Partnerships for Skills
Building Bridges Across Sectors

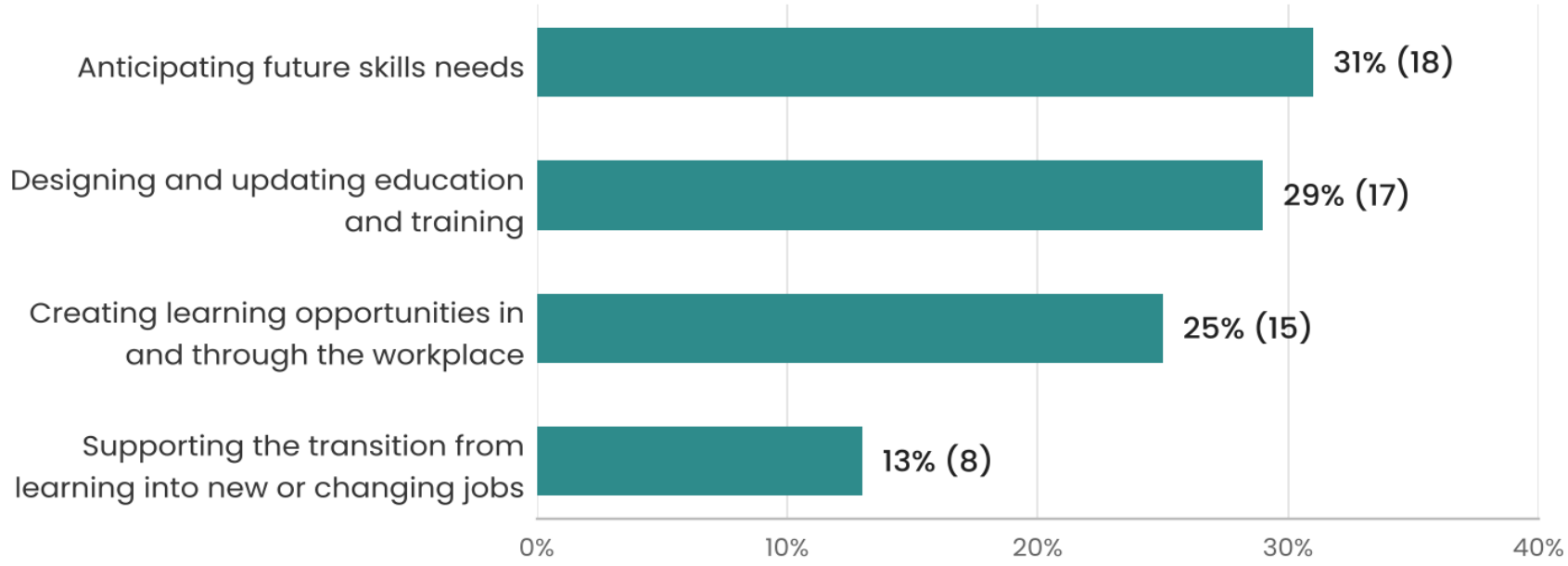
Community for Educational Innovation (CEI)

October 14, 2026

European Commission | CEI

CEI Poll

Poll 1: Where should cross-sector partnerships be strengthened most to support lifelong learning?



Note: Poll conducted through the Teams feature. 31 respondents made 58 selections; percentages show each option's share of all selections.

About

CEI

Community for Educational Innovation

Created by the Directorate General for Education, Youth Sport and Culture (DG EAC) of the European Commission.



1,600+
Members



100+
Countries



55%
Higher education
+ other stakeholders

Connects

Higher education, industry, public sector and civil society

Advances

Educational innovation and entrepreneurial mindsets across Europe

Synergies

HEInnovate and EHESO (European Higher Education Sector Observatory) Strategic Transformation Toolbox.

Thematic strands 2025-2026



2025 - I

Thematic Strand 1
Entrepreneurial Skills and Mindsets in Education



2025 - II

Thematic Strand 2
Bridging the Innovation Gap in Higher Education



2026 - I

Thematic Strand 3
Education for Green and Digital Innovation



2026 - II

Thematic Strand 4
Lifelong Learning for an Innovative Workforce

Report on Thematic Strand 1 available!

Report on Thematic Strand 2 available!

Report on Thematic Strand 3 coming soon!

Thematic strand 4

Lifelong Learning for an Innovative Workforce



Webinar topics:

- Creating Flexible Pathways for Innovation (Sept. 15)
- Partnerships for Skills – Building Bridges Across Sectors (Oct. 14)
- Empowering Learners for Workforce Transitions (Dec. 02)



Calls for good practices & polls

- Share your good practices on lifelong learning.
- Take our quick semester poll and share your insights.



Study visit

- Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo, Portugal (3-4, Nov. 2026).



