



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
DEFENCE-RELATED REGIONS

EU funding on skills relevant for the defence sector



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The European Defence Skills Partnership

The EDSP brings together industry, academia, authorities and innovation, research and vocational organisations to foster cooperation in building skills for the European defence industry.

The EDSP was launched in 2018 to help its members sharing knowledge and best practices on skills, and working together in the development and implementation of scalable and sustainable solutions for closing the skills gaps.

Source: https://eudsp.eu/practical.asp?event_id=4370&page_id=9614

EU investment on skills

Investing in people and their skills is one of the EU's top priorities. The total EU investment on skills proposed for 2021-2027 is €146 bilion.

A variety of EU funds relevant for the defence sector is available to support activities aimed at developing skills at all levels, including:

- [Funds accessible through national authorities](#)
- [Funds accessible through the European Commission](#)
- [Funds accessible through financial intermediaries](#)

Source: https://eudsp.eu/practical.asp?event_id=4370&page_id=10730

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Centres of Vocational Excellence

CoVEs are expected to go far beyond simply providing a quality vocational qualification. From available evidence (mapping study), keys to CoVEs' success include:

- Strong and enduring relationships between stakeholders - stakeholders include VET providers (including VET at the tertiary education level), higher education institutions, and businesses, in which interactions are reciprocal and mutually beneficial,
- Being integrated in frameworks of regional development, innovation and smart specialisation - this allows synergies to be identified between policies and amongst stakeholders,
- Integration of activities - there is great potential in CoVEs to achieve more than sum of their parts, in particular, where CoVEs build relationships between activities and research;

EU investment on skills – selected examples

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The ERDF finances programmes in shared responsibility between the European Commission and national and regional authorities in Member States. The Member States' administrations choose which projects to finance and take responsibility for day-to-day management.

In 2021-2027, the fund will enable investments to make Europe and its regions:

- More competitive and smarter, through innovation and support to small and medium-sized businesses, as well as digitisation and digital connectivity,
- Greener, low-carbon and resilient,
- More connected by enhancing mobility,
- More social, supporting effective and inclusive employment, education, skills, social inclusion and equal access to healthcare, as well as enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism,
- Closer to citizens, supporting locally-led development and sustainable urban development across the EU.

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Skills & Education Guarantee Pilot

Who can benefit?

The S&E Guarantee Pilot aims to support the following final beneficiaries- via the selected financial intermediaries:

- Individuals (students and learners)
- European enterprises
- European organisations

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Interreg Europe

Who can benefit?

Interreg Europe exists to assist three types of beneficiaries:

- Public authorities – local, regional and national,
- Managing authorities/intermediate bodies - in charge of the Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes or European Territorial Cooperation,
- Agencies, research institutes, thematic and non-profit organisations – although not our main target group, these types of organisations can also work with Interreg Europe by first engaging with their local policymakers in order to identify options for collaboration with Interreg Europe.

Organisations that work with Interreg Europe must also be based in one the 27 EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland or the United Kingdom.

EU investment on skills – selected examples

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

With a budget of over €99 billion (current prices) for the 2021-2027 period, the ESF+ will invest in the following priority areas:

- Supporting young people who have been particularly affected by the COVID-19 crisis - ESF+ resources will help these young people find a qualification, a good quality job, and improve their education and training,
- Helping children in need by allocating ESF+ resources to targeted actions to combat child poverty, and supporting the most vulnerable in society suffering from job losses and income reductions, including providing food and basic material assistance to the most deprived,
- Reskilling and upskilling people for the transition to a green and digital economy,
- Capacity building for social partners and civil society organisations,
- Transnational cooperation for promoting social innovation across the EU,
- Direct support to social innovation through the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand.

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Erasmus Pro

Long-term mobility has been included as one of the award criteria when evaluating the relevance of any kind of VET mobility project.

- Supports long-term work placements of apprentices abroad for VET and high education graduates,
- Helps companies and organisations access foreign skills and know-how and improve their overall performance, in particular SMEs,
- Boost individual skills, enhance cooperation between companies and VET institutions.

