



SSI EduWallets

ESCO API

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European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations

What is ESCO?

ESCO is the European multilingual classification of Skills, Competences and Occupations. ESCO works as a dictionary, describing, identifying and classifying professional occupations and skills relevant for the EU labor market and education and training. Those concepts and the relationships between them can be understood by electronic systems, which allows different online platforms to use ESCO for services like matching job seekers to jobs on the basis of their skills, suggesting training to people who want to reskill or upskill etc.

The aim of ESCO is to support job mobility across Europe and therefore a more integrated and efficient labor market, by offering a “common language” on occupations and skills that can be used by different stakeholders on employment and education and training topics. This aim was extended in the context of the current project by using those skills and occupations to describe user acquired knowledge, either by completing skill assessments or by experiencing any learning content, course or training.

Key Components of ESCO:

1. **Skills and Competences:** ESCO defines a comprehensive set of skills and competences that individuals possess, encompassing both hard skills (tangible, teachable abilities) and soft skills (interpersonal, communication, etc.). These skills and competences are described in detail, making it easier to compare and match them across various job profiles.
2. **Qualifications:** ESCO includes a classification of qualifications, ranging from formal educational degrees to certifications, licenses, and vocational training. By

standardizing qualifications, ESCO enables better recognition and portability of qualifications across European countries, promoting labor mobility.

3. **Occupations:** ESCO categorizes occupations based on their skill requirements, responsibilities, and tasks. This classification system aids in identifying similarities and differences between job roles across different sectors and countries, promoting transparency in the labor market.

The SSI Edu Wallets project makes use of the ESCO classification in order to provide the skills and occupations that the users achieve once a course or training is finalized or an assessment is completed.

Research has been carried out on European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations and how to integrate this classification system within verifiable educational credentials in order to obtain important metadata about skills, qualifications and occupations that a user achieves through the completion of a learning opportunity in a multilingual format in order to be recognized at a European level and therefore both have a common and interoperable set of learning outcomes. This set of outcomes should be understandable for any public or private institution or organization by processing the ESCO metadata either manually or automatically.

Why to use ESCO?

People change jobs and employers more frequently than in the past, new skills are regularly needed and geographical and occupational mobility is increasing. Online talent platforms, such as job boards and social media, are transforming the way recruitment takes place. Employers and job seekers increasingly use digital tools to publish and apply for job offers or to look for and offer training opportunities. Companies and education and training providers need clear and updated information on skills and qualifications to better manage talent and to address skills gaps in education and training programmes.

The utilization of ESCO brings forth numerous advantages and serves as a practical solution to various pressing needs. Here are the compelling reasons why ESCO is needed and why it is essential to use it:

1. **Bridging Skills Mismatches:** In today's rapidly changing job market, there often exists a mismatch between the skills possessed by job seekers and the skills required by employers. ESCO offers a standardized classification that clearly defines skills, competences, and qualifications, facilitating a more accurate match between available talent and job opportunities.
2. **Enhancing Labor Mobility:** ESCO supports this mobility by providing a common language for skills and qualifications recognition, making it easier for individuals to showcase their capabilities and seek employment across borders.
3. **Promoting Lifelong Learning:** ESCO's comprehensive framework encourages lifelong learning by enabling individuals to identify the skills they lack and develop plans to acquire them, promoting career progression and adaptability.
4. **Supporting Education and Training Systems:** ESCO aligns education and training programs with the actual needs of the labor market. By defining the skills required for various occupations, it assists educational institutions in tailoring their curricula to produce graduates who possess the relevant skills and competences.
5. **Facilitating Recruitment and Hiring:** ESCO simplifies this process by providing a standardized way to describe job roles, skills, and qualifications, making it easier to match candidates to specific positions.
6. **Enhancing Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:** By providing a common language for skills and competences, it becomes easier to identify transferable skills that can benefit various fields.
7. **Facilitating Policy Formulation:** Policymakers require accurate data to design effective labor market policies. ESCO provides a structured framework for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting labor market data, supporting evidence-based policymaking for workforce development and economic growth.

8. **Fostering Economic Competitiveness:** A skilled and adaptable workforce is essential for economic competitiveness. ESCO plays a crucial role in creating a workforce that can meet the demands of emerging industries and technologies, ultimately contributing to the EU's global competitiveness.
9. **Global Insights:** ESCO allows international comparisons, aiding trend analysis and cross-border cooperation.

How do we use ESCO?

Our platforms are dedicated to providing users access to learning content. We use ESCO to construct detailed user profiles, capturing essential information about their skills, aspirations, current vocational engagement, and future career ambitions.

However, our engagement with ESCO extends beyond mere profile creation. Our repository of learning materials is linked with the wide array of occupations and skills within ESCO's purview. This strategic association ensures that the content users encounter is meticulously curated to align with their individual interests and desired professional trajectories and they are not just exploring random content.

Furthermore, we have implemented an assessment tool that enables us to evaluate users' comprehension of the learning content they are actively engaging with. It is noteworthy that this content is intricately linked with the ESCO framework. As users interact with this tool, they receive scores and results that align directly with ESCO's delineated skills and occupations. This mechanism affords users the opportunity to attain varying degrees of proficiency across diverse subject matters. It also serves the purpose of verifying that users have acquired the requisite knowledge to attain a particular skill or possess the skills essential for a specific occupation.

Using ESCO it is possible to create different credentials containing user profiles, assessment results, training taken, etc. All connected using ESCO as an interoperable set of learning outcomes.

Documental sources

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