Thematic report

- Summarises thematic strand activities.

Agenda

15:30	Welcome & introduction
15:40	**Intervention 1 –** Strengthening skills across Europe's workforce: the Pact for Skills and its partnerships. *Eva Revilla*
16:00	**Intervention 2 –** From skills needs to skills action: the Renewable Energy Skills Partnership experience. *Nathalie Richet*
16:20	CEI Poll
16:25	**Intervention 3 –** Preparing Students for Working Life: Building Future Competences through University–Industry Collaboration. *Nelly Narges Karimi*
16:55	Closing remarks

Objective

Explores how cross-sector partnerships can address skills needs and strengthen workforce development by connecting policy, education and training, and industry.

Key objectives

- Exploring how the Pact for Skills supports skills partnerships across Europe.
- Turning sectoral skills needs into upskilling and reskilling actions.
- Strengthening university–industry collaboration for future-oriented skills.



Eva Revilla

Team Leader for Skills for Competitiveness, European Commission

Presentation 1

Strengthening skills across Europe's workforce: the Pact for Skills and its partnerships

- Team Leader for Skills for Competitiveness at the European Commission (DG EMPL).
- Previous experience in innovation, business creation and development cooperation.
- Master's in Research in Macroeconomics, University of Limerick (Ireland).
- Bachelor's degrees in Business and Economics, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Spain).

#SocialRights
#PactforSkills

Partnerships

Pact for Skills



What is the Pact for Skills?

Industrial ambitions need skilled people.

Launched in **2020** under the European Skills Agenda

A **commitment-based**, **multi-stakeholder** platform, focused on **long-term mobilisation to upskill and reskill people of working age**.

Organisations work together through **market-driven Large-Scale Skills Partnerships**, as well as Regional Skills Partnerships and other partnerships.

Partnerships are set up through a **Commission-supported partnership agreement** covering skills priorities, commitments, a work plan and monitoring.

No dedicated EU funding for the Pact itself: participants must apply through open calls to support their activities.

The Commission provides **support services**.

European Commission

The Union of Skills set out the strategic direction for the Pact for Skills

Reinforcing Large-Scale Partnerships	• Alignment with the Competitiveness Compass, Clean Industrial Deal, and Preparedness Union Strategy
Reduce fragmentation across skills initiatives	• EU Skills Academies, European Alliance for Apprenticeships, Centres of Vocational Excellence and European University Alliances
Enhancing Cross-Sectoral Synergies	• Facilitating knowledge and resource sharing along the value chain
Increase ambition by 2023	• Pledge to upskill 25 million workers by 2030, members to at least double their commitments

Pact's partnerships: key numbers

20 Large-Scale Skills Partnerships in EU strategic sectors

48 Regional Skills Partnerships

On track to double commitments for 2030

Baseline:

"Pact members have pledged to upskill **25 million** workers by 2030".

Currently:

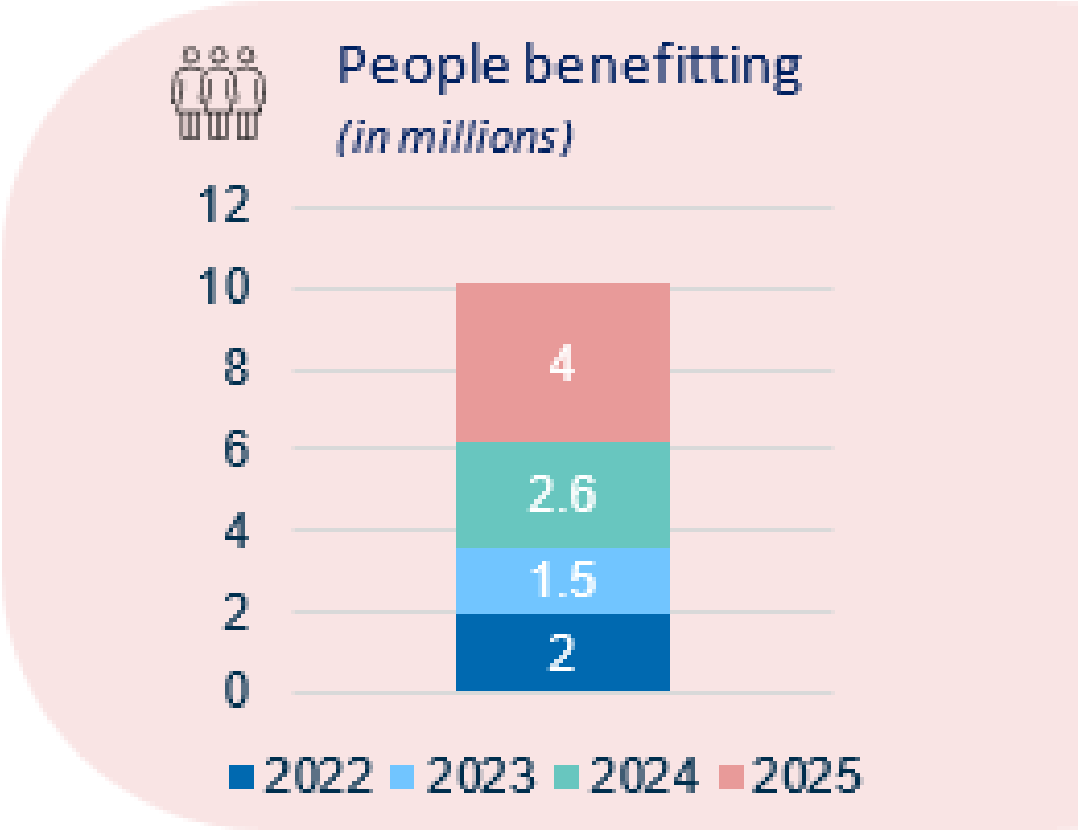
16 Large-scale Skills Partnerships have committed to upskilling and reskilling **35.5 million** people by 2030 — or an average of 28% of their workforce

