

The webinar brought together representatives from 10 cities and regions in Europe and China to discuss how to promote synergies between education, jobs, skills and entrepreneurship.



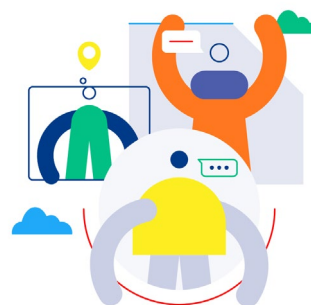
Floriske Deutman
Cluster manager of IURC China

Skills Agenda for Europe

5-year action plan to equip European people and businesses with more and better skills. Progress is aimed at 12 flagship actions:

- 1 Pact for skills - a call to join forces in a collective action
- 2 Strengthening skills intelligence
- 3 EU support for strategic national upscaling action
- 4 Future-proof Vocational Education and Training
- 5 Rolling out the European Universities Initiative and upskilling scientists
- 6 Skills to support the green and digital transitions
- 7 Increasing STEM graduates, fostering entrepreneurial and transversal skills
- 8 Skills for life
- 9 Initiative on individual learning accounts
- 10 A European approach to micro-credentials
- 11 New Europass platform
- 12 Improving the enabling framework to unlock Member States' and private investments in skills

SKILLS



"Education is central for a sustainable, competitive and innovative society."

- Floriske Deutman

Sharing our challenges and solutions on education and innovation will greatly benefit development and resilience in IURC pilot cities and regions and help us to face similar challenges

- **Green and digital transitions** that shape the way we live, work and interact
- An **ageing population**
- **Covid**-related challenges of the job market

Competitiveness can be strengthened through three key factors

1. **Research and development:** universities and research labs
2. **Vocational education and training (VET)** and life-long learning: training providers and business
3. **Entrepreneurship and innovation:** start-up acceleration and mentoring

Specialization and engagement are the only way to reach our goals. In this process, the **triple helix** has a central role to play. When stakeholders from the government, businesses and educational institutions cooperate, chances are higher that goals will have a lasting impact.

Case Studies: New Skills Agenda for Sustainability, Competitiveness, and Innovation



Sofia

Sofia has launched projects to enhance new skills and education through **digitalization** and to support sustainable entrepreneurship and innovation.

- **Argentum** strengthens the silver economy
- **DIGITAL SOFIA** connects different stakeholders to develop sustainable solutions together
- **Compass for Entrepreneurship** informs start-ups about finance to become more innovative and competitive
- **Smart Garden** makes kids aware of sustainability and climate change

Cooperation possibilities lie in R&D, Vocational Education and Training and entrepreneurship and innovation.



Hangzhou

The city shared best practices regarding **cross-border e-commerce** talent cultivation.

Activities include an innovative curriculum, entrepreneurial programs and competitions, **multi-level training** projects and promoting innovation among students.

Future cooperation opportunities

- Joint curation pilot cases
- Shared talent pool
- Promote training together
- Academic exchange

"There is a need for global minded talent, as well as professionals with deep local knowledge."



Nuovo Circondario Imolese - Bologna

Broad experience has been gained in educational and training events through programs of:

- Urban reforestation
- Green cities: The network of urban parks and eco-industrial parks
- Improving environmental quality and biodiversity
- Outdoor education
- Public-private collaboration

Future possibilities are sharing best practices on **educational projects** for specific target groups (e.g. children), establishing new joint **research centers** and laboratories and exploring industrial symbiosis together.

"Job and capacity building lie at the center of NCI's activities."



Xi'an

Xi'an presented good practices including

- The 'opening up' of education
- Developing the *iHARBOUR* innovative campus
- **Industry-education integration** in line with the innovation-driven strategy
- Developing Joint School of Design and Innovation
- Cooperation with European countries and universities

Further steps can be made in extending academic exchange and partnerships.

"Build a better future together` is the goal of Xi'an. Cooperation and innovation are key factors."



Lazio Region

Cooperation is based on three fundamental pillars

1. Training
2. Innovation
3. Participation

Lazio region proposes a **cross-cultural approach** with partners, focused on R&D particularly in the fields of

- Energy transition
- Design and deployment of specific training actions
- Environmental Rural GIS-based analysis
- Digital Twin tools for construction and heritage architecture innovation solutions

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Zhengzhou

Zhengzhou adopted an **innovation driven** development strategy, which includes expanding vocational education in order to **upscale the entire labor force**.

Successful efforts have been made in creating pilot schemes, partnerships between businesses and universities, cooperation on the global level and establishing innovation centers.

Cooperation potential lies in strengthening

- *scientific development* by fostering academic exchange and synergies
- *the qualification of teachers* through training
- *policy support* by sharing best practices



Ioannina

Ioannina presented best practices on the creation of the new established *Convention & Visitors bureau* -which focuses on **sustainable tourism**- and how to build a correct operation of the organization through composing a formal business plan and introducing regular training for staff members. Multiple local stakeholders are being involved in this process.

MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conference & Events) experts are considered a key factor.

Future steps are exchanging international knowledge and cooperating with universities for training in **digital and management skills**.



Haikou

Haikou has experience in **vocational education training** and guidance on employment and entrepreneurship. Best practices of the *Vocational Tourism School* were shared, which include setting up classes with enterprises, implementing training policies and international cooperation.

Cooperation areas include:

- Cooperative development of courses and innovative majors
- Set up **smart solutions** for tourists
- Carry out targeted promotion of tourism concepts
- Joint research and vocational training
- Set up joint platform for infant care, health care industry and tourism sector
- Promote improvement of high-quality professional groups



Ljubljana Urban Region

The region shared the best practices of the *SMART factory demo center*.

Proposed Cooperation Areas

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and smart algorithms
- Distributed systems and edge computing
- AI based **digital twins** and agents for autonomous decision-making
- Flexible, agile, reconfigurable **robotic** and cobotic cells
- Smart production, manufacturing
- Modelling, simulation and **data analytics**
- AR and VR
- Architectural models, **communication** protocols and 5G

"We educate people from the industry to raise digital awareness and teach them skills that are important in the digital transformation."



Wuhan

Wuhan presented *Jianghun University's* research and development efforts.

Goals of cooperation include:

1. tapping into high quality **international education resources** to explore innovation and cultivate talent with **innovative spirit**
2. increasing quality and quantity of trained faculty members
3. strengthening **multilateral scientific research**
4. recruiting international students
5. pairing one-to-one with colleges and universities