



# VI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

7<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Polsat Plus Arena Gdańsk

**Skills are the Future**

For New Education and Training | For the Next Generation  
For Innovative Economy | For Better Life

An accompanying event  
of EuroSkills Gdańsk 2023



# PROGRAMME



Co-funded by  
the European Union

This initiative is co-funded by Erasmus+ Programme, the European Solidarity Corps and the European Social Fund within the "Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development".

# PROGRAMME: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Thursday)

9:00–9:55 | **Participant Registration**

10:00–11:00 | **I SESSION. OPENING CEREMONY**

## Part I. Welcome speeches by guests and congress organizers

**Master of Ceremonies:** Mr Marek Zajac, Vice-president of SkillsPoland, FRSE

- **Prof. Paweł Poszytek**, Director General of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE)
- **Commissioner Nicolas Schmit**, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- **Ms Teija Ripattila**, Chair of the Board of WorldSkills Europe

## Part II. Debate **The synergy between EU-policies and funding and WorldSkills/EuroSkills to raise the attractiveness of VET and support reforms**

The financial opportunities provided by EU-funding (European Social Fund, Recovery and Resilience Facility, Erasmus+ etc.), combined with the outreach of WorldSkills competitions and established WorldSkills educational standards, form a comprehensive set of tools to transform vocational education and training in Europe. Valuable examples can be found in countries that have used EU-funding to support reforms in VET, boost the attractiveness of sectors and fill vacancies for sectors in demand. Some countries have established close collaborations between VET institutions, business partners, and WorldSkills organizations. Other countries have used the power of skills competitions organised by WorldSkills to attract learners to the VET sector and promote VET excellence in Europe, including by EU-funding.

**Chair:** Mr Marek Zajac, Vice-president of SkillsPoland, FRSE

- **Prof. Paweł Poszytek**, Director General of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE)
- **Commissioner Nicolas Schmit**, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- **Ms Teija Ripattila**, Chair of the Board of WorldSkills Europe
- **Ms Carole Grandjean**, French Minister in charge of VET

11:00–12:00 | **II SESSION. FOR INNOVATIVE ECONOMY**

## Digital skills are the foundation of a new innovative economy

Digital competences and keeping up with the rapid development of technology pose challenges for individuals across all generations. Digital skills are crucial for professional development, job freedom, exploration and pursuit of passions, communication, and leisure activities. One of the most significant digital challenges of the 21st century is the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence in education and vocational training, with a particular focus on defining its benefits and risks. Digital transformation is also one of the European Commission's priorities, as reflected also on EU 2021-2027 funding programmes (RRF, ESF+, Digital Europe, Erasmus+).

### Key issues in this area include:

*How to design an education and training system transformation considering digitalization and rapid technological changes? In what ways can a digital society and technologies drive new approaches to learning, discovering, and pursuing passions? How does the development of digital competencies support an innovative economy? How does EU funding support digital transformations and the development of digital competencies?*

**Chair:** Max Fras, PhD, Policy Advisor, LSE Consulting (London School of Economic and Political Science)

### Speakers:

- **Prof. Paweł Poszytek**, Director General of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE)
- **Prof. Katarzyna Szczepańska-Woszczyzna**, Vice-Rector for Science and Education of the WSB University
- **Prof. Grzegorz Mazurek**, Rector of Leon Kozminsky University
- **Ms Birgit Arens**, Senior Project Officer European Centre of Vocational Excellence: EULEP – The European Learning Experience Platform
- **Mr Emilio Cabanes Miró**, Director of ICT Projects and Digital Economy, Deputy Director of the National Reference Centre for VET in E-commerce and Digital Marketing, EOI Business School (Escuela de Organización Industrial)

12:00–13:00 | **LUNCH**

During the break, live broadcasts from the ongoing competitions at the stadium will be displayed on the screens, possibly including interviews with experts, and special guests.

13:00–14:00 | **III SESSION. FOR NEW EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

## European Universities and Centres of Vocational Excellence

European Universities and Centres of Vocational excellence, as part of the vision for a new European Education Area by 2025, aim to enhance the collaboration between education and training stakeholders and businesses for the better education of people of all ages. European Universities are currently a crucial topic in the context of a transnational alliance of higher education institutions across the European Union. Centres of Vocational excellence are a flagship of Erasmus+.

### Key issues in this area include:

*How does the EU funding (ex. Erasmus+, ESF+ etc.) support the implementation of the European University concept and Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)? What are European Universities and CoVEs, and what benefits do they bring to learners, doctoral candidates, and young researchers? How do European Universities and Centres of Vocational excellence support research excellence and knowledge transfer? How do they facilitate knowledge and experience exchange? Why are European Universities and Centres of Vocational Excellence referred to as the key to innovative teaching, research, and learning?*

**Chair: Prof. Piotr Stepnowski**, Rector of the University of Gdańsk

**Speakers:**

- **Anna Zalewska**, former Minister of National Education, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur in the European Parliament on supporting and adapting vocational training as a tool for the success of workers and a component of the EU economy in the new Industry 4.0., *topic of the speech: Introduction*
- **Ms Anna Budzanowska, PhD**, Member of the EuroScience Management Board, Champion of the European City of Science Katowice 2024, Director of the Department of Research and Development, Ministry of Education and Science
- **Prof. Piotr Mikiewicz**, Head of Sociology and Education and Educational Policy Team, University of Lower Silesia DSW
- **Mr Tomasz Psonka**, Director of Research Solutions for Central and Eastern Europe at ELSEVIER B.V. Publishing
- **Mr Jan Jeronimus**, Project Leader of EPLUG Centre of Vocational Excellence EPLUG (European Platform for Urban Greening)

**14:00–15:30 | IV SESSION. FOR THE NEXT GENERATIONS**

**European and global trends in the transformation of climate education and the development of green skills for fair transition in the labour market**

One of the critical challenges of the 21st century is to address the climate crisis, develop a low-emission economy with the principles of a just transition, promote the renewable energy sector, and achieve ambitious climate policy goals in line with the Paris Agreement and the EU Green Deal. It is worth emphasizing that different EU-funds ( Recovery and Resilience Facility, Just Transition Fund, European Social Fund Plus, Erasmus+) provide significant support for the development of green skills. The Communication of 1 February 2023 on the Green Deal Industrial Plan gives new urgency to the development of skills for the green transition with skills being one of its four pillars.