Source: Annual Survey Report 2025

European Commission

Strong expansion

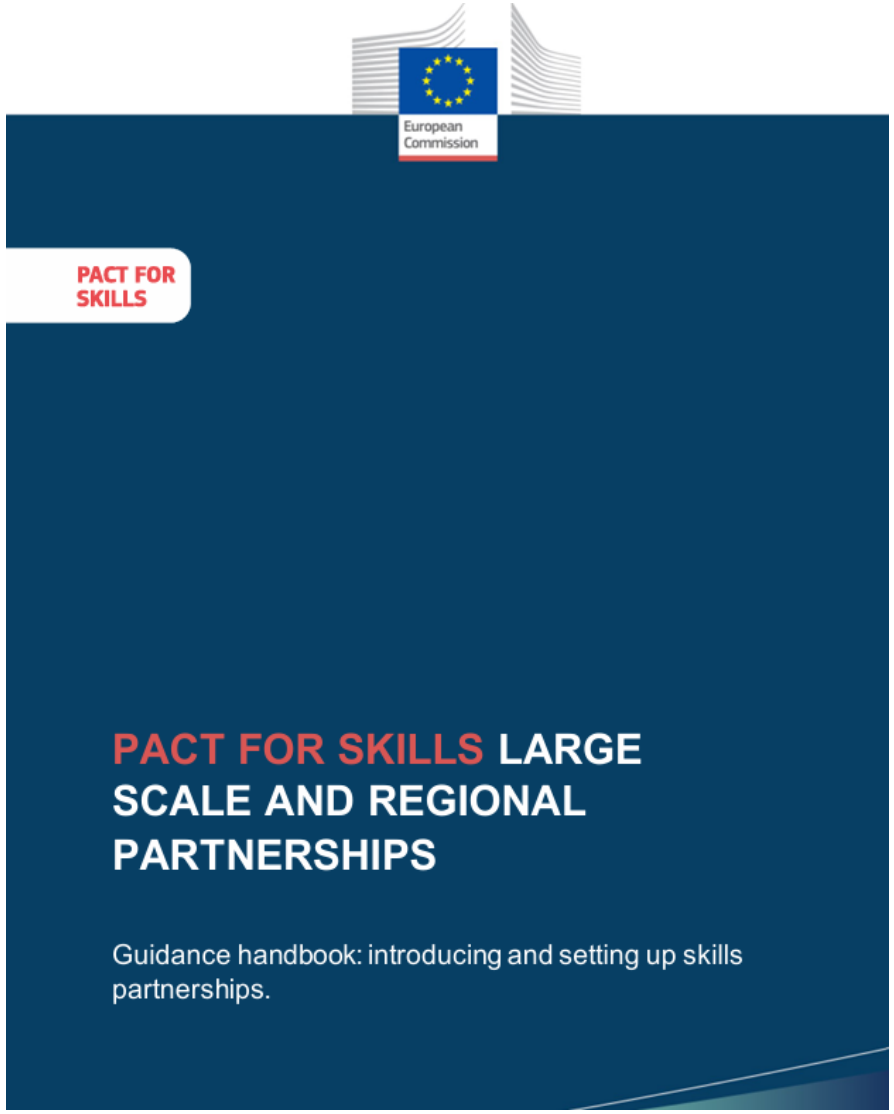
- **4000 members**
- **10 million people benefited** (3.9 million in 2025)
- **€2 billion was invested** (€1.02 billion in 2025)
- **412,100 stakeholders joined forces** (277,600 in 2025)
- **142,000 training courses were updated or developed** (46,500 in 2025)



Source: [Annual Survey Report 2025]

