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## The Union of Skills and its implications for Higher Education

The Union of Skills complements the European Education Area in ensuring high-quality, inclusive education and training for all learners. Europe's competitiveness, security and prosperity critically depend on education and skills. The Union of Skills puts education and skills: at the heart of Europe's economic and social agenda, right where they belong.

The higher education sector has an important role to play in making that sure that education matches the real needs of the labour market, and of students and graduates for that matter. EU policies seek to boost the evidence base for labour market analysis, including at the European level, and for matching education and training to job requirements. The European Skills Intelligence Observatory will provide crucial intelligence and signalling for the Union of Skills.

The [European Higher Education Sector Observatory](#) (EHESO) and the [European Graduate Tracking Initiative](#) (launched in follow-up to the 2017 Council Recommendation on tracking graduates) have been identified as relevant data sources contributing to such skills intelligence. Graduate outcomes data (on education and mobility, on employment and earnings as well as on job satisfaction and skills use) provide valuable information for analysts to inform policy-making, support quality assurance and guide career advice.

In follow-up to the European strategy for universities (2022), EHESO is a major initiative of the European Commission to provide data, indicators and tools for the monitoring of European higher education policies, targeting its key stakeholders: policy-makers, higher education institutions, analysts and academics, as well as [last but not least!] students and graduates. Future EHESO development will focus on improving the availability and comparability of graduate outcomes data, including on the added value of transnational cooperation and mobility.