

ASSETs+ EU CONFERENCE

European Defence Sector: Navigating the Future through Skills and Innovation

- **The Conference will take place in-person at La Chaufferie, Brussels, on November 28, 2023 (09:00-18:00 CET).**
- **A great opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals, gain valuable insights, and explore cutting-edge trends in the European Defence sector.**

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Currently, more than three-quarters of companies in the European Union report difficulties in finding workers with the necessary skills, while only 37% of adults participate in regular training. The Defence sector is no exception to this trend. The rapid pace of technological evolution is drastically changing the labour market.

Developing educational content for the workforce of the near future is essential. Furthermore, many misconceptions surround defence activities; however, this industry consistently operates at the forefront of innovation, offering the most advanced technologies and a highly international and multidisciplinary environment.

The ASSETs+ Conference "*European Defence Sector: Navigating the Future through Skills and Innovation*", that will take place **in-person** at **La Chaufferie, Brussels**, on **November 28** (9:00-18:00 CET), is a great opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals, gain valuable insights, and explore cutting-edge trends in the European Defence sector.

PROGRAMME

- Keynote: **"The role of education in shaping the future of defence"**
- Panel discussion **"AI in defence: tapping on opportunities or taking risks?"**
- Panel discussion **"Human capital: recruiting and retaining in defence"**
- **European Defence Challenge IV edition Award**
- Fireside chat: **"Vision 2050: Anticipating skills and technological needs in defence"**
- Closing keynote **"Sectoral skills strategy for defence: A new era of defence partnerships"**
- Networking reception **"Forging Alliances: The Future Skills for the European Defence"**.

More information and registration on our website: <https://assets-plus.eu/eu-conference/>



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What is ASSETs+

The Alliance for Strategic Skills addressing Emerging Technologies in Defence (ASSETs+) was launched in January 2020, for a four-year period.

ASSETs+ is an **Erasmus+ project** -the European Union's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe-, and member of the **Pact For Skills** a shared engagement model for skills development in Europe, whose objective is the development of competences and abilities, thus taking on, together with other participating actors, a key role in the action of European social policies.

Coordinated by the University of Pisa (Italy), the project is built on close collaboration between the Defence Industry, sectoral organizations, Higher Education Institutions, Vocational Education and Training providers and research centres, with 30 partners from 8 countries -**Airbus, Hensoldt, Leonardo, Navantia, Rolls-Royce, Saab** and **Safran** are some of our partners- and a broad ecosystem of stakeholders.

ASSETs+ employs a blended, iterative approach that integrates data-driven analysis with human expertise

ASSETs+ aims to build a sustainable human resources supply chain for the European Defence Industry, that boosts innovation by both attracting highly skilled young workers and upskilling its employees. And to dispel the myths and biases associated with the defence sector while designing new courses and challenges that effectively capture students' attention.

Technology & skills analysis

The analysis carried out within the context of the ASSETs+ project focuses on three primary technological areas in the defence sector: **Robotics, Artificial Intelligence** and **Autonomous Systems; C4ISTAR¹** and **Cyber Security**.

The results are derived from an extensive process of data integration, incorporating information gathered through data-driven analysis, brainstorming sessions, project reviews, and validation from industry experts. The work was also complemented by additional in-depth analyses on road mapping. Subsequently, the insights gathered led the team to develop professional profiles related to the defence sector that can be incorporated within the European Classification of competencies and occupations. Lastly, relevant defence-related projects and initiatives at European, national, and regional levels have been monitored and mapped to provide an overview of skills development activities in the defence sector.

Education & Training

ASSETs+ has designed 30 education & training programmes to provide trainees with new skills related to key technologies that will be expected in the Defence sector in the coming years.

The courses are built on active pedagogical approaches like project based learning, summer schools, challenges, e-learning. The ASSETs+ courses are focused on professionals (Defence & AeroSpace) as well as undergraduate and graduate students.

¹ C4ISTAR is an acronym for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Information/Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting Acquisition and Reconnaissance

ASSETs+ European Defence Challenge

The ASSETs+ European Defence Challenge is an open competition to attract young talent to the Defence industry and to encourage them to initiate a career in defence related technologies. 576 students from 24 different countries and 116 different institutions, have already participated in the four editions of the Challenge.

ASSETs+ Consortium partners



Contact for more information:

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