European Commission

How to set up a partnership



An engaged community of members

A partnerships agreement

Ambitious yet realistic commitments

A coordinating or steering group to lead the activities

A work plan

A strong link between sectoral and regional dimensions

A clear monitoring framework

European Commission

Clean transition and industrial decarbonisation

- **Automotive**
- **Shipbuilding and Maritime**
- **Construction**
- **Digitalisation of the Energy System**
- **Offshore Renewable Energy**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Energy Intensive Industries**

- European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN) Skills Partnership
- RSP for the Beara Peninsula
- RSP for NetZero Technologies in Lower Saxony
- RSP for Blue Skills in EUSAIR
- RSP for North Sea Offshore Renewable Energy
- **RSPs belonging to the Automotive LSP (1)**

Health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy

- **Agri-food**
- **European Health Industry**
- **Health**
- **Long-term Care**

- ProMIS RSP
- ZainLab RSP
- RSPs belonging to the Agri-food LSP (2)

Digital leadership

- **Digital**
- **Microelectronics**

- Madrid Oeste Tecnologico (MOT) RSP
- 4Gune RSP
- RSPf or Advancing Technology & Digital Skills in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area
- RSP for Digital & Green Transitions in Flanders
- **RSPs belonging to the Digital LSP (1)**

Resilience & security, defence industry & space

- **Aerospace and Defence**
- **Space Data, Services and Applications**

- RISE-ASD RSP

Consumer, Social and Service-oriented Industries

- **Creative and Cultural industries**
- **Proximity and Social Economy**
- **Retail**
- **Textile, clothing, leather and footwear industries (TCLF)**
- **Tourism**

- KSIGune RSP
- RSP for the Western Balkans
- RSP for the Skåne Region
- RSP for Catalysing CCI Growth in Southern Italy
- RSP for CCI in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area
- RSP for Sports in the Hauts-de-France Region
- RSP for Region Hamburg
- **RSPs belonging to the P&SE sector (1)**
- **RSPs belonging to the TCLF sector (14)**

Horizontal Partnerships

- RSP for the Lombardy Region
- RSP for Lifelong Learning Mobility (EARLALL)
- RSP for Bari City & Metropolitan Area
- RSP for the EURADRIA Region
- RSP for the twin transition of the Thessaly Region (TheSkills)
- RSP for Latgale
- RSP for Eastern Lithuania
- Pan-European RSP for Excellence in Adult Education (PEPEAE)
- RSP for a Twin Transition in Central Macedonia
- RSP for Micro-Credentials
- EUREGIO RSP



Streamlined Pact for Skills: Novelties

1. Common support services for the Pact for Skills and the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA)
2. Alignment of the Pact for Skills Charter with the Competitiveness Compass
3. Expansion of the options for pledges: apprenticeships, reskilling, upskilling, and lifelong learning investments
4. Linking Pact Commitments to Financial Support via Erasmus + Blueprint Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills
5. Pact's Large-Scale Skills Partnerships to feed data to the EU Skills Intelligence Observatory
6. Engaging with Large-Scale Skills Partnerships

European Commission

20
Large-Scale Skills Partnerships

EU-wide, commitment-driven collaboration of major players in industrial ecosystems and sectors to upskill and reskill workforce

48
Regional Skills Partnerships

Collaboration to address local skills challenges within specific geographic areas

European Alliance of Apprenticeship

Multi-stakeholder platform to strengthen quality, mobility, offer and image of apprenticeships

Pact for Skills – The Architecture

Erasmus+ Blueprint Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills

Catalyst of EU public-private cooperation in strategic sectors to up & reskill workforce

Erasmus+ Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs)

Innovating VET systems through networks of local and regional VET stakeholders

VET Business Partnerships
(NEW under ECF)

Deployment of modern VET on the ground linked to companies

EU Skills Academies

Rapid deployment of learning programmes to address urgent skills gaps in strategic sectors

Erasmus+ European University Alliances

Long-term collaboration between universities, seamless mobility, joint degrees, high-quality credentials



Dynamic exchange with the **future EU Skills Intelligence Observatory** for labour market insights

https://pact-for-skills.ec.europa.eu/index_en

n Union How do you know?

European Commission

EN

Pact for Skills

Home | About the Pact for Skills | Community resources | Stakeholders and business | Workers and learners | Press and Multipliers

European Commission > Pact for Skills





https://ec.europa.eu/social/PactforSkills



Nathalie Richet

Senior Manager, EUREC

Presentation 2

From skills needs to skills action: The renewable energy skills partnership experience

- Senior Manager at EUREC (Association of European Renewable Energy Research Centres), specialising in renewable energy skills, higher education and workforce development.
- Over 15 years of experience in European education and skills initiatives.
- Co-coordinator of the Large-Scale Partnership on Renewable Energy Skills.
- Lead Independent Expert of the SET Plan Task Force on Skills.
- Oversees EUREC's European Master programmes, delivered by 9 European universities.
- Focuses on skills intelligence, educational innovation, gender issues and EU cooperation to support the green transition.

