Special Session Proposal

Multi-Level Governance through the Core Network for Sustainable Development –Building Green and Digital Skills for Sustainability

Title: Strategical reflections regarding convergence toward the connection of the Occupational Standards with Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract
Digital transformation affects the work and labour market—new radical and disruptive technologies. It brings complex, ample, and profound changes that are not reflected anymore by the current occupational standards. Job classifications systems and their Occupational standard are the Labour market nexus. The new strategical framework is multilevel global, regional (EU27), national, local, and individual levels. Phenomena are simultaneously and highly complex. We analyse this new strategical framework and its linkages with SDGs directly relevant to the labour market, focusing on upgrading and adapting the occupational standards according to the new framework. Our conclusion state that the natural evolution of the Agenda 2030 implementation is at the level of occupational standards, the real nexus of the labour market. In the 2030 Sustainable Agenda, job classification systems are the digital transformation process toward universal classification occupational standards by the SDGs relevant criteria.

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[1] Fellowship represents a status within the RSA Regional Studies Association starting with 29.01.2020. RSA Fellows are individual members who have been permanent members for at least 5 years and who have also been defined as "active members".

Extended Abstract

The digital transformation (airfocus, 2021) opens tremendous opportunities to increase labour market transparency, acting in a global dimension (Graham & Anwar, 2019). Digital governance exploits the technology's opportunities. (Blakemore et al., 2018) Digital transformation affects work and the labour market (Larsson & Teigland, 2020).

These complex, ample and profound changes are not reflected anymore by the current occupational standards. Job classifications systems and their Occupational standard are the Labour market nexus. These are the conceptual knowledge reference, with legal regulation power, value assuming and, not at last, universal "lexicon" stating. For the global scale results, which is the correct scale of the action? Think global, act local or for universal problems, act individual!

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development announced since 2015 the new era of transformation harmonised in three core dimensions: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection (United Nations, 2015). This document is a global adopted document with a vision and values shared across 193 countries. The 17 goals (Sustainable Development Goals SDG) have 169 targets and 230 indicators, and a long-term outline. The critical characteristics of SDGs are: "

- **Universal**: global goals set for the "World We Want", applicable to developing and developed countries.
- **Integrated:** cannot be positioned in a hierarchical or prioritisation order. Denial of one invariably impedes enjoyment of other rights and basics needs;
- **Transformative**: Transforming current challenges into opportunities for the 5Ps (peace, people, planet, prosperity and partnership)"(ILO, n.d.)

Under occupational standards and development goals, bridging two worlds is the rationale response to develop new anticipative and proactive behaviours for all stakeholders (regardless of their role or dimension) against the old reactive behaviours.

ILO and 2030 Agenda linked under the Decent work and the Sustainable Development Goals framework. (ILO, 2021b) There is a strong connection between decent work and the 2030 Agenda: "the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda – employment creation, social protection, rights at work, and social dialogue – became integral elements of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda calls for the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work, and will be a key area of engagement for the ILO and its constituents". (ILO, 2021b) ILO provide a tool package of instruments relevant for (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 14, 15 and 16) SDGs implementing (ILO, 2021a). One important further step is the *ILO Implementation Plan 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* which "provide well-integrated policy advice and effective development cooperation programmes built on our normative system and tripartite working methods"(*ILO Implementation Plan 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 2016)

Sustainable development is the fourth priority set: the New Strategic Agenda for EU 2019-2024 "promoting European interests and values globally". The reference to Agenda 2030 is explicit as the second essential action through "Promoting sustainable development and implementing the 2030 Agenda". (*A NEW STRATEGIC AGENDA 2019 – 2024*, 2019) Under the new strategical architecture, each sectoral strategy is anchored in the SDGs framework. In regard the Labour market, we look at the:(European Commission, 2020; *Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – Research and Innovation*, n.d.; *Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*, n.d.; *Strategic Plan 2020-2024 – Communications Networks, Content and Technology*, 2020) and their 50 Management plans 2021[2] (i.e. the Management Plan 2021. DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, 2021).

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[2] Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Agenda 2030 recognises a prominent role for the private sector (SDGF, 2016). Business voluntary standards linked with SDGs (Gri, 2021). (Bissinger et al., 2020) maps the linkages between these standards and each SDG goal, including its specific targets. Unions support the SDG implementation (*ETUC Answer to the Reflection Paper Towards a Sustainable Europe 2030,* 2019) and specify a clear role and importance. (ILO, n.d.)

The new strategical framework is multilevel global, regional (EU27), national, local, and individual levels. Phenomena are simultaneously and highly complex. We analyse this new strategical framework, and its linkages with SDGs with direct relevance to the labour market focused on upgrading and adapting the occupational standards according to the new framework. The reference is ESCO Handbook. (European Commission. Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion., 2019) (Fretwell et al., 2001) identify the primary methodologies regarding Defining and Assessing Occupational and Training Standards in Developing Countries. We also analyse the minimum occupational standards. (Council of Europe, n.d.). (Gasskov 2018) presents a review of the concepts and practices of developing occupational.

Our conclusion state that the natural evolution of the Agenda 2030 implementation is at the level of occupational standards, the real nexus of the labour market. In the 2030 Sustainable Agenda, job classification systems are the digital transformation process toward universal classification occupational standards by the SDGs relevant criteria.

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