



Co-funded by
the European Union

End of project conference

13-14 November 2025, Maastricht (NL)

Register here
by 31st October 2025

We are pleased to invite you to the final conference of the Skills2Capabilities (S2C) project, which will take place on 13–14 November 2025 at the **Bonnefanten Museum in Maastricht**, the Netherlands.

This two-day event will bring together policy-makers, researchers, and practitioners from across Europe and beyond to reflect on the key insights from the S2C project and to explore future directions for skills and capabilities development.

The S2C project is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme, and investigates how people's capabilities and skills can be strengthened in a changing labour market, and how skills systems evolve to meet the demands of the modern economy and society.

Bonnefanten Museum, Avenue Ceramique 250, Maastricht (NL)

<https://www.bonnefanten.nl/en>

Programme - Day 1

Thursday 13 November 2025, 9.00 to 18.00

Policy and Strategy

9.00 - 9.30	Registration, Bonnefanten Museum, Avenue Ceramique 250, Maastricht (NL)
9.30 - 10.00	Welcome and Lessons Learned from S2C Chaired by Didier Fouarge (ROA) & Terence Hogarth (IER)
10.00 - 11.00	“Developing a skilled workforce for the future: the role of vocational education” Keynote lecture by Sandra McNally (University of Surrey)
11.00 - 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15 - 12.00	Pitches on key policy findings from S2C Chaired by Triin Roosalu (TLU)
12.00 - 13.30	Lunch and Museum Visit
13.30 - 14.45	Poster session on project findings (see below for full details)
14.45 - 16.00	Panel discussion moderated by Didier Fouarge (ROA) with: • Hubert Ertl (BIBB) • Glenda Quintini (OECD) • Kirak Ryu (Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training) • Inga Balnanosienė (Lithuanian Public Employment Service & EU PES-Network) • Emilio Dogliani (EfVET)
16.00 - 16.15	Coffee Break
16.15 - 17.15	“Occupations as the link between education and work: how well does this idea travel? ” Keynote lecture by Stephanie Matseleng Allais (University of the Witwatersrand)
17.15 - 18.00	Closing remarks from Daniel Unterweger (3s) + Drinks & Fingerfood

Programme - Day 2

Friday 14 November 2025, 9.00 -13.45

Research Insights Day

9.00 - 9.30	Registration, Bonnefanten Museum, Avenue Ceramique 250, Maastricht (NL)
9.30 - 10.30	Scientific presentations from S2C / Sister projects Chaired by Joanna Kitsnik (TLU) (see below for full details)
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 - 12.00	Scientific presentations from S2C / Sister projects Chaired by Petya Ilieva-Trichkova (IPS) (see below for full details)
12.00-12.15	Closing remarks by Jörg Markowitsch (3S) What have we learned and where do we go from here?
12.15 - 13.00	Lunch
13.00-13.45	S2C Consortium meeting

Guest Speakers & Panel Members



Inga Balnanosiene is the Director of the Lithuanian Employment Service under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour and brings more than 15 years of experience in shaping employment and social policies. As Vice-Chair of the European PES Network and an expert for the European Commission, she has worked with public employment services across Europe and beyond, supporting reforms, capacity building, and innovation. Inga is passionate about modernising employment services, introducing career guidance systems, and strengthening international cooperation to better connect people with opportunities. Her experience covers projects from the EU to Eastern Partnership countries and Africa, always with a focus on making labour markets more inclusive and responsive.“



Stephanie Matseleng Allais is Research Chair of Skills Development and Professor of Education at the Centre for Researching Education and Labour, University of the Witwatersrand, where she researches international education and development, focused on education/ work relationships. She is a Visiting Professor at the University of Glasgow. Her books include Knowledge, Curriculum, and Preparation for Work (Brill/SENSE) with Yael Shalem, and Selling Education Out: National Qualifications Frameworks and the abandonment of Knowledge (Sense). She is the editor of the Journal of Vocational Education and Training, and on the editorial boards of various other journals. Previously, she was a fellow at the Centre for Educational Sociology at the University of Edinburgh, and a research associate at the International Labour Organization.



Professor Sandra McNally is Professor of Economics at University of Surrey and Director of the Education and Skills Programme at the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics. She has directed the Centre for Vocational Education Research (CVER), a LSE-led consortium, funded by the Department for Education (2015-2020). This has a few ongoing projects. Her research interests include economic evaluation of government policies in schools and further education and labour market returns to education and training. She is a co-editor of the Economics of Education Review and a member of research networks IZA and CESifo.



Glenda Quintini leads the Skills and Future Readiness division at the OECD looking at how skill needs are changing in the labour market and identifying effective policy responses, particularly in the area of adult learning and on-the-job training for the AI and green transitions. Glenda's team provides advice to countries, carries out comparative analysis and contributes to the development and analysis of the OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC) and the accompanying employer module on skill gaps. Glenda also leads the Global Deal Support Unit, hosted by the OECD to promote social dialogue and sound industrial relations and foster inclusive growth. Glenda holds a PHD in Economics from the University of Oxford.