More informations: [ErasmusPRO](#) page 54 and next

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Recovery and Resilience Facility

The Recovery and Resilience Facility is the key instrument at the heart of NextGenerationEU to help the EU emerge stronger and more resilient from the current crisis.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (the Facility) makes loans and grants available to support reforms and investments undertaken by Member States. The aim is to mitigate the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions.

By offering large-scale financial support for investment and reforms, the Facility will better prepare Member States for a sustainable recovery.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility is the centrepiece of NextGenerationEU, a temporary recovery instrument that allows the Commission to raise funds to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. The Facility is also closely aligned with the Commission's priorities ensuring a sustainable and inclusive recovery that promotes the green and digital transitions.

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Alliances For Innovation

Erasmus+ Alliances for Innovation improve Europe's innovation capacity through strategic cooperation of higher education, vocational education and training, and companies.

Erasmus+ grants to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity by boosting innovation through cooperation among industry, higher education, vocational and educational training (VET) and research. It also aims to boost the provision of new skills and address mismatches by designing and creating new curricula.

The objectives of Erasmus+ Alliances for Innovation are to:

- ensure the availability of competence needed in the world of work in the future,
- reduce the skills shortage by developing the curricula in higher education and vocational education and training (VET),
- and to strengthen Europe's innovation capacity by supporting the exchange of knowledge and entrepreneurial mindsets.

Alliances for Innovation focus especially on digital skills and fields that have been identified as strategically important for sustainable growth and competitiveness in Europe.

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Marie Curie Actions

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) provide grants for all stages of researchers' careers - be they doctoral candidates or highly experienced researchers - and encourage transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. The MSCA enable research-focused organisations (universities, research centres, and companies) to host talented foreign researchers and to create strategic partnerships with leading institutions worldwide.

The MSCA aim to equip researchers with the necessary skills and international experience for a successful career, either in the public or the private sector. The programme responds to the challenges sometimes faced by researchers, offering them attractive working conditions and the opportunity to move between academic and other settings.

The MSCA are open to all domains of research and innovation, from fundamental research to market take-up and innovation services.

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Marie Curie Actions

Types of MSCA:

- Research networks (ITN): support for Innovative Training Networks
- Individual fellowships (IF): support for experienced researchers undertaking mobility between countries, optionally to the non-academic sector
- International and inter-sectoral cooperation through the Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges (RISE)
- Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes that finance fellowships involving mobility to or from another country

EU investment on skills – selected examples

Digital Europe Programme

The Digital Europe Programme will strengthen investments in a range of areas, including:

- supercomputing and data processing capacities,
- core artificial intelligence (AI) capacities such as a data spaces and libraries of AI algorithms,
- cybersecurity,
- digital skills, expanding the best use of digital capacity in EU's society and economy,
- support to the digitalisation of businesses and public administrations.

The DIGITAL Europe programme will fund the design and delivery of specialised programmes and traineeships for future experts in key capacity areas like data and AI, cybersecurity, quantum and HPC. It also aims to support the upskilling of the existing workforce through training in key capacity areas.

EU and other funds – more informations and examples

- [European Commission](#)
- [Visegrad fund](#)
- [Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants](#)
- [National Centre for Research and Development - NCBR \(PL\)](#)
- [National Science Centre - NCN \(PL\)](#)
- [Polish Agency for Enterprise Development – PARP \(PL\)](#)

EU investment on skills – summary

The development of new technologies and increasing digitization, especially in the aerospace and defense sector, require even greater commitment and continuous building and improvement of existing competences and skills.

The EU programs and their multitude allow us to improve our competences and skills and to acquire new ones necessary to function in modern Europe to which we belong and which we all build together.

Raising the competences of both scientists and students and improving education programs based on information from entrepreneurs makes [Rzeszow University of Technology](#) "building the future" - it is worth mentioning that for 70 years!



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Thank you for your attention!



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