

International Workshop

Understanding skill gaps: Employer experiences, workplace drivers, and practical responses

Online Event | 29 April 2026 | 10:00–13:00 CET

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Agenda

10:00-10:10 **Welcome**

Liga Baltina, Coordinator of SkillsPULSE project, Head of the Labour Market & Skills Research Unit, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini

10:10-10:40 **What the data tells us: Employer experience across Europe**

Martin Hayford, Project Manager and Analyst, University of Tartu

10:40-11:00 **Keynote**

Simone Rosini, Socio-economic analyst, DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission

11:00-12:00 **PANEL 1: Why do skills gaps persist: workplace determinants**

Moderator: Ewa Kusidel, Associate professor, Department of Spatial Econometrics, University of Lodz

Panelists:

- **Dr Despoina Valassi**, Scientific Researcher, IME GSEVEE - Small Enterprises' Institute Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen, and Merchants, Greece
- **Dr Justyna Dziedzic**, Department of Human Resources Management, Faculty of Management, Poland
- **Estel Pukk**, Board Member, Eesti Personalijuhtimise Ühing PARE - Estonian community of HR professionals
- **Meadhbh Costello**, Senior Policy Executive -Education, Skills and Innovation-, Ibec, Ireland

- **Anna Alvezzola**, Policy Advisor Confartigianato Imprese - Italian Confederation of Artisans and Small Businesses

12:00-13:00 PANEL 2: Addressing skills deficiencies: employer practices and strategies

Moderator: Terence Hogarth, Professor, University of Warwick Institute for Employment Research

Panelists:

- **Mlnas Karatzoglou**, Federation of Hellenic ICT Enterprises, Greece
- **Mikołaj Janic**, Development director, Center for Development and Education, Poland
- **Mait Ruut**, Board Member, Association of Small and Medium Enterprises, Estonia
- **Satu Sahla-Juvankoski**, Akava Special Branches, Finland
- **Ivana Russiello**, Project Manager, Sistemi Formativi Confindustria, Italy

12:55-13:00 Closing remarks and next steps

Liga Baltina, Coordinator of SkillsPULSE project, Head of the Labour Market & Skills Research Unit, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini

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