

Skills4Smart TCLF Industries 2030

FINAL NEWSLETTER
June 2022



EDITORIAL



Network of EU
Regions for TCLF



Final Conference



Partners'
Testimonials

Editorial



by Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano, COTANCE

After over 4 years of hard work by 22 amazing partners and many challenges, our Erasmus+ Blueprint project “Skills4Smart TCLF 2030” is coming to an end in June 2022. Time to look back on our accomplishments, draw conclusions, share our fabulous results with all stakeholders, and look forward to future initiatives for the benefit of the European TCLF sectors.

In this issue, you will find a report by CEC on our recent workshop related to the Network of Regions held on 31 May. The objective was to present regional best practices in addressing priorities and investments in education within the TCLF Pact for Skills.

EURATEX tells us about our final event, held in Brussels and online on the 16th of June, dedicated to the 8 multilingual MOOC training courses, the European Fashion Campus, the European Skills Strategy, and the Pact for Skills.

Finally, who better to share precious last words than our incredible community of partners! As a conclusion to the project, they talk about their experiences and already look to the future. To quote Alice Marcato from Politecnico Calzaturiero:

“A great group, a great work, great results.”

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.

A Network of EU Regions supporting TCLF education and lifelong learning.

Working together towards a TCLF Pact for Skills



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 mayor 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.

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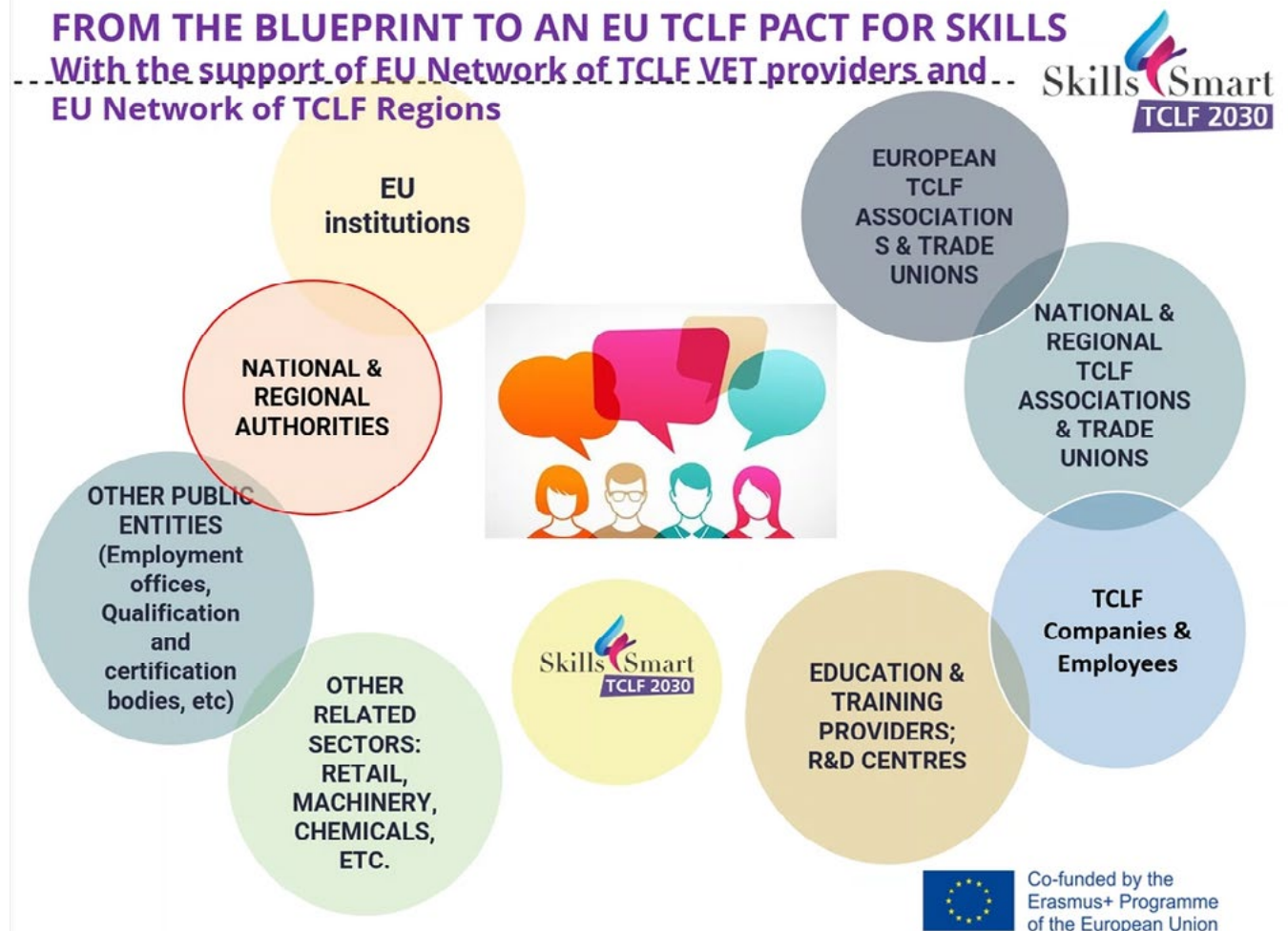


