



Newsletter No. 5

February-March 2023

Dear reader,

Our Team welcomes you back to the ECEG's monthly newsletter! Our monthly rendez-vous when we share the ECEG's and its members & partners' activities, as well as provide insights on the latest developments in the EU institutions.

In this brand-new issue, you will find out more about our participation in the Tripartite Social Summit, the Swedish Presidency's high-level Educational Conference in Stockholm, the Conference on Climate Neutrality in Rome with our Social Partner, industriAll European Trade Union, the publication of a two-year research project on digital skills needs... and much more!

Enjoy the reading!

ECEG's Meetings

Final Conference of the EU Social Partners' project "On the Road to Climate Neutrality 2050" 8 March 2023, Rome



On **08 March**, ECEG and [industriAll](#) [European Trade Union](#) held their final conference of the joint EU-funded project "**On the Road to Climate Neutrality 2050**".

The event brought together representatives from employers' associations, companies and trade unions. We discussed the **key findings of the two-years project**, including the **toolbox** of best practice examples on

transition towards green economy developed by the project's steering group during the three workshops.

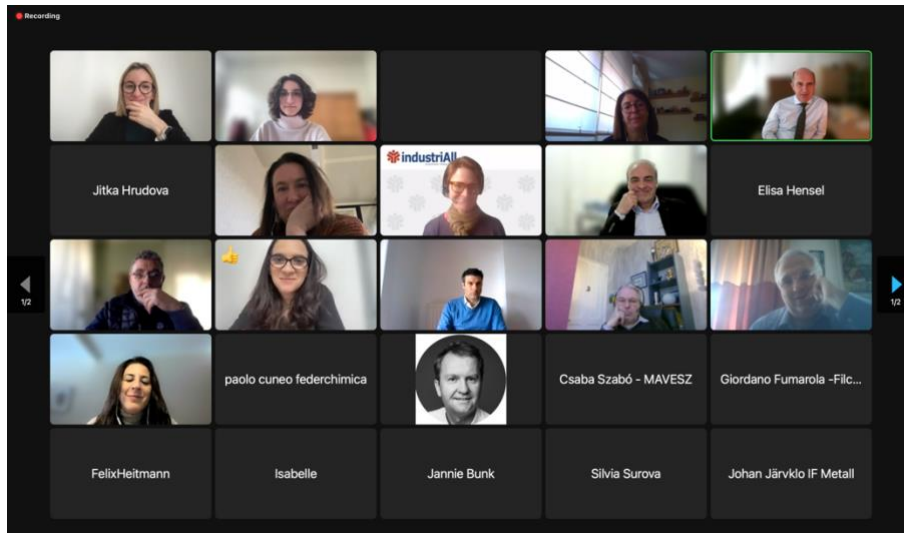
Moreover, attention was also paid to:

- The political framework and support for the green transition;
- Skills roadmaps;
- Organisations' activities, opportunities and challenges, and
- Regional examples.

[Report](#)

[Press release](#)

ECEG - industriAll European Trade Union SSDC meeting 13 March 2023



On **13 March**, EU Social Partners held their **Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee meeting** online, which was co-chaired by Koen Laenens (ECEG) and Dimitra Penidis (industriAll Europe).

The discussion focused on the following topics:

- **Communication** and the Proposal for a **Council Recommendation** on strengthening Social Dialogue in the EU;
- **EU Works Council Directive**, with the intervention of **MEP Dennis Radtke** (EPP, Germany);
- Update on the High-Level Round Table on the **Chemical Strategy for Sustainability**;
- Presentation of the revision of the general **pharmaceutical legislation** by Antonios **Rodiadis** from DG SANTE (European Commission), and
- Discussion on Due diligence practices in Belgium.

The next meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee will take place on **06 June** in **Brussels**.

Tripartite Social Summit

22 March 2023, Brussels



ECEG joined the bi-annual TSS which brought together the presidents of the European Commission, European Council, and the EU's presidency's leadership, currently Sweden with the EU-level cross-sectoral social partners. Our association was part of the **employers' delegation** led by BusinessEurope.

In its speech, ECEG's president, **Jonas Hagelqvist** asked to:

- Ease the regulatory burden – in line with BusinessEurope's "[Call on competitive and regulatory breathing space](#)" issued on 08 March;
- Simplify environmental permitting procedures, and
- Reduce levies and taxes on energy.

On social and skills dimensions, ECEG's president:

- Presented the current statistics on the **lack of skilled workforce** in our sector and requested to simplify and speed up the adoption of legislative frameworks to allow skilled workforce migration, and
- Asked to adopt an **EU wide strategy on STEM**.

Our takeaways from the EU's leadership:

- **Labour migration** is of an utmost importance;
- **Competitiveness** is a major priority with a state aid as a useful tool;
- The EU must continue to be a place of **investments**, and
- Single market should not deal with more red tape.



High-level Education Conference
“Skills for a Green transition - for a competitive Europe”
23 March 2023, Stockholm



On **23 March**, ECEG participated in the high-level educational conference “[Skills for a Green transition - for a competitive Europe](#)”, organised by the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



ECEG's Policy Executive, **Eleonora Isopo** took part at the first panel dedicated to **challenges and possibilities of skills transformation**, together with representatives of trade unions, students & universities across the EU, alongside Swedish employers.

