

PANEL DISCUSSIONS:

Avoiding the social Pain; Catching up with technology

November 21, 2022 - 14:00 - 15:30

45 mins (35 mins + 10 Q&A)

Opening Statement: Skills provision has never been higher but the definition of skills and the demands is constantly changing driven by tech advancement, tools and processes that are in continuous development and deployment.

Section 1: Why the advanced digital skills challenges are different to other skills?

- **Martin** – From a ministry and education policy perspective – why are advanced digital skills such a difficult problem. Can they be defined as a ‘wicked problem’? What kind of social pain are you seeing from your many engagements across stakeholders.
- **Robert** – From the leading edge of tech development – what is your view on this and is advanced digital skills too large an umbrella description to reflect the multiple aspects of the skills. How does the growing gap affect your activities as a researcher and a company?
- **Ernestina** – You only work with advanced digital skills. What are the prerequisites for your students to be effective when they reach you? Is it changing

Section 2: Controlling talent flows and the attraction of high advanced skilled talent.

- **Robert** – You are leading R&D in AI, what is your experience in finding and retaining talent. Where are they coming from and how difficult is the competition?
- **Martin** – Specifically related to skilled professionals in say cybersecurity – what is happening here in Czechia and how does that pan out at a European level?
- **Ernestina** – Tell us about your graduates, you deliver courses that are cross-disciplinary but focused on big data and data management. What is their experience exiting masters courses and are you seeing any trends?

Section 3 – Where is the solution? Where, when and how can we effectively overcome the challenge

- **Ernestina** – What examples do you have from third level of successful initiatives – for example industry collaborations in learning, outreach and secondary level support, short course formats, etc.
- **Robert** – Should we separate out the discussion between those who are leading tech development (i.e. researchers) and those who are implementing advanced technologies.

- **Martin** – What about the education system – do we need an overhaul or is it a question of tackling more advanced topics in secondary and primary or does VET have a stronger role?
- **Robert** - Can it all be learned 'on-the-job' or do they need a specific education in advance.
- **All:** At a strategic/policy level – what can be done to effectively mitigate the social pain?