Working together towards a TCLF Pact for Skills

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, Łódzkie 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 to pfs@euratex.eu (the Blueprint email or the TCLF Pact for Skills). 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.



Final Conference

Brussels, 16th June 2022



Knitting together the future for the Textile Ecosystem

After four years and a half, the Blueprint Project “Skills4Smart TCLF 2030” which aimed to enhance the modernisation and competitiveness of the European TCLF sectors by developing a sustainable upskilling and reskilling strategy, has finally concluded. The Final Conference that took place last Thursday, 16th of June 2022, at the Renaissance Brussels Hotel and also streamed online, presented the outcomes of this ambitious project, highlighting the Sectoral Skills Strategy for the Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear released on the same week.

In the ‘Skills 4 Smart TCLF Industries 2030’ project, funded by the European Union’s ERASMUS+ programme under the Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills, the 22 project partners jointly conducted an in-depth analysis of the current situation in terms of employment and skills of TCLF sectors in the EU. As a result, the authors established a situational analysis of the current industry’s needs and challenges in terms of employment and skills and developed future scenarios and forecasts at the horizon of 2030. The result is a framework for building a solid Sectoral Skills Strategy grounded in facts and data and a simple step-by-step guide on how to move from analysis to action.

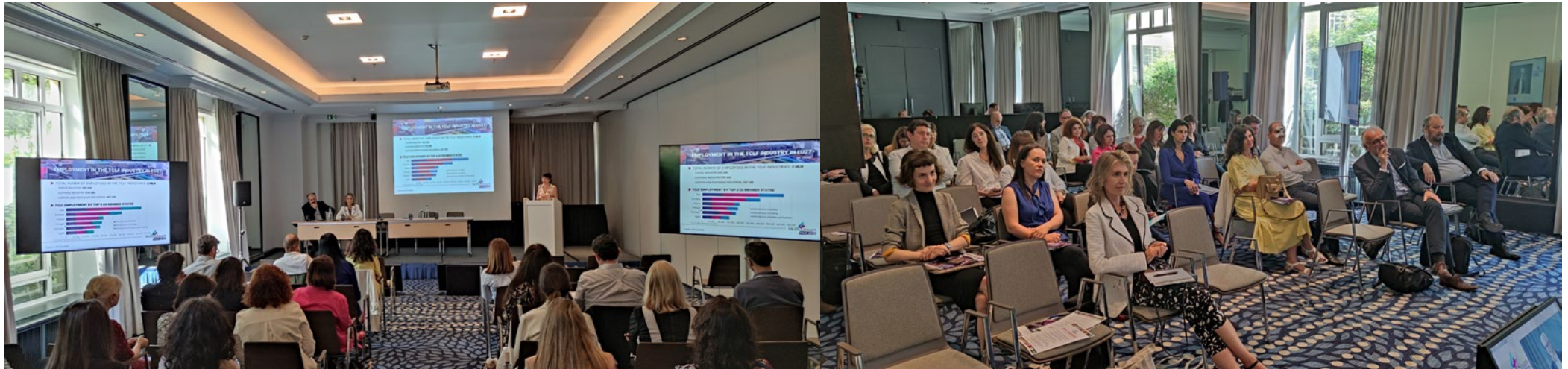
The Final Conference of the Skills4Smart TCLF project was attended by around 180 participants (out of which more than 120 followed it on streaming), including national and European industry stakeholders, including industry and policy representatives, partners of the project, as well as other important players in the area of skills and training and the TCLF sectors.

To know all about this event, make sure to read our latest [press release](#).

“The S4TCLF project is just the beginning”

Final Conference

Brussels, 16th June 2022



Project Partners' Testimonials



Iratxe Garcia-Bayona, EURATEX, European Textile & Clothing umbrella

Working as coordinator of such a vast and ambitious project has been an incredible challenge for me. However, it has also been a fantastic opportunity to learn from great professionals and witness people from different origins in Europe working together towards the same objectives. At the end of the day, the skills-related problems of the Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear industries are very similar all across Europe and clearly, looking for solutions together makes more sense than doing it from each one's little corner. Furthermore, I believe that the strong network we have created will remain alive through initiatives such as the new TCLF Pact for Skills, which demonstrates that our Skills4Smart TCLF project has only been the beginning of a marathon!



