



Science and Education for Society (SEFS) Working Group Meeting

## Towards a Union of Skills: what can regions expect?

Wednesday 25 June | 10.00 -11.30

Kindly hosted by

Welsh Higher Education Brussels - Welsh Government  
Tegid/Tywi Conference Room, 6th Floor, Wales House  
11 Rond-Point Schuman, 1040 Brussels

After concluding the Year of Skills in April 2024, the European Commission published in March 2025 **the Union of Skills communication** as one of the new initiatives for its first 100 days. This initiative aims to address Europe's needs for a radical change in ambition and action for all skill levels and for all types of training and education. With the Union of Skills, the EU will step up and reorient skills funding in the EU budget to ensure that it is better aligned with labour markets and more focused on sectors crucial for the twin transition.

This meeting, kindly hosted by the Welsh Higher Education Brussels - Welsh Government, will **inform the membership about the key objectives of the Union of Skills**, being (1) Build skills for quality jobs and lives through a strong educational foundation, with an inclusive lifelong learning approach, (2) Upskill and reskill an agile workforce mastering the digital and clean transition, notably those with lower and middle skills, (3) Circulate skills with the free movement of people across the EU, unlocking the single market's full potential and (4) Attract, develop and retain talent. Additionally, the event aims to provide **insights into the regional dimension of skills**, and ERRIN members will bring regional learnings to the discussion. The meeting will provide a unique opportunity to open the dialogue with the head of cabinet of Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on regional skills needs and offers members an opportunity to raise challenges and questions.

10:00	<b>Welcome and opening remarks</b> Delia Mitcan, co-leader of the SEFS Working Group
10:05	<b>Towards a Union of Skills</b> Mrs Alina-Stefania Ujupan, head of cabinet of Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
10:25	<b>The regional dimension of the Union of Skills: learnings and insights from ERRIN members</b> , followed by a Q&A moderated by Delia Mitcan, co-leader of the SEFS Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Learnings from Tuscany Region in Italy: Regional skills ecosystems and regional skills intelligence</b> by Miriana Bucalossi, head of Apprenticeship, Work-Based Learning and EU Project Management Team of Tuscany Region (online)</li><li>• <b>Learnings from Innlandet County (Oslo Region) in Norway: A regional ecosystem approach to implementing the Union of Skills in a rural border region</b>, by Vegard Herlyng, director of the Kongsvinger College Centre</li></ul>

<b>10:55</b>	<p><b>The regional dimension of the Union of Skills: insights and learnings from ERRIN members,</b> followed by a Q&amp;A moderated by Delia Mitcan, co-leader of the SEFS Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Learnings from Alentejo Region: skills demand and skills supply in a rural and sparsely populated region facing a talent development trap</b> by Paulo Jorge Silveira Ferreira, Pro-President of Portalegre Polytechnic University</li> <li>• <b>Learnings from Slovenia: Detecting Needs and Crafting Responses as a Widening Country</b> by dr. Ksenija Horvat Vidmar, Vice - Rector of University of Ljubljana</li> </ul>
<b>11:20</b>	<p><b>Final reflections and closing remarks</b> by Berwyn Davies, co-leader of the SEFS Working Group</p>
<b>11:30</b>	<p><b>End of the meeting</b></p>