

EN
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Answer given by Mr Schmit
on behalf of the European Commission
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The three headline targets for social policy, including the target of 60% of adults participating in learning every year by 2030, were welcomed by EU leaders in the 2021 Porto Declaration¹, and then by the European Council in its June 2021 conclusions². In June 2021, all Member States have defined national targets in a joint effort to reach the EU targets³.

By implementing the 12 actions of the 2020 European Skills Agenda⁴, initiatives such as the structured dialogue on digital education and skills⁵ and through EU funding⁶ the Commission supports Member States to achieve their 2030 targets, which almost meet the EU headline target. For instance, under the Pact for Skills⁷, already 700 members and twelve large-scale sectoral partnerships have committed to train more than 6 million workers.

Based on the positive impact of national experiences with individual financial incentives, the Commission proposed in November 2021 Recommendations on individual learning accounts⁸ and a European approach to micro-credentials⁹, adopted by the Council in June 2022. The first one provides policy guidance to set up schemes for direct financial support to adults to participate in training, with an enabling framework. The second one provides criteria and guidelines to develop credible and trusted micro-credentials, small qualifications to recognise learning outcomes.

The Commission will explore the need for further initiatives when the actual impact of these measures on participation in adult learning becomes clearer.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=10004&furtherNews=yes>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50763/2425-06-21-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3782

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1223&langId=en>

⁵ <https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/structured-dialogue-digital-education-and-skills>

⁶ In particular the European Social Fund Plus, Erasmus Plus and the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1517&langId=en>

⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022H0627%2803%29>

⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32022H0627%2802%29>