

Education is crucial in equipping people with the right skills to find fulfilling work and become independent, engaged citizens. They need basic skills, including basic digital skills. Without them, young people's chances of entering the labour market are close to zero – whereas the risk of social inclusion is much greater. High-end skills in very specific fields such as science, mathematics and engineering are also important: they drive innovation and economic growth and help ensure that Europe stays competitive and prosperous

What young people need in particular are transversal skills, especially entrepreneurship skills. This goes well beyond equipping young people with the right competences to set up their own businesses and create jobs for others – although this is important and very welcome. It is about promoting a mind-set, supporting young people in developing their resilience and creativity, their ability to communicate, solve problems and adapt to change. All preconditions for young people becoming confident citizens who take control of their lives and find their place in our societies.

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