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Strengthening the Agri-Food Ecosystem: A Commitment to the Pact for Skills

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Strengthening the Agri-Food Ecosystem: A Commitment to the Pact for Skills

Unveiling the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership

Embark with us on a journey of empowerment and transformation within the agri-food sector as we introduce the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership. In response to the dynamic challenges posed by technological advancements, demographic shifts, and evolving labour market demands, the European Commission has launched the Pact for Skills – a flagship initiative under the European Skills Agenda. This initiative recognizes the imperative for continuous upskilling and reskilling and emphasizes the need for a collaborative public-private effort to navigate the future effectively.

Understanding the Pact for Skills

What is the Pact for Skills?

The Pact for Skills is not just a vision; it's a strategic response to the rapidly changing global landscape. Launched by the European Commission, this initiative aims to identify and address current and future skills needs. It aligns efforts, promotes lifelong learning, and effectively tackles the skills gap. The Pact emphasizes accessible upskilling opportunities, recognition of prior learning, and the promotion of digital and soft skills.

This initiative encourages partnerships between public and private entities, fostering collaboration among educational institutions, businesses, and social partners. These collaborations leverage resources, expertise, and networks to facilitate knowledge exchange and create a holistic ecosystem for skills development. In the agri-food sector, the Pact for Skills unfolds as the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership – a concerted effort to tackle challenges and seize opportunities within this vital ecosystem.

Through in-depth research and analysis, the Pact for Skills enables the formulation of targeted policies and initiatives to bridge the gap between supply and demand. The European Commission collaborates with national and regional authorities, mobilizing funding to support skills-related projects and infrastructure. Additionally, private investments and innovative funding models are explored to maximize the impact and sustainability of the Pact.

The Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership

This collaborative initiative is led by the European Commission, specifically by DG GROW, DG EMPL, and DG AGRI, with the coordination of two influential organizations – Copa-Cogeca representing agriculture and agro-cooperatives in Europe, and FoodDrinkEurope representing the EU food industry. The Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership is a testament to the significance of the agri-food sector, an integral part of European culture and tradition, and vital for Europe's development.

PACT FOR SKILLS Leader

An initiative of the European Commission

Objectives of the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership

Addressing Challenges through Collaborative Efforts

The agri-food sector, while essential, faces a multitude of challenges ranging from globalisation and climate change to urbanisation and shifting consumer demands. The Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership aims to overcome these challenges through collaborative efforts and dedicated skills development initiatives. The success of this partnership relies heavily on the active involvement of stakeholders within the agri-food ecosystem.

EU Projects in Education and Training

To complement the partnership's objectives, the Pact involves EU projects in education and training. Notable initiatives include I-RESTART and FIELDS. Worker associations, represented by the sectoral trade union platform EFFAT, contribute to the social dialogue within the partnership, facilitating strategy development and implementation at all levels.

Key Objectives of the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership: A Comprehensive Approach

In comprehending the objectives of the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership, we delve into a holistic strategy aimed at advancing skills development and reinforcing the competitiveness of the agri-food sector.

The partnership embarks on collaborative actions strategically designed to address the prevalent skills gap within the agri-food ecosystem. Through targeted initiatives, it facilitates upskilling and reskilling opportunities by fostering partnerships with education and training organizations, business operators, and support entities.

Encouraging the establishment of new partnerships, dialogues, and agreements is pivotal. The partnership actively fosters cooperation and collaboration among a spectrum of stakeholders, including employers, employer associations, workers, trade unions, and education and training organizations.

To invigorate the sector, the partnership focuses on mobilizing students and trainees across the EU. This initiative is complemented by the implementation of comprehensive and tailored training programs. These programs aim to equip individuals entering the agri-food sector with the essential skills demanded by the industry.

Highlighting the significance of Vocational Education and Training (VET), including apprenticeships and lifelong learning opportunities, is a key objective. The partnership actively raises awareness about the value of continuous learning, thereby promoting career development within the agri-food industry.

Enhancing the overall attractiveness of the agri-food ecosystem becomes a focal point. Through effective communication campaigns, the partnership endeavours to spotlight the sector's potential, sustainable practices, and exciting job opportunities, ultimately contributing to its allure.

Recognizing the distinct skill needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the agri-food sector, the partnership directs its efforts towards targeted initiatives and resources. These initiatives are crafted to assist SMEs in upskilling their workforce and concurrently improving their competitiveness in the sector.

