

From Degrees to Demonstrated Skills: Why Skills-Based Education Is Redefining Employability

As U.S. institutions face growing pressure to prove employability outcomes, a European skills certification model aligned with global workforce standards offers a practical, evidence-based approach.



New York City, New York Jan 15, 2026 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.Issuewire.com)) - EASEC – European Accreditation of Soft Skills & Employability Competencies is a European accreditation body dedicated to the assessment and certification of employability and transversal skills using standardized, evidence-based frameworks aligned with international workforce standards. EASEC works with higher education institutions, training providers, and organizations to improve skills transparency, workforce readiness, and global employability.

As skills-based education and hiring continue to gain momentum across the United States, higher education institutions and training providers face increasing pressure to demonstrate employability outcomes beyond traditional academic degrees. Employers are shifting their focus from credentials alone to verifiable skills, particularly those that enable adaptability, collaboration, and effective decision-making in a rapidly changing labor market.

This shift reflects a broader challenge. According to data from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, more than 90% of employers consider skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork

essential for workforce readiness, yet a significant portion believe that graduates are not fully prepared for today's jobs. Similarly, research from the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) shows that nearly 9 in 10 employers prioritize critical thinking, communication, and collaboration when evaluating early-career candidates.

As a result, institutions are being asked not only to teach these competencies, but to make them visible, measurable, and credible to employers.

One approach drawing international attention comes from Europe. [EASEC](#) focuses on addressing one of the most persistent challenges in employability: the lack of shared, trusted standards to validate human skills across institutions, programs, and career pathways. While technical and digital skills evolve rapidly, employers consistently report that human skills—such as leadership, adaptability, ethical judgment, and communication—remain decisive and difficult to assess reliably.

Recent workforce studies underscore the urgency of this issue. The World Economic Forum estimates that nearly 40% of core job skills will change by 2030 due to automation, artificial intelligence, and structural shifts in the economy. At the same time, U.S.-based research indicates that 77% of employers are already using or actively exploring skills-based hiring models, with an even higher percentage considering adoption in the near future. This trend signals a move away from degree-centric evaluation toward demonstrable competencies.

EASEC's model responds to this shift by applying competency-based assessment criteria that allow institutions to complement academic credentials with verifiable evidence of employability skills. Rather than replacing degrees or existing accreditation systems, skills certification functions as an additional layer—focused on outcomes, transparency, and labor market alignment.

For U.S. universities, colleges, and training organizations, this approach offers a practical way to strengthen employability strategies across multiple contexts, including undergraduate and graduate programs, continuing education, professional development, workforce initiatives, and lifelong learning pathways. By adopting internationally aligned frameworks, institutions can enhance credibility while responding to employer expectations without redesigning internal systems from scratch.

EASEC also works with institutions that wish to become [Accredited Training Centers \(ATC\)](#). ATC status enables eligible organizations to deliver and certify employability skills under a recognized international framework, supporting institutions that seek to differentiate their programs, improve skills transparency, and demonstrate measurable outcomes to students, employers, and stakeholders.

In a labor market increasingly shaped by automation and artificial intelligence, the ability to clearly demonstrate human skills is becoming a strategic priority. As employers look beyond traditional credentials, and institutions face growing accountability for outcomes, skills-based education and certification are emerging as critical tools for bridging the gap between learning and employment.

The future of employability is moving from implicit claims to explicit, evidence-based validation—where skills are not only taught, but reliably demonstrated and trusted.

More information about EASEC and its skills certification frameworks is available at:

<https://easec.eu>



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