Gustavo Gonzalez-Quijano, COTANCE, European Leather umbrella

The Skills4Smart TCLF initiative marks a tipping point for the TCLF ecosystem. It has not only developed educational materials and tools that allow our companies to get ready for the challenges of the green and digital transition, but it has also set up the alliances, networks and mechanisms for structuring a continuous development and supply of skills in the ecosystem.

Carmen Arias, CEC, European Footwear umbrella

We are very proud of this project's achievements because it has set up the grounds for a sizeable public-private community of textile, clothing, leather and footwear stakeholders across Europe that will continue to collaborate. With different expertise and knowledge, we have achieved relevant results for our companies and, more importantly, for our workers, the main asset of our industries. From the EU Network of VET providers promoting excellence to the EU Network of TCLF regions supporting VET modernisation, we are now mobilised and committed to expanding further to the regional/local ecosystems. For example, ensuring TCLF skills' supply can rapidly and efficiently respond to the fast-changing companies' needs under the EU TCLF Pact for Skills. The work must go on!



Laurence Allois, UNITEX, France

I joined the Skills4Smart TCLF project at the end of 2019 on behalf of Unitex, replacing partner Opcalia. Despite the difficulty of joining a project that had already been running for 2 years, managing it on behalf of the 4 French TCLF sectors has been a great experience, rich in meetings and discoveries! The signature of the Pact for Skills by many French actors, the participation of the Auvergne Rhône Alpes Region in the network of Regions, and the interest shown by French companies for the MOOCs created on Iversity... all lead us to believe that the dynamics linked to the Skills4Smart TCLF project in France will continue beyond its closure.

Nele Maes & Michel Loncke, Cobot, Belgium

We want to thank all the partners for their excellent cooperation, especially the umbrellas. It was fascinating to get insights from the other regions/countries and not only from our sector (textile) but also from the different sectors, clothing, leather and footwear. For us, the most significant achievement is that we mapped the VET providers in Belgium and involved them in the project. We found it interesting to research the 8 profiles of the future and noticed that this is supported within Europe. It was intensive work to develop the MOOCs, but we are happy they are here. It is a success story that we managed to create and test these MOOCs with such an extensive partnership. It is nice to see the positive reactions to it.

We are also thrilled that many interested parties have created a Pact for Skills. We hope that we can follow up on its contents and that partnerships can be established. It would be great if subsidies from Europe could further shape this. We are also very hopeful about the network of regions. We have high expectations of being able to learn from each other and gain insights. Conclusion: the TCLF sectors are very lively and ambitious in Europe. There is a bright future for the companies active in these sectors. The focus should be on new employees' skills and current employees' training.



Rob Senden, IVOC-IREC, Belgium

The project has fulfilled its guiding function. The critical competence domains have been mapped and described. Experts from the business and training world, all over Europe, have endorsed our choices. We managed to switch from a static problem sketch to dynamic solutions in the form of training materials. Anyone who wants to commit or grow in our industry in the coming years now knows exactly what to expect.

Rosana Pérez Francés, INESCOP, Spain

This project has been long, but it has been worth it. We have worked on preparing materials, not only from a specific point of view of the sector but also considering that we are immersed in a global industrial environment. In this sense, we have not forgotten the transversal knowledge and competencies. Indeed, apart from specific sectoral content, we have developed, for example, content related to supply chain management or sustainability, a subject in high demand in all sectors at a global level. We have worked on promoting the sector's image, developed strategies thinking about the industry's future, and imagined possible future scenarios while going through a pandemic. Not only have we offered the best of ourselves to the industry, but all partners have also learned and enjoyed many experiences. We have been encouraged, and above all, we have done our best to contribute to improving our sector, and in particular, helping the great professionals who are currently working in it today and who will work in it in the future. We want to thank all our project partners and those who have contributed outside the partnership. Let's continue working for the sector!



Federico Brugnoli, Spin360, Italy

With the primary goal of reshaping the future of the TCLF industries, we, the 22 partners of the Skills4Smart TCLF project, have enhanced and updated sectoral skills and competencies, provided a new and forward-looking sectoral strategy, created new learning methods, launched customised tools to gather information, knowledge and courses across TLCF to boost its attractiveness... And that's not all! In addition, we have created a robust community of diverse public and private across committed to supporting skills development and employment opportunities at the EU level by promoting continuous cooperation and collaboration. But again, that's not all! Our journey has undoubtedly been intense and fruitful: we will continue working on this at the different levels to make our results sustainable over time for the benefit of our industries.

