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Navigating a Fast-Changing World: The Role of Meta-Skills

In a world where artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping the way we work and live, learning how to learn is becoming the most valuable human skill for the future. This "meta-skill", speakers agreed, is what will help us navigate a fast-changing world.

That was the central conclusion of the public discussion **organised by the META-COIN project** at Mundo Madou in Brussels on 25 September 2025, under the title *"Navigating a Fast-Changing World: The Role of Meta-Skills".* The event brought together educators, policymakers and vocational training professionals to explore how meta-skills can prepare people to adapt, learn and thrive, enabling them to become resilient problem-solvers.

Photo 1 Partners' meeting in Brussels

Sirje Hassinen, coordinator of the META-COIN project and expert in international affairs at the Finnish organisation **Omnia**, opened the event with welcoming remarks, highlighting the project's mission to promote meta-competences as essential for personal and professional development.

Pauline Boivin, Project Manager at the **Lifelong Learning Platform**, delivered the keynote speech, championing project-based learning as an approach that cultivates multiple meta-skills while transforming the learning experience itself. Developing one's own projects, she noted, gives individuals ownership of their ideas and with ownership comes both pleasure in learning and deeper engagement.

Speakers emphasised that the future of education lies in nurturing the human side of learning rather than focusing solely on technical abili2ty. As **Paolo Nardi**, Director of the **European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training**, put it:

"Companies do not need technicians, but adult human beings."

Photo 2 Speaker during panel discussion

His point resonated throughout the discussions, where ethics, values, critical thinking, self-awareness and "learning to learn" emerged as the meta-skills most needed to face uncertainty. Nardi further underlined the importance of connecting learning with real life: hands-on challenges, he argued, offer an "incredible highway" to adaptability, resilience and reflection.

In today's context, where digitalisation and AI are transforming work and society, participants agreed that these human-centered skills are not optional but essential. Far from being overshadowed by technological progress, meta-skills are what will keep people relevant, creative, and resilient. The EU, it was noted, provides a space for participation that makes it possible to integrate such competences across education and training systems, reinforcing the idea that developing meta-skills is both a European and a national priority.

Hassinen also pointed out that competences are becoming increasingly complex and that the pace of technological change demands that learning itself evolves. One of META-COIN's key findings, she said, is the importance of equipping learners not just with professional expertise but with adaptive, reflective and future-oriented capacities echoing the wider call of the conference to embed meta-competences more systematically into curricula and training.

The event concluded with a hands-on group exercise using the **Meta-Skills Marketplace Cards**, allowing participants to translate theory into practice and experience how reflective and interactive tools can support both personal and professional growth. A networking session followed, offering space to exchange ideas and build connections.

The day closed with a shared recognition: in a world of accelerating change, meta-skills remain the human foundation for successfully navigating and shaping the future.

Discover more about the META-COIN project: https://metacoinproject.eu/

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