From 20 to 24 November 2017, the European Commission is organising the second European Vocational Skills Week, building on the success of last year's initiative.

The objective is to inspire people to discover, use and improve their talents and abilities through vocational education and training (VET). Encouraging people to consider VET as first choice in their career path is one of the ten key actions proposed by the Commission under the New Skills Agenda for Europe, which has been rolled out since June 2016.

During the European Vocational Skills Week, the Commission showcases high-quality initiatives that aim at equipping people with the skills they need in a fast-changing labour market. More than 1000 events are taking place across Europe – in all 28 EU Member States, as well as in Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Iceland and EU Candidate countries. The events will demonstrate not only the crucial role of VET in supporting skills, jobs, innovation and competitiveness but also in terms of personal fulfilment. The events per country can be found online.

The Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen, said: "In a smart working world, vocational education and training is a smart choice. The perception that VET is the "poor neighbour" of a university education is mistaken. It is not a poor neighbour, it's an equal! Vocational education and training presents opportunities for people young and old to gain the skills they need on the job market."

The week has been organised with the strong involvement and support from the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and the European Training Foundation.

[video: http://europa.eu/!rc74un]