Raising awareness about the impacts of climate change and mitigation and adaptation strategies to changing climate realities is also one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. This commitment is reflected in the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness (COP20) and the Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action (COP25), and European Declaration on Global Education towards 2050, which call on governments to incorporate climate-related topics into school curricula and integrate climate awareness into national development plans and climate change strategies.

**Key issues in this area include:**

*How can we raise climate awareness among the younger generation and develop green competencies and skills? Why is education and training crucial for achieving a net-zero economy and technologies? What are the European and global experiences in implementing green education and training? How can we build climate strategies for teaching and learning in Education and training? What are the principles of a just transition that promote social and intergenerational justice? How does EU funding support the goals of sustainable development?*

**Chair: Prof. Wiesław Banyś**, Spokesperson and Chairman of the Bologna Group of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (KRASP)

**Speakers:**

**European climate policies and projects**

- **Ms Manuela Geleng**, Director for Jobs and Skills, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- **Mr Dawid Solak**, Deputy Director General of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE)
- **Ms Dita Traidās**, Director of State Education Development Agency, Erasmus+ National Agency and SkillsLatvia national organisation
- **Mr Dario Baron**, Senior Adviser-Specialist in the Service for EU policies and implementation of labour market related projects

**European and Global Trends, Green Skills**

- **Ms Chelle Travis**, Executive Director SkillsUSA
- **Prof. Alexandra Harrington**, Lancaster University, Chair IUCN WCE Task Force on Plastic Pollution (IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law)
- **Prof. Piotr Moncarz**, Adjunct Professor Stanford University, Co-founder and Chairman US-Polish Trade Council, Vice Chairman and Chief Technology Officer of XGS Energy Inc.
- **Mr Andreas Hurst**, VP Global Sales, FESTO Didactic SE (Premium Partner of the WorldSkills Europe)
- **Ms Magdalena Stryja**, Spokesperson of the Foundation for Development of Education System (FRSE), Legal fellow Centre for International Sustainable Development Law

**15:30–15:40 | COFFEE BREAK**

**15:40–17:00 | V SESSION. FOR BETTER LIFE**

**Social Inclusion, equal opportunities and solidarity**

Solidarity and integration in education and training and skills policies as a tool to ensure social inclusion. Promoting excellence involves not only supporting the best but also ensuring that nobody is left behind, including young people who are not in employment, education, or training (NEETs), as well as adults in need of upskilling and reskilling, aligning with the objectives of the European Year of Skills. The EU Pillar of social rights sets principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems in the 21st century Europe. Promoting diversity, integration, and social justice in Education and Training Institutions and skills policies. Best practices for creating inclusive Education and training environments including within EU-funding programmes. Addressing educational disparities, integrating Ukrainian refugees into education and training and supporting marginalized learners and at-risk groups, also through cooperation with businesses.

**Key issues in this area include:**

*What solutions do the European Social Fund and Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps promote to address exclusion and unemployment? The role of education in shaping empathy, tolerance, and understanding. How do education and training institutions support learners*

and E&T staff from Ukraine? Global and European support programs for youth from Ukraine. What are the foundations and principles of accessibility policies in European and global education systems? How does EU funding support interdisciplinarity, tolerance, and openness?

**Chair: Prof. Tomasz Grodzicki**, Vice-Rector of the Collegium Medicum, Jagiellonian University in Cracow

**Speakers:**

**Accessibility, Inclusion, and Volunteering in Education Systems and Projects**

- **Prof. Zbigniew Gaciong**, Rector of the Medical University of Warsaw
- **Prof. Ryszard Koziółek**, Rector of the Silesian University in Katowice, topic: „European City of Science Katowice 2024”
- **Prof. Agnieszka Bielska-Brodziak**, Head of the Unit of International Chair in Bioethics
- **Mr Juris Osis**, Expert EFS – Project: PROTI un DARI! ('KNOW and DO!') (Encouraging young people to keep moving forward)

**Policies and Strategies of Accessibility, Inclusion, and Solidarity**

- **Mr Vladyslav Yatsuk**, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
- **Ms Anna Radecka**, Director of the Department of Education and Social Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- **Ms Monika Chabior**, Deputy Mayor of Gdańsk for Social Development and Equal Treatment

**17:00–17:30 | VI SESSION. SUMMARY**

Finale conclusions

**Chair: Mr Marek Zając**, Vice-president of SkillsPoland, FRSE

- **Prof. Paweł Poszytek**, Director General of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (FRSE)
- **Ms Teija Ripattila**, Chair of the Board of WorldSkills Europe
- **Prof. Piotr Stepnowski**, Rector of the University of Gdańsk
- **Prof. Krzysztof Zanussi**, An international director, producer, screenwriter, academic professor, winner of several dozen international movie awards, member of numerous international film and educational organizations, member of the Program Council of the Congress.
- **Mr Waldemar Siwiński**, Founder of the Educational Foundation Perspektywy, President of the IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence

**17:30 | BANQUET**

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Co-organizer



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G D A Ń S K

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