

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION
Union of Skills – EUA's
perspective

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EUA Annual Conference 2026

The Union of Skills: Why universities might like it ...

Skills and education for Europe's competitiveness

Response to the European Commission's Communication on the Union of Skills

24 Apr 2025

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Matches strategic university priorities:

Flexible learning pathways (modular, blended, lifelong learning offers)

Scaling micro-credentials with European recognition

Embedding transversal skills (AI, sustainability, critical thinking)

Key importance of Third Mission – in particular on employment and cooperation with employers

Stronger partnerships: employers, regions, European University Alliances

Internationalisation & mobility

“Europe needs a radical step change in ambition and action – for all skill levels and for all types of training and education.”

Build skills for
quality jobs
and lives

Circulate skills

Attract,
develop and
retain talent

Upskill and
reskill an agile
workforce

- Skills gap: “40% of EU employers report difficulties finding people with the right skills”
- Not only in STEM - teaching, health sector etc.
- Make best use of Europe’s diverse HE sector
- European Skills Intelligence Observatory – European Semester
- Demographic challenges: 25% HEI face decrease of domestic students (Trends 2024)
 - Inclusion & outreach, serving other learners than students, internationalisation
- Need for dialogue among all actors and development of concerted action
 - EUA’s contribution to the Skills High Level Board
 - an EU Flagship for LLL/CPD
 - a European Skills Fund

EUA news

**One year of the Union of Skills:
continued investment in education,
training and skills remains essential**

16 Mar 2026

