

# EU YOUTH REPORT

## SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

Education and skills are essential for young people's prospects in life and in the labour market. Diverse skills are needed for innovation, competitiveness, and the green and digital transitions. Citizenship skills support democracy and empower young people to exercise their rights and responsibilities in society.

### Many young people complete formal education...

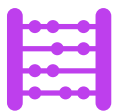
**4 in 10** young people (15-34) completed upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education



**4 in 10** young people (25-29) completed tertiary education

Source: Eurostat, Young people by educational attainment level, 2023

### ...but many struggle with basic skills



**30%**

of 15-year-olds have below basic skills in mathematics



**25%**

in reading



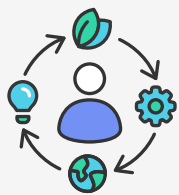
**25%**

in science

### ...and the share of high performers in mathematics and reading have declined.

Source: European Commission, EU comparative analysis of PISA 2022 results, 2024

### Green skills



**50%**

of young people (15-24) consider they have appropriate skills for the green transition.

Source: Eurobarometer Fairness perceptions of the green transition, 2023

### Digital skills



**1 in 4** young people (16-29) have low digital skills.

This figure increases to **1 in 3** for those with lower education.

Source: Eurostat: Individuals' level of digital skills, 2023

### Non-formal education

Skills are also developed outside of the traditional education system.

For example, youth activities, volunteering and sport all foster citizenship skills, teamwork, leadership, intercultural communication and resilience.



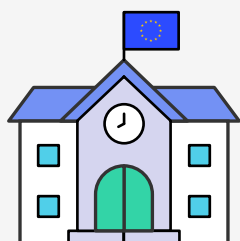
**12% of young people (15-29) participated in non-formal learning.**

Source: Eurostat, Participation rate in non-formal education and training (last 4 weeks)

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## EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The right to good education and training is a key principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Many EU initiatives strengthen education and training foundations, ensuring young people can develop relevant skills and engage in lifelong learning. Here are some examples.



### **European Education Area** builds high quality, inclusive and resilient education and training systems.

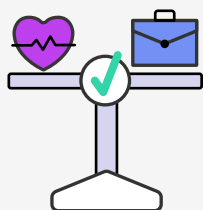
Higher Education Package, including a blueprint for a European degree

European Universities Alliances

Centres of Vocational Excellence

Jean Monnet Learning EU initiatives

Digital Education Action Plan, European Cybersecurity Skills Academy, Digital Europe Programme



### **EU Skills Agenda** strengthens skills and prospects for quality jobs and lives.

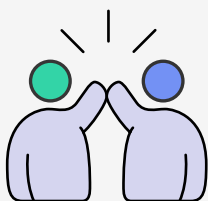
Youth Guarantee

European Alliance for Apprenticeships

ALMA - Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve

Quality traineeships

The **Union of Skills**, launched in March 2025, where the European Education Area meets the EU Skills Agenda, kicking off with new initiatives: the Action Plan on Basic Skills and the STEM Education Strategic Plan!



### **European Youth Work Agenda** equips young people with transversal skills through non-formal and informal learning.

Education and training of youth workers

4th European Youth Work Convention in May 2025 is set to advance quality, innovation and recognition of youth work

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



### **Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps** provide opportunities for young people to develop skills and support education and training systems.

Language skills, basic skills, STEM, civic engagement, EU values, cultural awareness, communication, leadership, adaptability, self-confidence...

Erasmus+ funds 65 European Universities alliances with more than 570 higher education institutions

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