Kirak Ryu is Senior Research Fellow at the Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET) in Sejong, Korea. He previously served as Head of the Employment, Skills Development and Qualifications Research Division (2021–2023). He has participated in several research projects on skills development systems, active labor market policies, employment–welfare linkages, and cross-national comparisons of adult competencies across OECD countries. His research interests include labor markets and social policies, social inequalities and stratification, and international comparative studies.



Prof. Dr. Hubert Ertl is Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB). He previously held academic and leadership roles at Oxford University. His research focuses on transitions between vocational and higher education, international comparative education, European education and training policy, and the implementation of education reforms. He has contributed extensively to the field through publications, conference presentations, and editorial work, including as editor of *Research in Comparative and International Education*. Prof. Ertl is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was a research fellow at the Centre on Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance (SKOPE).



Emilio Dogliani, Advocacy and Project Manager at the European Forum for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, is an EU affairs and advocacy professional with a long experience in the areas of Culture, Education, Youth and Social affairs. At EfVET, he is in charge of strengthening relations with the European institutions and partners, as well as coordinating the advocacy and policy strategy of the organization. Emilio is passionate about fostering dialogue between the European Union and faith-based and civil society actors through projects and purposeful initiatives, aiming to promote human-centred development and integral education and training policies. His previous experience in the European Commission and the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) allowed him to hone his skills in institutional relations, project management and public speaking. He has contributed to EU policymaking in various other formats on intergenerational dialogue and fairness, inclusive and sustainable vocational education and training, religious education, skills and cultural heritage.

End of project conference - Poster session, 13.00 - 14.45

13 November 2025

VET Skills demand from vacancy data Zyue Zhu (ROA)	Does Work-based Learning Facilitate the School to Work Transition? Evidence from an Italian Reform Clementina Croce & Giorgio Brunelli (dSEA)
VET graduates participation in LLL – Evidence from PIAAC Tim Huijts (ROA)	Investigating the Implementation of Vocational Curricula in Germany, the UK Philipp Grollmann (TUD), Emily Erickson (IER)
Development of a skills scanner: poster + demo Niels Holtrop (ROA)	Skillful enough? Examining national skills strategies in times of transition Daniel Unterweger & Eva Steinheimer (3S)
How Technology is Transforming VET Career Guidance Across Europe Jaana Kettunen (JYU) & Sally-Anne Barnes (University of Leicester)	VET skills formation systems - what is the role of guidance? Sally-Anne Barnes (University of Leicester) & Jaana Kettunen (JYU)
Drivers for Skills Mismatch Joanna Kitsnik (TLU)	Skills for a Green Transition: Challenges in the demand for skills across regions Veneta Krasteva (IPHS)
Effects of skills mismatch Petya Ilieva-Trichkova, Pepka Boyadjieva, Veneta Krasteva, & Svetlana Alexandrova (IPHS)	(Types of) responsiveness of VET - the concept & empirical evidence Markus Roos Breines, Torgeir Nyen (FAFO)
Three perspectives on vocational curricula Daniel Neff (BIBB), Philipp Grollmann (TUD), Torgeir Nyen (FAFO)	Enhancing VET Governance Evaluation: Introducing EEL+ for Balanced and Inclusive Policy Assessment Jörg Markowitsch (3S)
Funding of VET Terence Hogarth (IER)	The Missing Middle: Understanding Medium-Skilled Mobility through the Link4Skills Project Julia Reinold (Link4Skills)
Future-Proofing Education: Do College Curricula Prepare Students with the Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Skills Needed for Tomorrow's World? Barbara Belfi (ROA)	Mapping Regional Skill Demands – Insights from Vacancy Data on key occupations in the green and digital transitions Ines Loll (ROA)
Estonia's Green Transition: Challenges in Training and Retraining Riste Lehari (TLU)	When Jobs Change: Skills Mismatch and the Value of Training Lorcan Kelly (ESRI)

End of project conference - Paper Sessions

14 November 2025

Session A, 9.30 - 10.30

High school track recommendations in Italy

Clementina Croce and Giorgio Brunello (dSEA), Skills2Capabilities

MEGASKILLS: Scientific Pathway to Recognising Soft Skills Through Gameplay

Katsiaryna Palishchuk, MEGASKILLS (sister project)

Skills Bootcamp: A UK government funded outcome-based approach to upskill and retrain

Sally-Anne Barnes and Chandrima Roy (University of Leicester), Skills2Capabilities

Drivers and effects of the skills mismatch

Petya Ilieva-Trichkova and Pepka Boyadjieva (IPS), Skills2Capabilities

Session B, 11.00 - 12.00

Industrial Mechanic: A study of how curricula respond to changes in the work field

TBC, Skills2Capabilities

Informal on-the-job training and turnover of new hires

Didier Fourage (ROA), Skills2Capabilities

Strengthening Reading Skills through Innovation: Findings from iRead4Skills

Raquel Amaro, iRead4Skills

On the funding of VET

Terence Hogarth (IER), Skills2Capabilities