Confédération Européenne de l'Industrie de la Chaussure
European Confederation of the Footwear Industry

A Network of EU Regions supporting TCLF education and lifelong learning.
Working together towards a TCLF Pact for Skills

The **Erasmus+ Skills4Smart TCLF Industries 2030 Blueprint** project approaches its end, but this does not mean that the EU TCLF skills journey is over. On the contrary, the consortium has established the grounds to enhance private-public skills collaboration across Europe thanks to both, the **EU Network of TCLF VET providers promoting excellence**, and the **EU Network of TCLF regions supporting TCLF VET modernisation and lifelong learning**. On the 31st May, the latest online workshop organised by CEC, proved the added value of these networks, which members came together to learn from each other's best practices on skills public-private collaboration. The overall objective of this joint effort is to ensure TCLF modern education and training systems that can attract workers to TCLF studies and careers, and rapidly respond to companies fast-changing skills' needs.

Why are regions and VET providers so relevant?

TCLF industries are major drivers of employment in many European regions and have a strong territorial dimension. We can say that the growth and long-term competitiveness of the TCLF industries and the regions rely on the existence of strong and dynamic VET ecosystems. Due to such territorial nature, VET centres are best positioned to address demographic, labour market and technological changes. By investing in the modernisation of VET systems and lifelong learning, regions contribute to make skills provision more responsive to disruptions and uncertainty; to attract more qualified young talent and better empower the workforce, and thus make TCLF companies and regions more resilient and competitive.

For the same reason that regions should integrate VET in the development of their Smart Specialisation Strategies, they can play a key role in the success of skills strategies for their industries, including the development and implementation of regional TCLF Pact for Skills, which provide with a structured dialogue with social partners, education and research centres, all committed to modernise TCLF education and lifelong learning of workers. The Blueprint S4Smart TCLF project has settled the grounds for such skills collaboration between public and private stakeholders inside and across EU regions.

Sharing best practices during the final European Network of TCLF Regions workshop

The European Network of TCLF Regions supporting VET modernisation and lifelong learning brings to the table the international dimension of this collaboration, and represents an opportunity to learn from successful stories in other regions across Europe.

In this relation, the latest workshop included a panel discussion with five major European TCLF Regions, namely Valencian Region, Catalonia, Portugal Norte Region, Tuscany and Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, shared inspiring best practices of public-private regional initiatives on TCLF skills collaboration. The initiatives jointly organised by public-private stakeholders ranged from those aiming to attract children to an established longer-term skills collaboration between stakeholders supporting TCLF VET education at regional level. Some examples included a recreational footwear workshop for small

children organised by Elda municipality in the Valencian regions during the school holidays; the development of new curricula for the creation of shoes for people with functional diversity; a local pact for the development of skills to connect and create alliances between different stakeholders in Tuscany, and the development of a local public education network working on improving upskilling, reskilling and employment in Norte Region, Portugal.

The last session of the workshop welcomed an insight from the Automotive industry, which is one of the 14 industrial ecosystems defined by the European Commission along with the Textile/TCLF ecosystem, embarking on the twin transition to a green and digital economy. The Automotive Skills Alliance shared their experience, passing from the planning to the implementation stage of their Blueprint and the development of their Pact for Skills, achieved thanks to a joint effort and committed collaboration.

Next steps

The European Network of TCLF Regions is currently composed by nine TCLF regions (Flanders in Belgium, Auvergne Rhône-Alpes in France, Central Macedonia in Greece, Tuscany and Veneto in Italy, Lódzkie in Poland, Region Norte in Portugal, Catalonia and Valencian Region in Spain). All other TCLF regions and municipalities interested in joining are welcome to express their interest by sending an email s4tclfblueprint@euratex.eu. From July 2022 onwards, once the Blueprint project is finished, both Networks will continue their structured dialogue and skills collaboration.

Last but not least, those regional stakeholders engaged on building up and/or consolidating **regional TCLF Pact for Skills**, within the EU TCLF Pact for Skills Charter, have the opportunity to receive guidance from the three EU TCLF umbrellas organizations, and supporting services from the European Commission.

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