

Enhance Your Skills, Increase Your Career Opportunities

The European Commission has adopted a new Skills Agenda for Europe, which aims to ensure people develop the skills necessary for the jobs of today and tomorrow. This agenda is essential to boost employability, competitiveness and growth across the EU. On this occasion a series of workshops for young people will be held to highlight the importance of developing the skills necessary for job searching, career planning and entrepreneurship in Famagusta, Mehmetcik/Galatia, Kyrenia, Yeşilyurt/Pentageia and Nicosia between 19-29 July from 9.30 to 14.00. The youth will also be informed about EU's new skills agenda as well as the Human Resources Development Sector Programme under the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community with a total budget allocation of €11.4 million since 2006. The workshops, targeting youth aged 18 – 30, also aim to inform young people about local and EU resources and opportunities.

During the workshops, participants will be introduced to career planning, job searching strategies and skills, CV preparation, networking, applications, interview skills, improving skills by volunteering, interning and part-time jobs and entrepreneurship. In addition to this, they will be meeting people with inspiring stories. The event will follow up with information table visits and Q&A session.

The New Skills Agenda for Europe calls on EU countries and stakeholders to improve the quality of skills and their relevance for the labour market. It looks to reduce the number of Europeans lacking adequate reading, writing, numeracy and digital skills. At the same time, it seeks to help highly-qualified young people find work that suits their potential and aspirations, make it easier for employers to recruit employees with the right profiles and to equip people with the skills and mindset to start their own businesses.

Background:

The EU is working to reduce youth unemployment and to increase the youth employment rate in line with the wider EU target of achieving a 75% employment rate for the working-age population (20-64 years). More than 4.5 million young people (aged 15-24 years) are unemployed today in the EU. The EU youth unemployment rate is more than double the overall unemployment rate (20% compared with 9%) and masks big differences between countries: there is a gap of more than 40 percentage points between the Member State with the lowest rate of youth unemployment (Germany at 7%) and the Member States with the highest rates, Greece (50%) and Spain (49%). High youth unemployment co-exists sometimes with increased difficulties in filling vacancies. This points to the existence of labour market mismatches, due to inadequate skills, limited geographic mobility or inadequate wage conditions.

Interested individuals can get more information on this event on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](https://www.facebook.com/abbilgi) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: info@abbilgi.eu, 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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