

## **EuroSkills Budapest 2018 Conference: education & training must keep pace with the economy**

**Attending the EuroSkills Budapest 2018 Conference today, EUROCHAMBRES President Christoph Leitl underlined the importance that education and training is in tune with the skills needs of the private sector.**

As the economy evolves faster than ever due to technological breakthroughs, curricula content and the way it is delivered must prepare young people for emerging new opportunities and enable them to adapt to future needs that cannot yet be predicted.

The last edition of EUROCHAMBRES' annual economic survey of over 50.000 businesses across Europe revealed a lack of skilled workers one of the greatest challenges. This is in line with a longer term trend, as the skills mismatch issue has been a problem for several years, in times of both high and low unemployment. *"We have more graduates than ever in Europe and incredibly talented young people entering the labour force. But what good is this if they cannot find work and employers cannot find staff with the right skills? We must do better in ensuring that education prepares young people for current and emerging employment opportunities"*, **President Leitl** said.

Euroskills plays an important role in addressing this persistent skills mismatch across Europe by showcasing the professional skills sought by many employers across a wide range of sectors. It is also based on a pan-European approach, which Chambers consider an important element in matching supply and demand. *"Employers, policy-makers and educators must work together to ensure that vocational education is perceived by young people as a positive option that opens up excellent career opportunities and offers an international perspective. Euroskills is a fantastic way to do this"*, **President Leitl** stated.

### **Professional training must be dynamic, not static**

A [World Economic Forum report this month](#) set out how the labour market is set for radical changes as technological advances and artificial intelligence accelerate. **President Leitl** argued that this underlines the need for reforms: *"The economy is evolving faster than ever, but unfortunately our education and training systems generally are not keeping up. Curricula must adapt based on feedback from the economy and so must the way in which curricula is taught. As well as acquiring technical skills, young people need transversal skills that will allow them to adapt throughout their career"*.

EUROCHAMBRES calls in particular for the development of more effective vocational training and apprenticeship schemes in many member states, for the closer involvement of businesses in the design of curricula and for more dynamic and interoperable skills forecasting tools to be developed across Europe.

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