FAQ on the EURES mapping process

Introduction

During the preparation of the training actions for the mapping and adoption process of ESCO within EURES, the Member States addressed to the Commission services several questions. Below you find a list of their FAQ together with replies:

1. In case a Member State:

i) has more than one national classification of occupations or skills, can it map just one? What will happen with the other one?

Article 19§3 of the EURES Regulation indicates that *"…Member States shall … map its national, regional and sectoral classifications…"* So, any classification that is used to transmit national data to EURES should be mapped to ESCO.

ii) regards that its national skill classification is very different from the ESCO skills pillar, does it have the option not to map or make a partial mapping?

As indicated in the previous reply, any classification that is used to transmit national data to EURES should be mapped to ESCO.

2. Can the Member State continue using their national classification(s) or other (unmapped) classification(s) in a national context?

Yes. Member States only need to map so that they can send to EURES the data in an "ESCO format". They are free to use nationally what they want. However, if they are sending information on skills to EURES, after mapping, they should be doing this using the ESCO format and not a national classification.

3. Will the mapping platform be secured with a login password? Who will grant access and to whom?

The platform is protected by the EU login service[1] (formerly called ECAS): each user must have an account on the EU login. Individuals can freely create an account on EU login (no approval from the European Commission is required).

Inside the mapping platform[2] for each of the mapping projects the Member States should provide the European Commission with a list of EU login accounts that should have access to this mapping project (and their roles). Access is communicated through the *questionnaire on the set up of a mapping project on the ESCO mapping platform according to the EURES Regulation EU 2016/589* (see questions 2.3 and 2.4).

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[1] https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/login
[2] https://ec.europa.eu/esco/mapping

4. In what format should the national classifications be for the import in the mapping platform (use of the mapping platform)? Who will import the classifications?

This process is done manually by the technical team of the Commission. We need to receive the classification in a machine-readable format, e.g. XML, CSV. It is possible that the technical team will request a meeting with the national representatives to better understand the data in order to represent them correctly in the mapping platform.

5. In what format should the mapping tables be for the import in the mapping platform (no use of the mapping platform)? Who will import the mapping tables?

This process is done manually by the technical team of the Commission. We need to receive the classification in a machine-readable format. The import/export options both use a standardised CSV format for the exchange of information. This format is explained in detail in the Technical standards and formats necessary for the operation of the EURES Common IT Platform document.

6. To what extent should the mapping process involve IT experts? Should the mapping team include IT specialists?

We recommend that the establishment of mapping relations itself is carried out by professionals from various backgrounds, e.g. sectoral experts, PES employees – no IT professionals are required for this step. The main involvement of IT personal is during handover of the data. As mentioned in points 4 and 5, the mapping platform requires machine readable data in order to import the classifications and mapping tables. Handover of such files will require technical understanding.

7. What is the best approach: i) manual direct mapping while connected or ii) importing pre-mapped data in particular formats?

The Commission services developed the ESCO mapping platform in order to facilitate the Member States map their data from their national classifications to ESCO. To this end, the platform has been developed from the end-user perspective, it offers suggestions for mapping concepts, interaction opportunities (between mappers and reviewers) and various other functionalities aiming at allowing the user establish an accurate mapping.

In case you opt to map your data to ESCO offline and import the files in the mapping platform, you should consult the document Technical standards and formats necessary for the operation of the EURES Common IT Platform. This document details the technical standards and formats the Member States should apply when creating mapping tables. Once the file is ready, you can share it with us and we will upload it on the mapping platform.

8. Specifications on the appointment of the Single Point of Contact (main tasks, duration, composition)

Article 6 of the Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1021 stipulates the following: *"All Member States shall appoint, and through their EURES National Coordination Offices, notify the European Coordination Office for EURES the details of, a single point of contact to which all requests, enquires and communications regarding the application of this Decision can be addressed."*

On this basis the specifications are the following:

1. Main tasks: respond to all requests, enquiries and communications regarding the application of the decision.

2. Duration: as it is related to the application of the decision, as long as the decision is valid, formally speaking.

3. Composition: it is up to the Member States to appoint the person.