

A NEW SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE:
Working together to strengthen human capital, employability and competitiveness

Introduction

Virtuous circle of job creation and growth is key to social cohesion.

70 million Europeans lack adequate reading and writing skills, and even more have poor numeracy and digital skills

More than half of the 12 million long-term unemployed are considered as low-skilled.

40% of European employers have difficulty finding people with the skills they need to grow and innovate.

States have similar problems and opportunities

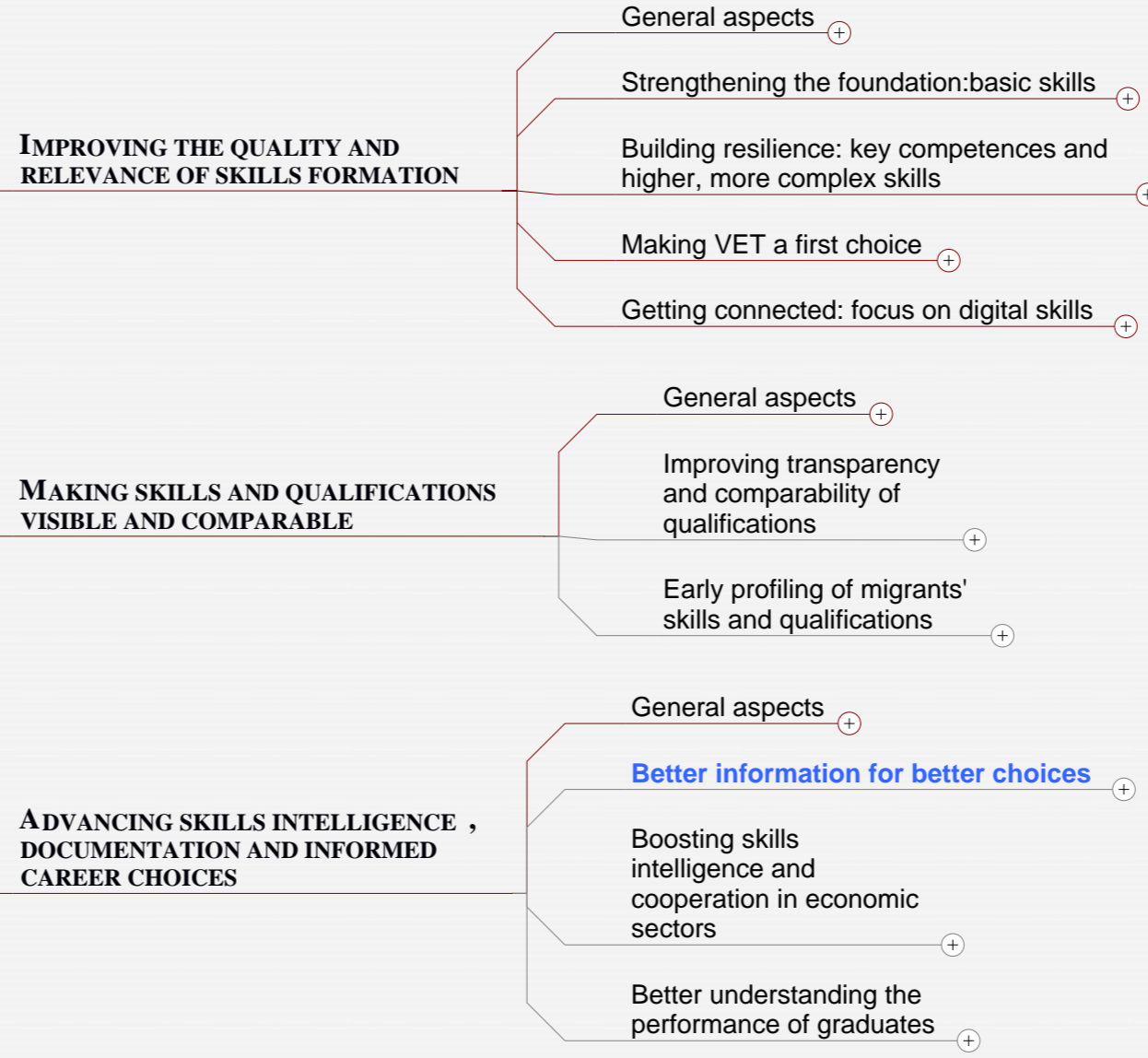
Policy efforts and systemic reforms are required. It needs smart investments in human capital from both public and private sources.

