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EURATEX (Belgium)European Footwear
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Description

The *TCLF SkillBridge project* aims to fulfill the commitments of the EU Pact for Skills launched by the European Commission in 2020 as the first flagship action of the European Skills Agenda with the aim to have at least 60% of adults participating in training every year by 2030. This Pact's initiative is expected to reinforce the competitiveness of 14 critical ecosystems, including the textile ecosystem (Textile, Clothing, Leather and Footwear TCLF), within the EU's industrial strategy by investing in lifelong learning of workers.

The *SkillBridge* initiative focuses on fostering regional skills partnerships in the TCLF industries, bringing together diverse stakeholders from industry, education, and public sectors. In coordination and to complement the work done in this field in the Erasmus+ Blueprint *METASKILLS4TCLF* and *AEQUALIS4TCLF* projects, the objective is to ensure that TCLF companies count with qualified and skilled workers that respond to companies' needs from a bottom-up approach starting at the regional level and identifying the specific needs of the geographic industrial landscape. By doing so, *SkillBridge* not only expects to remedy current skill shortages and demographic imbalances, but also to anticipate future industry needs, particularly those arising from the green and digital transitions. It seeks to cultivate a sustainable community of stakeholders capable of driving the TCLF industries towards resilience, competitiveness, and innovation.

The project is positioned as a vital bridge between past efforts and future aspirations to address skills needs at local and regional level where the TCLF companies are present.

Objectives

- To establish and support a network of regional stakeholders' skills' partnerships, which can collaboratively work towards common goals.
- To monitor the actions and commitments of each regional partnership in order to progress towards the industries' green and digital transformation.
- To facilitate community exchanges and knowledge sharing through cross-regional exchanges, case studies, and success stories.
- To support SMEs in upskilling and reskilling their workforce.

Expected Outcomes

- Resources containing materials designed to guide regions step-by-step through the process of forming regional/local skills partnerships, as well as offering best practices, methodologies, and strategies to help regions develop robust plans that ensure long-term success, financial stability, and the visibility of their partnerships.
- Support for initiatives assisting SMEs with high-quality skill-development services.
- Resources detailing the successful integration, set-up, and effectiveness of the European Commission's Transition Pathway Stakeholder Collaboration Platform.

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