

# High-Level Meeting on Skills in the Mediterranean Concept Note

12 July 2023, Madrid (Spain)

The Euro-Mediterranean region has **one of the youngest populations in the world**. Skills are **critical** to leveraging the youth's potential for bringing innovation and digitalisation to the dynamics of **recovery, economic growth, decent work and social inclusion**. Skilling, upskilling and reskilling boost employability, inclusiveness, competitiveness and growth, allowing to better address the challenges of technological and non-technological transformations such as green transition, demographic change, and digitalization of the economy in the region, as well as addressing persistent issues of skill gaps and mismatches.

In the **Ministerial Declaration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial on Employment and Labour** (Marrakech, 18 May 2022), the Ministers recognize the need to address the **just transition** towards a green and digital economy and to look at the skills that are necessary for the future of work, **including those related to the new forms of work and online platform work**. The Ministers also recognize the importance to boost **skills anticipation and development, in particular for youth and women**, and to tackle the digital skills gap.

Acting upon the Ministerial Declaration and in line with the **European Year of Skills 2023**, which starts from 9 May 2023 until 8 May 2024, the **Union for the Mediterranean Co-Presidency** intends to organise a “**Union for the Mediterranean High-Level Meeting on Skills in the Mediterranean**”, to be held in **Madrid on 12 July 2023**.

In close cooperation with the **Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat** and relying on the expertise of the **European Training Foundation** and the **Anna Lindh Foundation**, the high-level meeting will focus on **key priority areas, including investing and diversification of investments in skills to open up to more lifelong learning opportunities, supporting transitions (demographic, green, and digital) and anticipating the future of work**. It will bring together a **broad spectrum of partners and stakeholders** involved at different levels of skills development, upskilling and reskilling, to exchange insights, experiences, and best practices to address the current opportunities and challenges ahead. It will also showcase success stories of the **Regional Team Europe Initiative on “Jobs through Trade and Investment”, with a focus on Pillar 2 on “Skills and Vocational Education and Training”**.

This event is part of the **Union for the Mediterranean Roadmap on Employment and Labour 2022-2025**, implementing the priorities of the above-mentioned Ministerial Declaration.

**Recommendations** emanating from the meeting will guide future actions, including **innovative ideas** to be integrated in the Team Europe Initiative on “Jobs through Trade and Investment”.