

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002522/25
to the Commission
Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE)
(23 June 2025)**

Subject: Career guidance and pathways available to pupils (second question)

Against the backdrop of the green and digital transitions, and a greater quest for meaning in our professional lives, it is vital to strengthen vocational education and training (VET) pathways. However:

- national training offers continue to be fragmented, limiting professional and social mobility between Member States;
- the transition from secondary to higher education in vocational pathways lacks fluidity and mutual recognition.

The Council Recommendation on EFP for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience stresses that it is important for the pathways to be continuous and open. The Pact for Skills and the education agenda aim to make training systems more flexible. A quality jobs roadmap is currently being prepared.

1. Is the Commission planning a European label (VET Europass) to encourage Member States to adopt standardised formats that promote the internationalisation and validation of ‘green’ skills and focus on meaningful jobs?
2. What specific funding measures — under Erasmus +, ESF + or other programmes — could support this reform at Member State level?
3. What precise timetable and monitoring arrangements does it propose for harmonisation and implementation of the revised programmes?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(18 August 2025)**

1. The Commission has no current plan to develop a ‘Vocational Education and Training (VET) Europass’. Instead, it developed the European classification of skills, competences and occupations (ESCO) as a common language bridging the labour market and the education and training. ESCO describes 13939 skills and knowledge terms in 28 languages including detailed collections for green, digital, research and transversal skills. ESCO can be used to annotate learning outcomes of qualifications, including VET curricula and, as a multilingual labour market standard, it supports the mutual recognition and validation of learning paths across the EU.
2. Europass is currently funded through the Erasmus+ programme, while the European Employment Services (EURES) network is funded through the European Social Fund+ (ESF+). Member State’s reforms of education and training systems can be supported under several EU programs, notably the ESF+, the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Erasmus+ focuses on measures for transnational cooperation.
3. The Commission has no competence for the harmonisation of training programmes. Under the Union of Skills initiative, the Commission has proposed the Skills Portability Initiative, to enhance the portability of skills and qualifications across the EU, regardless of where they were acquired. Building on the Implementation Report of the Professional Qualifications Directive ⁽¹⁾, the Commission will also consider actions to improve recognition processes for regulated professions, in particular by leveraging digital tools.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2020:191:FIN>.