Desiree Scalia, CIAPE, Italy

We are delighted with our participation in the Skills4Smart TCLF project. Despite the impact of Covid-19, the project allowed us to foster our knowledge of the TCLF industry and meet relevant organisations and partners for new initiatives. A favourite moment was when we saw each other in person in Florence, after two years :)



Alice Marcato, Politecnico Calzaturiero, Italy

The Skills4Smart TCLF project allowed Politecnico Calzaturiero to grow, mature and develop new assets in many areas.

Starting from the extensive network of partners, many of whom were unknown at the start of the project, but fundamental, with which Politecnico interfaced, shared ideas, challenges, difficulties and successes. It was wonderful to count on such a large but close-knit group involved in the development of different activities.

The innovative approach was genuinely inspiring: continuous challenges that were faced with a constructive spirit, as powerfully demonstrated by the activities carried out and the results achieved, which do not stop with the closure of the project (see Network of Regions) and by the proposals made for the sustainability of the project, which want to give continuity to a truly important work for the future of TCLF.

And, last but not least: the tangible results achieved. A complex and long path that has allowed us to develop many exciting and innovative materials and contents. Valuable and compelling, precisely because they derive from a detailed analysis made with companies and VET providers, our first interlocutors in all our proposals, both training and R&D.

A great group, great work, great results.



Alessandro De Rosa – PIN Servizi didattici e scientifici per l'Università di Firenze

The Skills4Smart TCLF project has been an inspiration for boosting the education and training system in improving existing skills and training new skills for the TCLF sector. Through brainstorming with experts, survey, analysis, research and concrete actions, the project has designed a practical framework in which all the stakeholders of the TCLF Ecosystem can find support: from the design of strategies to the creation of new projects. In addition, the project provides many tools such as MOOCs, new curricula, surveys, research, collection of best practices for educational and training orientation and, last but not least, access to networking, knowledge and guidance to facilitate skills partnerships. Furthermore, the project methodology is an example of approaching the sector's challenges, having a comprehensive framework, and inviting people to think differently.

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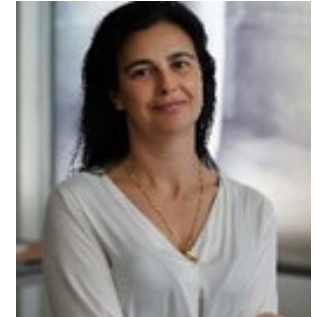


Alexandra Cardoso, CITEVE, Portugal

A journey full of dedication and commitment with results that will support the skills and employment challenges of TCLF industries. A perfect marriage between work and interpersonal relationships.

Rita Souto, CTCP, Portugal

The Skills4Smart TCLF project has been the most comprehensive skills-related project we've ever been involved in, from the field research to the definition of curricula, from the development of contents and the preparation of trainers/tutors to piloting. As a result, we built up a solid and differentiated network of players and a wide range of tools which constitute the basis of sustainable work for the nearest years toward an excelled and more competitive TCLF sectors.



Lodz University
of Technology

Lidia Smereka, Lodz University of Technology, Poland

Participation in the Skills4Smart TCLF project was an opportunity for the Lodz University of Technology to develop and promote TCLF among various stakeholders at the national and regional levels. It was also an excellent opportunity to increase the activity of our University in the international arena. In addition, the project created a network of vet providers involved in activities in the TCLF industry. We expect that soon, the developed relationships and contacts and the developed materials will further increase the awareness of the attractiveness of the TCLF industry.

Concepció Casas, Sílvia Sorolla and Anna Bacardit, Universidad de Lleida, Spain

A large European consortium with high-quality professionals, excellent coordination, and a great opportunity to work with different kinds of entities and learn from each other. A fantastic experience for the UdL!



Aura Mihai, Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iasi, Romania

The 8 MOOCs for the TCLF industries introduce new and innovative e-training/learning tools, methods, and practices adapted to online/blended training and industry-based learning. Hosted at the Skills4Smart academy at Iversity.org, they are freely accessible in 8x8 languages. Those training resources are consistent and aligned with the TCLF industries' training needs. 51 Units of Learning Outcomes were released and tested, 213 video lectures and 51 sets of exercises and assessments, and 639 questions in test quizzes, all in 8 languages, to facilitate the learning process with a solid connection to real-life situations in work-based learning.

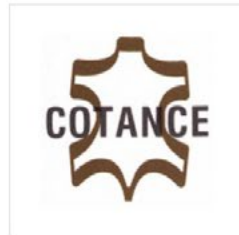


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Erasmus +

Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

Sectoral Skills Alliance for implementing a new strategic approach "Blueprint" to sectoral cooperation on skills (Key Action 2, Lot 3)

Project number: 591986-EPP-1-2017-1-BE-EPPKA2-SSA-B.

"The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union