


**PRESS RELEASE**

# Skills4ADC+ Forum to bring Europe's aerospace and defence community together in Brussels on 25 November

**Under the title "Strengthening Europe's aerospace and defence skills ecosystem", the Forum will bring together industry representatives, policymakers, training providers and skills experts to discuss how to develop the talent and competences needed for the sector's future.**

**Brussels, November 2026.** The Skills4ADC+ Forum will take place on 25 November 2026 in Brussels, bringing together stakeholders from across the aerospace and defence ecosystem to address one of the sector's key challenges: ensuring that people have the skills needed to meet changing industrial and technological demands.

Under the title ***"Strengthening Europe's aerospace and defence skills ecosystem"***, the Forum will provide a space for discussion and practical exchange on workforce development, skills anticipation, cross-sector mobility and training. It will explore how European skills initiatives, industry and education and training providers can work together to address current and emerging skills needs.

The programme will open with welcome remarks from representatives of the coordinator of the project, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, and the European Commission, followed by a keynote address on the role of people and skills in Europe's defence readiness.



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A first policy discussion will examine how the EU's skills initiatives, including the Union of Skills and the Pact for Skills, can support the workforce required for the transformation of the aerospace and defence industries. Particular attention will be given to improving SME access to upskilling opportunities, facilitating transitions into the sector from other industries, and strengthening cooperation between employers, training providers and public authorities.

The Forum will then turn to the practical implications of technological and industrial change. Drawing on evidence and industry experience, a roundtable will explore how new capabilities are changing jobs and competence requirements, and how companies can decide when to recruit new talent, upskill existing employees or reskill workers from other fields.

**From discussion to practical solutions**

The afternoon will focus on concrete experiences and approaches. Building on the morning's discussions, participants will be asked to share skills challenges, training needs and practical experiences from their organisations.

It will be followed by an interactive working session on cross-sector recruitment and SME training on how can aerospace and defence employers build on the skills people bring from other industries and organise the additional learning needed while keeping production running.

The programme will also address the importance of community engagement and inclusive training in opening pathways to technical learning and careers. Representatives from initiatives working on women's participation, accessible technical education and mentoring will share their perspectives on how to help more people access and progress in technical fields.

The Forum will close with a conversation on the relationship between people, artificial intelligence and Europe's defence readiness, alongside the launch of the seventh edition of the European Defence Challenge for students. This year's challenge will focus on the question: ***"An AI teammate for Aerospace and Defence: what should humans expect and trust?"***

Throughout the day, participants will have opportunities to exchange experiences, contribute to discussions and identify practical priorities for future collaboration.

**Event details:**

- Date: 25 November 2026
- Time: 09:00–17:15, followed by a networking reception
- Venue: La Chaufferie, Rue des Pères Blancs 6, 1040 Etterbeek, Brussels
- Registration: https://skills4adcplus.eu/skills4adc-eu-forum/

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**More information about the Skills4ADC+ project**

Funded under the **Erasmus+ programme**, Skills4ADC+ is a two-year project aimed at reinforcing Europe's capacity to anticipate and respond to emerging skills needs in the aerospace and defence sectors.

The aerospace and defence sectors play a crucial role in Europe's security, technological sovereignty, and economic competitiveness. However, they are currently facing increasing challenges in attracting and retaining talent, particularly for highly technical and emerging roles. Skills4ADC+ seeks to tackle these issues by supporting the development of forward-looking, inclusive, and cross-sectoral upskilling and reskilling strategies.

**Consortium**

The project brings together 12 partners from seven EU Member States, including leading industry players, SMEs, universities, vocational education and training (VET) providers, clusters, and social partners: Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini -coordinator-, Aerocampus Aquitaine, Ceemet, Rzeszow University of Technology, Industriall, Aerospace Valley, University of Madrid Carlos III, Andalucía Aerospace Cluster, Akmon SA, Sekpy, Navantia, Airbus; and Rolls-Royce as associated partner.

All partners are members of the **Pact for Skills**, ensuring a solid foundation for cooperation and joint action

By leveraging this diverse network, Skills4ADC+ aims to contribute to the creation of a resilient and future-proof industrial skills ecosystem in Europe, capable of adapting to rapid technological change and evolving labour market demands.

**More information:**

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