Republic of Moldova as Priority Area Coordinator 9 of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Workshop agenda (draft)

Day 1

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|----------------------|---|
| 9.00 - 9.15 | Welcome and introduction |
| 9.15 - 9.30 | Presentation of participants |
| 9.30 – 10.00 | Measuring qualifications and skills mismatching: concepts, indicators and methodologies, Stoevska Valentina, ILO Geneva. |
| 10.00 – 10.20 | Skills for the future: managing transition, Anna Gherganova, PA9 coordinator |
| 10.20 – 10.45 | Coffee Break |
| 10.45 - 12.00 | Country- specific perspectives and dialogical exchange on skills mismatch measuring/skills matching approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key challenges and positive developments in different countries of the Danube Region |
| 12.00 - 13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | Concrete activities/projects on skills matching |

14.00-16.00

Group discussions

Skills mismatch measuring/skills matching approaches: What is needed to improve in different Danube Region countries?

- Presentations and discussions
- Discussions about priorities for future collaboration
- Conclusions

16.00 – 16.10

Closing

17.00

Dinner Ascony Winery

Day 2

9.00 – 9.30

Opening, link to yesterday: What was important for me yesterday? Important outcomes of the day 1

9.30 – 11.00

Group discussions

What could be possible topics for co-operation projects?

- Presentations and discussions
- Conclusions

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.00

Relevant funding tools for future projects, Andreea Pena, DSP

12.00 – 12.15

Closing

12.15 – 13.00

Lunch