RESkill 4NetZero

From skills needs to skills action: the Renewable Energy Skills Partnership experience







14 October 2026

Co-funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement n°101186624. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Table of Contents

01

Our partnership genesis

02

From needs to action

03

A bridge between labour-market language and learning language

04

Lessons and takeaways



Large Scale Partnership on Renewable Energy Skills

Purpose: Address shared renewable energy skills challenges preventing deployment of technologies and preventing achievement of EU targets.

Members: 26 organisations representing complementary parts of the ecosystem.

Role: Connect skills intelligence, shared priorities and collective action.

2022 to 2024 – From shared concern to a sector partnership



Where it all started

- **Several months of discussions between DG ENER and several Brussels-based associations –** do we share the same issue?

Shared concern → Find the right partners → Organise collaboration → Commit to collective action

- **Skills challenges are not owned by one stakeholder:** skills challenges are shared but information and responsibilities are fragmented. No single actor can see the whole picture

- **Shared coordination and working groups**

- **Our declaration:** turning fragmented knowledge into collective action

First year of work

- Build a shared understanding of skills needs.
- Establish the partnership's visibility and credibility.
- Develop a Blueprint proposal to support practical action and ambitions



2024 -Turning partnership priorities into action- RESkill4NetZero





RESkill4NetZero

RESkill4NetZero is an Erasmus+ Blueprint project supporting the Renewable Energy Skills Partnership by translating sector skills needs into skills intelligence, a skills strategy, training resources and a certification framework.

It supports the RE Skills Partnership

Our partners

reskill4net-zero.eu

@reskill4netzero

ACTIONS

UNDERSTAND
Skills needs analysis and an evolving skills strategy for a fast-moving sector

DEVELOP
Curriculum, modular learning units and certification framework

TEST & IMPROVE
Pilot training, feedback and adaptation ***Don't design the perfect solution; test it !***

RESULTS Some interesting results on skills needs / skills strategy /curriculum /certifications are already available here: https://reskill4net-zero.eu/results/

The RESkill Alliance

A successful pilot only creates value if the wider ecosystem can take it forward - project is not the destination. Partnerships can help embed, replicate and scale solutions beyond project funding

The European Renewable Energy Skills Alliance is an action-oriented community that brings together partners who work on the same or similar challenges with the aim of tackling the skills shortage in the renewable energy sector.

Reinforces the RE Partnership – easier to join and open to current projects



RESP as a bridge



The Skills Partnerships: bridges between different languages

- Industry may identify a need — but that is not yet a training solution

- The partnership also helps the energy-sector and skills communities understand each other –*advocacy working group*

Skills need

What does industry need?

Competences

What must people be able to do?

Learning outcomes

What should learners achieve?

Training

How will they learn it?

Assessment & credentials

How will learning be demonstrated?

EU Blueprint – making it work easily everywhere

Support replication and wider use of the training approach.

- Reusable resources and tools.
- Adaptation to different sectoral and national contexts.
- Partnerships and networks that support dissemination and adoption.

RESkill 4NetZero

Lessons learned for a successful partnership

- Start with a real shared problem
- Bring complementary knowledge
- Build translation mechanisms
- Treat pilots as learning laboratories
- Design for scale from the beginning

Stay tuned!