This Skills Agenda strengthens and, in some cases, streamlines existing initiatives to better assist Member States in their national reforms as well as to trigger a change of mindsets in both individuals and organisations. It is centred around three key work strands:

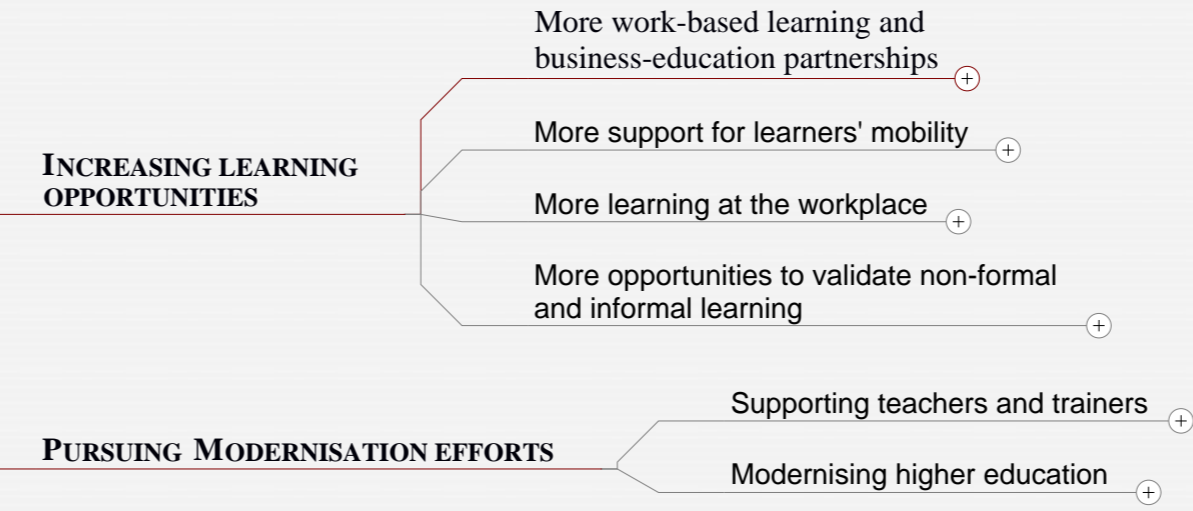
- Improving the quality and relevance of skills formation
- Making skills and qualifications more visible and comparable
- Improving skills intelligence and information for better career choices

EU-level action alone will not suffice. Success depends on the commitment and expertise of many players

Raising the bar: priorities for action



Ongoing work: stepping up the pace



Delivering the agenda

To help design and implement reforms, the Commission, in cooperation with OECD, will assist Member States in developing national skills strategies and action plans based on a whole-government approach.

One of the chief goals of the New Skills Agenda is to raise political awareness of the critical importance of skills for Europe's jobs and growth prospects, and to address this issue at the highest political level.

The Commission will also engage in a more in-depth dialogue with Member States on how to best use the opportunities offered by existing funding programmes to meet the Agenda's objectives.

Coordination among the EU-supported national contact centres for EQF, Europass and Euroguidance, will be stimulated to encourage a single interface for several European initiatives on skills vis-à-vis national stakeholders and to facilitate access for users. This simplification will be pursued in consultation with Member States.

LIST OF ACTIONS AND INDICATIVE TIMELINE