In her contribution, Eleonora highlighted the need for a more comprehensive **EU STEM Strategy and the urgency to attract more young people to STEM disciplines** in order to succeed in the green transition. Every year, only one in five people in Europe graduates from STEM tertiary education, which is less than two million. If this issue is not adequately addressed, the chemical sector risks to run an 11% labour shortage in 2030, all related to STEM disciplines. To tackle this problem, she suggested that the EU:

- Supports **EU-wide consortia**, which bring together Social Partners, education providers and public authorities, such as the Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation;
- Funds **re-/up-skilling activities** related to careers in STEM, and
- Carries on initiatives, such as the **European Year of Skills**.

The event also presented, amongst others:

- Reflections from the European Commission;
- Erasmus+ projects examples, such as *SkillMill* and *ALBATTIS*;
- Possibilities of up-/re-skilling on national level.

ECEG's Steering Committee

24 March, Brussels



During the ECEG's Steering Committee meeting, members:

- exchanged on the current **state of play** in their respective countries, specifically the latest developments on the collective bargaining negotiations.
- shared their views on the **EU social affairs**, most specifically on the recently issued certain aspects of the organisation of working time.
- exchanged on **working-time flexibility**, including the currently circulated ideas on 4-day working week.

Cefic's Director Climate Change Transformation, **Florie Gonsolin** presented the [Transition Pathways for the chemical industry](#) alongside the co-implementation steps and the KPIs for 2023 calendar year.



ECEG's Activities

Joint Employers' Letter on the draft motion for a resolution on strengthening Social Dialogue

ECEG, jointly with 7 other European sectoral employers, signed a joint letter inviting the Employment committee of the European Parliament to consider a list of key messages and recommendations for the draft [Motion for Resolution on Strengthening Social Dialogue](#), issued on **17 February**.



[Read more](#)

ECEG - industriAll European Trade Union Joint statement on the impact of energy crisis on the EU chemical industry

On **02 March**, European Chemical Social Partners issued a joint statement on the **impact of the energy crisis on the EU chemical industry**. Social partners, amongst others:

1. Asked to mobilise all remaining available resources to provide financial stress relief for industry in need, such as a SURE-like EU solidarity mechanism and/or remaining funds from the NEXT Generation EU recovery package with social conditionality in place.
2. Requested to provide access to financing mechanisms, especially for SMEs, to prevent the further erosion of industrial value chains in Europe.
3. Expressed their hope that the Green Deal Industrial Plan can be developed to steward the European industry through these turbulent times.

[Read more](#)

Social Partners' project results

“Identifying and Meeting Digital Skills Needs in the European Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Rubber and Plastics Industry”

ECEG, [Ledarna](#) (Swedish Federation of managerial staff in the chemical industry), and [FECCIA](#) (European Federation of Managerial Staff in the Chemical and Allied Industries) recently published the **results of a two-year EU funded project**, entitled **“Identifying and Meeting Digital Skills Needs in the European Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Rubber, and Plastics Industry”**.

Our objectives were to **identify the crucial digital skills** for the blue and white collar workers as well as managers in the sectors we represent **to meet the challenges of the digital transformation**.

The results of the project include the following documents:

- An **in-depth research**, conducted by the [IBE Institute](#) on “*Digital Skills Needs in the European chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber, and plastics industry*”;
- **Four curricula framework on digital skills** for workers, employers, managers and academia, respectively, in **six different languages** (English, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Hungarian), and
- A **supporting document to the curricula framework**, containing contributions from employers, workers and managers, collected during a series of workshops in 2022.

Survey

Report

- Curricula Framework for Academia and Vocational Training Institutes: [\[EN\]](#), [\[DE\]](#), [\[ES\]](#), [\[FR\]](#), [\[HR\]](#), [\[IT\]](#)
- Curricula Framework for Employers: [\[EN\]](#), [\[DE\]](#), [\[ES\]](#), [\[FR\]](#), [\[HR\]](#), [\[IT\]](#)
- Curricula Framework for Managers: [\[EN\]](#), [\[DE\]](#), [\[ES\]](#), [\[FR\]](#), [\[HR\]](#), [\[IT\]](#)
- Curricula Framework for VET Courses for Workers: [\[EN\]](#), [\[DE\]](#), [\[ES\]](#), [\[FR\]](#), [\[HR\]](#), [\[IT\]](#)



Institutions

#EuropeanYearOfSkills

As announced by Commission's President Ursula von der Leyen in her State of the Union (September 2022), 2023 will be the [European Year of Skills](#) (EYS), meaning a unique opportunity to push forward a skills revolution in Europe, making the upskilling and reskilling of all working-age adults the norm.

The programme of the Year will include a wide range of activities and will aim to connect the dots between initiatives and actions at EU, national, regional, and local levels. To this end, Member States have also been invited to appoint a **national coordinator**, responsible for representing a government-wide view, coordinating activities and stakeholders at national and regional levels, and promoting EU level activities on the European Year of Skills. All the skills-related activities can be found via the **interactive 'Events Map'**. To organise events on skills development in the framework of the EYS, fill in the [online form](#).

Following the interinstitutional agreement, the official start of the EYS has been set for **EYS Festival** on **09 May 2023**, and it will last for 12 months until 08 May 2024.



Next meetings

- **9 May 2023**, Online
ECEG's Rollout Workshop "*How to address the labour shortage issue with the right skills in the European chemical sector*"
- **05 June 2023**, Brussels
WG Education & LLL meeting
- **06 June 2023**, Brussels
SSDC Meeting, Expert Group meeting 2
- **02-06 October 2023**, Bratislava
ECEG's Board & GA (Exact day TBD)
ECEG's Steering Committee (Exact day TBD)
- **30 November 2023**, Brussels
SSDC Plenary meeting
- **01 December 2023**, Brussels
WG Education & LLL meeting

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