RESkill 4NetZero



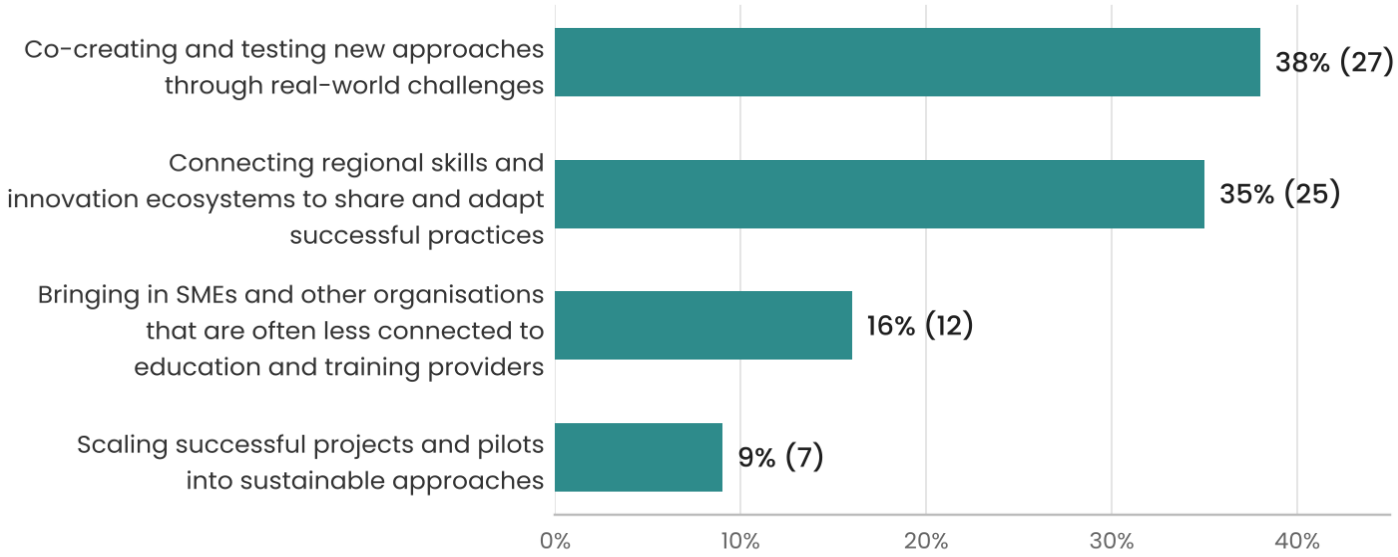
Thank you!

Nathalie Richet
Senior Master Programmes Manager
EUREC

Contact
+32 (02) 318 40 52
richet@eurec.be

CEI Poll

Poll 2: How can cross-sector partnerships best support innovation in education and training?



Note: Poll conducted through the Teams feature. 42 respondents could select up to two options, making 71 selections; percentages show each option's share of all selections.



Nelly Narges Karimi

Program Leader, University of Stavanger

Presentation 3

Preparing students for working Life: Building future competences through university–industry collaboration

- Programme Leader at the University of Stavanger, Norway.
- Educational background in Leadership and Sustainability (Norway) and Entrepreneurship (UC Berkeley).
- Professional experience across industry and academia.
- Leads the InGenious Programme, connecting university education with real-world industry challenges.
- Develops university–industry partnerships through mentoring, industry expertise and collaborative learning.
- Focuses on strengthening the relevance of higher education and developing students' future-oriented competences.

