

International Day of Education: President Leitl urges the education world to adapt to the needs of the future

On International Day of Education, EUROCHAMBRES' President Christoph Leitl offers a European business perspective.

Digitalisation, technological breakthroughs and globalisation are dramatically transforming industries and business models, creating new jobs and changing the skill set that employers need.

At the European Parliament of Enterprises (EPE) 2018, 84% of entrepreneurs from all over Europe replied 'yes' when asked if it is harder today to find staff with the right skills than five years ago. The same question was asked at two previous editions of the EPE and the percentage of 'yes' votes has increased each time. This alarming trend was confirmed in the 2019 EUROCHAMBRES Economic Survey, which highlights the lack of skilled workers as one of the biggest challenges faced by European businesses.

"We need to tackle the skills mismatch and we need to do it now" declared President Leitl, *"the more we wait, the more serious it will become, with consequent negative socio-economic repercussions"*. With the current pace of change of the economy being more rapid than ever, education must be more responsive to the skills needs of the private sector. *"The business world, policy-makers and educational institutions must work together to adapt curricula content and delivery to effectively prepare young people for future employment opportunities"*, stressed President Leitl.

"Today as never before do young people need to develop entrepreneurial attitudes and skills – sense of initiative, creativity, teamwork, sense of initiative, self-confidence, ability to manage uncertainty and risks – to be able to thrive in a changing work reality throughout their professional life. Introducing entrepreneurship education at all level of education and increasing the work-based component of VET are key elements to attain this goal", President Leitl concluded.

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