Technology Industries of Finland

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EU's Internal Market for Skills – for People, Productivity and Prosperity

Europe is undergoing a major digital and green transformation. This transformation provides many opportunities but is being held back by a lack of skilled people. Throughout the Union, Member States face the same challenges. Europe's strength is based on excellence in research, innovative companies, and a functioning single market – not to mention bright people. We want to extend the Single Market to skills.

Develop labour practices bottom-up to lift rigid structures

New technologies and the availability of unprecedented amounts of data transform not only work but also people's ability to use their skills in society. To take advantage of these developments, the EU must work steadily to loosen the rigid structures of the continent's labour law. Each Member State has a distinct history and set of practices. These are best reformed at the grassroots level and then disseminated across Europe by gathering and sharing best practices.

New ways to match offer and demand – like platforms – should not be forced into one legal model too abruptly.

Empower Citizens through Interoperable Skills Data

To ensure the interoperability of academic and non-academic study credentials, a European Skills Data Space must be set up as one of spearhead projects of the next Commission. Citizens should have the right to have access to this data in a digital, interoperable format. The scope and duration of micro-credentials should be defined at European level.

New Challenges Call for New Resources

Work and societies in Europe are being transformed at a breath-taking pace. The Commission should incentivise and support the sharing of pioneering study resources by leveraging the creation of platforms and technical facilities for online courses such as "Elements of AI" to benefit all interested students across the Union. This would facilitate specialisation at universities and other educational institutions in addition to enabling the creation of interesting cross-sectoral projects for the students.

Europe Will Need a Wave of Re-Skilling

Steadily developing digital technologies are transforming the world of work and even seasoned experts need to re-skill to take the highest possible advantage of these new opportunities. The Commission should facilitate the creation of modelling tools and solutions for employers, educational organisations, and individuals to anticipate the change in required skills in the future. Technology Industries of Finland has developed an AI-based model to help companies in this.

The EU should also leverage the development and scaling of a modular approach to re-skilling. This consists of practical elements that empower people to update and gain new skills such as the wide-spread Elements of AI module.

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Technology Industries of Finland (TIF) represents Finnish technology industries and counts over 1,800 member companies, ranging from SMEs and start-ups to world leading MNEs. The technology industry is comprised of five subsectors: electronics and the electrotechnical industry, mechanical engineering, the metals industry, consulting engineering, and information technology. Technology industry is the most important export industry of Finland, with operations constituting over 50 % of all Finnish exports and accounting for 70 % of all private investments.