Preparing Students for Working Life

University of Stavanger

Building Future Competences through University–Industry Collaboration

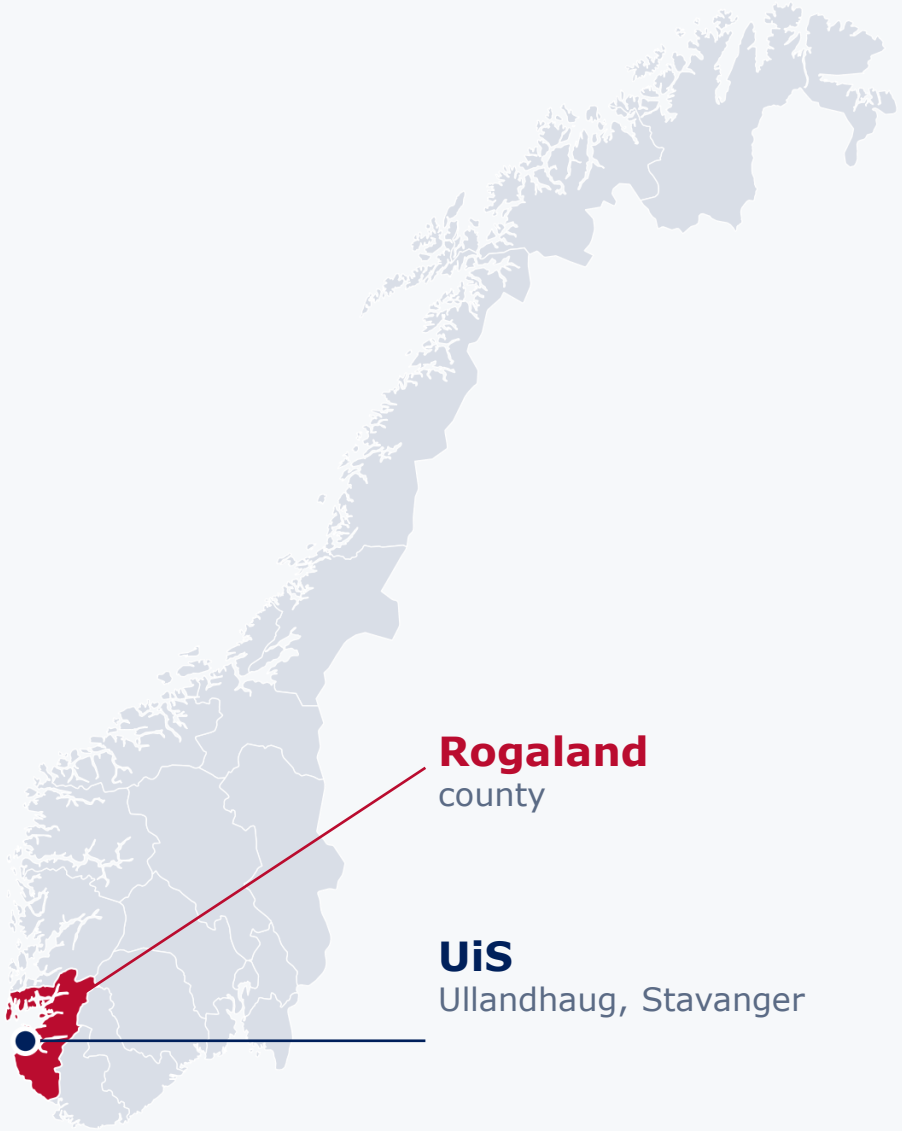


Nelly Narges Karimi

Program Leader, University of Stavanger

14 October 2026

University of Stavanger



Norway

Capital: Oslo · Rogaland seat: Stavanger

5.64 M
Norway population

509,858
Rogaland population

9%
Rogaland's share

University of Stavanger (UiS)

- University since 2005, roots back to 1969
- 13,000+ students across 6 faculties
- Campuses at Ullandhaug and Bjergsted

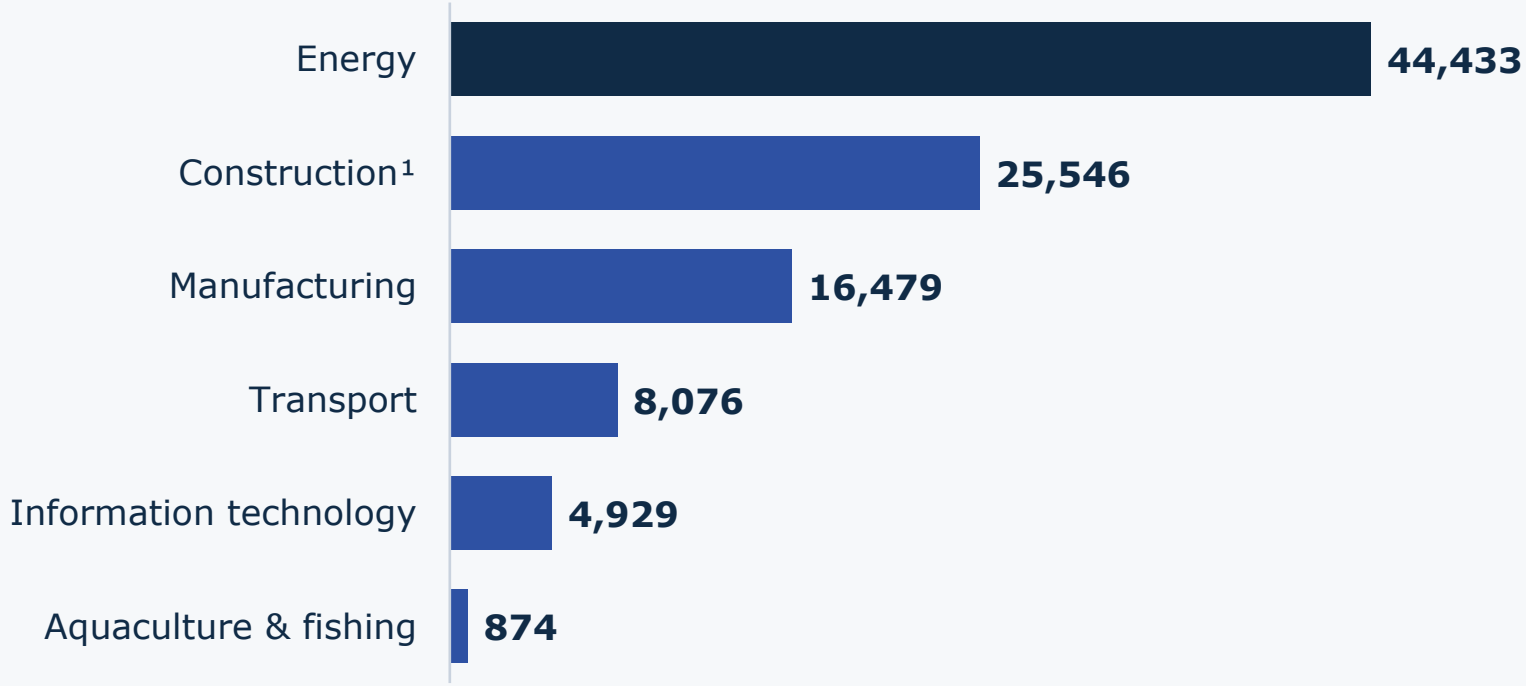
Sources: SSB (population, 1 July 2026) · uis.no · Store norske leksikon · Map: Natural Earth

Stavanger region: industry in numbers

176,274
reported employees

26,554
companies

Employees in selected sectors, 2024



Region: Chamber coverage area, including Ryfylke, Nord-Jæren, Jæren and Dalane.

