

EN

E-002497/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.8.2025)

The Council Recommendation on Pathways to School Success¹ recognises the importance of career guidance and encourages Member States to strengthen education and career guidance, counselling, and career education to support the development of career management skills. It calls on Member States to ease transitions between levels and types of education and from school to employment, through recognition and validation arrangements, guidance by qualified practitioners, and collaboration with stakeholders, including businesses. The Commission supports guidance policies in adult learning that promote informed and voluntary choices.

The Commission promotes quality guidance services through initiatives like the Euroguidance Network. Targeting practitioners and policymakers in education and employment, Euroguidance promotes shared standards, supports professional development, and encourages the use of appropriate tools and personalised approaches. The Cedefop agency is updating its reference framework to strengthen cooperation on guidance systems and policies, building on the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network Guidelines. They outline key quality principles for lifelong guidance². While there is no single binding EU framework, the Commission encourages Member States to align with these quality standards, but also recognises that systems must be tailored to each country's specific context.

Skills are a priority in the European Semester, with many Member States advised to address gaps, including through access to educational pathways and personalised upskilling and reskilling. Lifelong guidance supports this by promoting equity and aligning education, training, and labour market needs.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022H1209%2801%29>.

² Including professional training, suitable tools, and personalised support.