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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Implementation of the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways  
- Information from the Commission

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Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Commission on the above subject, with a view to the meeting of the Council (EPSCO) on 15 March 2019 (Any Other Business item).

## **Implementation of the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways**

### **- Information from the Commission -**

The Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways was adopted by the Council in December 2016. It aims to boost low-skilled adults' basic literacy, numeracy and digital skills, and encourage them to continue towards a higher level of education or training by giving them each:

- 1) a skills assessment to identify existing skills and gaps;
- 2) a tailored offer of learning based on the skills assessment of each individual;
- 3) the validation and recognition of their skills.

The Commission, as required by the Recommendation, has taken stock of Member States' plans to implement it.

Main findings of this stock-taking are that:

- 1) more action is needed by Member States and all stakeholders to increase the volume of the upskilling offer to match the scale of the challenge;
- 2) basic skills (literacy, numeracy, digital) need to be addressed explicitly;
- 3) attention is required for the assessment of existing skills and prior learning as a basis for developing tailored learning pathways;
- 4) plans to coordinate and join up current and new opportunities need to be intensified; and
- 5) funding for Upskilling Pathways needs close monitoring to ensure that it leads to sustainable systems to develop lifelong learning for all, in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Upskilling and reskilling are also challenges that are highlighted in the context of the European Semester.

There are 61 million adults in the EU who struggle with literacy, numeracy or digital skills. Low levels of skills and qualifications are a risk to EU economic and social growth and sustainability. People with low skills levels have lower-paid and more precarious jobs, are more likely to be unemployed, in poor health, and have lower levels of well-being. A reduction in the number of low-skilled adults would translate into an important increase in GDP and a significant impact in economic and social terms.

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