Reporting-location basis, not a count of local jobs. Public administration excluded.

¹ Includes property sales/development. Selected sectors do not sum to the regional total.

Source: Næringsforeningen i Stavanger-regionen, Økonomisk Rapport 2025, pp. 2–3, 8, 10, 12, 20.

InGenious Program at the University of Stavanger

Spring 2020 to spring 2026

900	35	65	18
students	**nationalities**	**projects**	**specialisations**







Source: UiS InGenious program page, updated 20 July 2026

How the collaboration happens



Internal engagement

Align and engage educators and courses

External engagement

Connect external and internal partners with practical learning opportunities

Follow-up

Gather feedback and plan the next collaborations

Shared educational opportunities

University of Stavanger

InGenious connects people and translates their needs into educational offers

EDUCATORS

Attractive, relevant educational offerings

Learning linked to professional practice



STUDENTS

Connections to the world of work
Access to future employers
Skills and career opportunities



EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Access to emerging talent
Fresh perspectives on real-world challenges
A workforce with relevant competencies



InGenious

Connector and catalyst

Understand needs. Align expectations. Co-design education.



Co-create educational offer and experiences

Relevant for educators. Meaningful for students. Valuable for external partners.



Competences students can practise

Investigating a real case

OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTISE

Problem framing and critical thinking

Working in student teams

OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTISE

Collaboration and responsibility

Dialogue with professionals

OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTISE

Communication and asking good questions

Considering sustainability

OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTISE

Judgement about impacts and trade-offs

University of Stavanger

Science and Industry Day

A meeting place for new collaboration opportunities

Connecting business with education

MEET

Businesses and external stakeholders meet educators to explore collaboration through the university's courses and study programs.

GROW

Shared interests can develop into student projects, contributions to teaching and lasting partnerships.

THEMATIC EDITIONS

- **Energy**
- **Societal security, preparedness and resilience**
- **Innovation, strategy and leadership**

University of Stavanger

Thematic summer school

Focused learning around a shared industry challenge

Aqua-Tech

Skill Accelerator School

5 days

Aquaculture and technology

People

Students, researchers and industry learn together

Practice

Lectures and workshops connect knowledge and skills with industry

Connections

Networking creates opportunities for further collaboration

An intensive setting for university–industry knowledge exchange

University of Stavanger

Challenges in university–industry collaboration

What can make university–industry partnerships difficult

Different priorities

Academic goals and commercial needs can pull in different directions.

Time and capacity

Teaching cycles, business deadlines and limited staff time are hard to align.

Finding the right partners

Relevant expertise and company needs are not always visible to each other.

IP and confidentiality

Ownership, data access and publication rights can complicate agreements.

Incentives and resources

Engagement needs recognition, funding and dedicated coordination.

Continuity and trust

Partnerships can depend on individuals and lose momentum after a project.

Opportunities through collaboration

What university–industry partnerships can make possible

Innovation

Combine research and industry insight to develop new products and services.

Joint R&D

Use complementary expertise and facilities to develop and test solutions.

Research projects

Turn shared questions into proposals, research partnerships and PhD projects.

Entrepreneurship & spin-offs

Create ventures and explore routes to commercialise research outcomes.

Student entrepreneurship

Explore business ideas with industry mentors, feedback and potential users.

Skills and talent

Connect learning with working life and build relationships with employers.

University of Stavanger

Ways to Get Involved

An invitation to everyone in the university–industry community

Students

Take an active role

Join projects that connect you with industry. Explore working life and meet potential future employers.

Educators

Stay open and flexible

Explore the partnerships your university offers. Work with industry to refresh your courses and make learning relevant and engaging.

University leaders & administrators

Make lasting partnerships possible

Open doors and provide the time, support and structures that help collaboration grow beyond individual projects.

Industry partners

Invest in the relationship

Bring your challenges, expertise and time. Explore how collaboration can support innovation, research and future talent.

University of Stavanger

Collaboration is an investment in the future, not a cost

Let’s connect:

Nelly Narges Karimi, nelly.karimi@uis.no

Program Leader, University of Stavanger

Upcoming activities

November 3	December 2	Open call
CEI Study Visit 2026-II 15 selected participants. Closed applications.	**Webinar Empowering Learners for Workforce Transitions**	**Good practices call** Concrete approaches that strengthen lifelong learning

Thank you!

CEI

cei@veriangroup.com

European Commission