By aligning these objectives, the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership aspires to create a synergistic and impactful approach towards advancing the skills landscape and ensuring sustained growth within the agri-food sector.

Total number of members: 1500

Advantages of Joining the Pact: A Deeper Dive

Explore the manifold advantages awaiting organizations within the Agri-Food Pact for Skills Partnership:

In-Depth Insights:

Unearth valuable knowledge and insights into upskilling and reskilling needs specific to the agri-food sector. Stay informed about the latest trends, best practices, and emerging opportunities crucial for navigating the dynamic landscape.

Strategic Networking:

Forge meaningful connections within a diverse community of organizations, from industry leaders to innovative start-ups. The Networking Hub provides a platform to collaborate, share experiences, and explore potential partnerships for mutual benefit.

Resourceful Tools:

Leverage a suite of EU tools, including Europass, Skills Panorama, EURES, and the European Network of Public Employment Services. Elevate your organization's visibility and showcase your commitment to skills development through the dedicated web portal agrifood-pact4skills.eu.

Promotion of Activities:

Effectively promote your organization's activities and initiatives within the Pact for Skills community. The platform provides a dedicated space to showcase your contributions, fostering recognition and collaboration.

Learning Opportunities:

Engage in a dynamic learning environment through webinars, seminars, and peer learning activities hosted by the Knowledge Hub. Stay abreast of EU policies, instruments, projects, and best practices, ensuring your organization remains at the forefront of skills development.

Strategic Funding Guidance:

Receive expert advice on accessing relevant funding instruments to boost skills development within your organization. The Guidance Hub offers comprehensive information on both EU and national funding opportunities.

Skills Leader Recognition:

Demonstrate your organization's commitment by proudly displaying the Skills Leader badge. This distinctive emblem serves as a visual representation of your dedication to fostering skills excellence within the agri-food sector.

Participation without Binding KPIs:

Participation doesn't require payment of fees or binding in terms of KPIs. Actively engage in meetings and events to shape the future of training in the Agrifood sector.

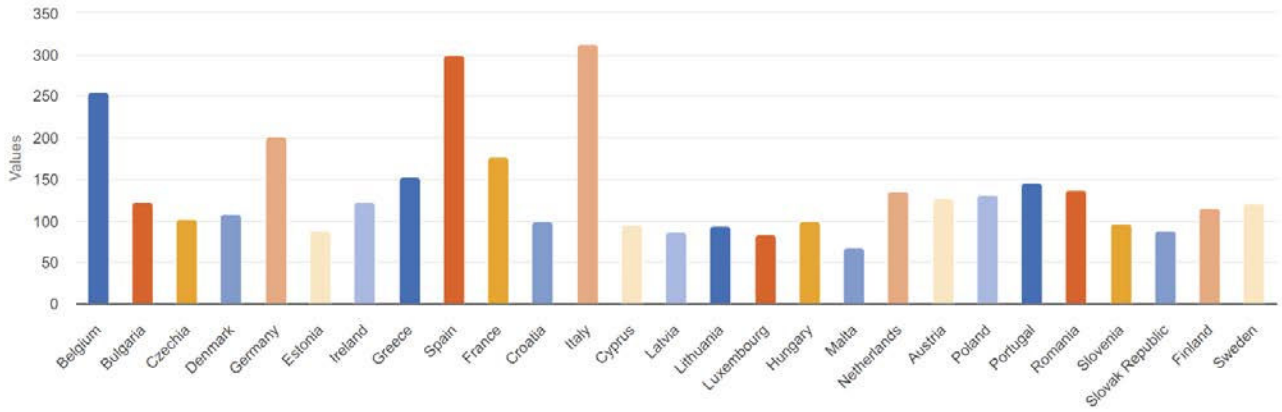
The Agrifood Pact for Skills - A Young Initiative:

Join a young initiative that started in November 2020. Your contribution matters in shaping the future of upskilling and reskilling within the sector.

Coordinators' Invitation: Join the Conversation

Discover opportunities to engage directly with the coordinators of the FIELDS and I-RESTART Erasmus+ projects. They offer online meetings to explain the Pact for Skills, answer questions, and discuss your organization's involvement. All partners of FIELDS are also members of the Agrifood Pact for Skills.

For further details and to join the conversation, visit agrifood-pact4skills.eu



**Please note: The number of organisations represented in this map does not equal with the total number of Pact for Skills members. This is due to the possibility of an organisation operating in more than one country.*

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