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COMMISSION,
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Internal Market,
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SMEs*

*Unit GROW-F3 KETs,
Digital Manufacturing
and Interoperability*

Skill requirements for KETs

Vision and Sectoral Pilot on Skills for Key Enabling Technologies

**European Conference on Skills for Key Enabling
Technologies and Digital Economy**

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Key question

**What kind of skills do employers need
from KETs workers?**

General answer

It depends...

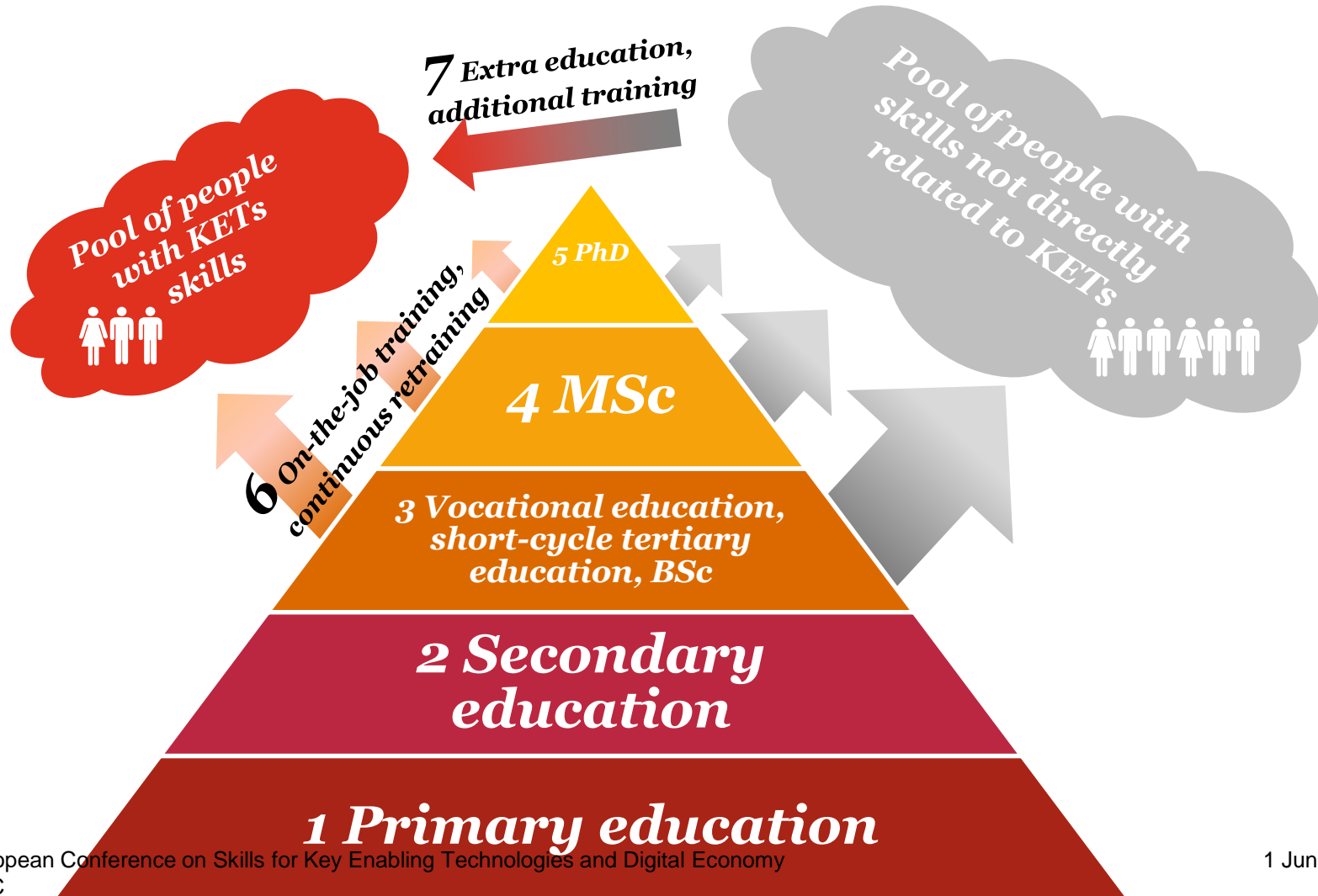
General answer

It depends on:

- KET/industry/application area
- company size
- job profile/specific occupation
- hierarchical level
- ...

Skill requirements for KETs

High diversity of relevant educational levels



Skill requirements for KETs

High diversity of educational backgrounds (heavily relying on STEM, but broader than STEM)



Skill requirements for KETs

Skill framework

6 Categories of Skills for Key Enabling Technologies

| 1 Technical  | 2 Quality, risk & safety  | 3 Management & entrepreneurship  | 4 Communication  | 5 Innovation  | 6 Emotional intelligence  |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>competences related to practical subjects based on scientific principles (e.g. characterisation, systems integration, mathematical modelling and simulation, top-down fabrication etc.)</p> | <p>competences related to quality, risk & safety aspects (e.g. quality management, computer-aided quality assurance, emergency management and response, industrial hygiene, risk assessment etc.)</p> | <p>competences related to management, administration, IP and finance (e.g. strategic analysis, marketing, project management, IP management, deal negotiation skills etc.)</p> | <p>competences related to interpersonal communication (e.g. verbal communication, written communication, presentation skills, public communication, virtual collaboration etc.)</p> | <p>competences related to design and creation of new things (e.g. integration skills, complex problem solving, creativity, systems thinking)</p> | <p>ability to operate with own and other people's emotions, and to use emotional information to guide thinking and behaviour (e.g. leadership, cooperation, multi-cultural orientation, stress-tolerance, self-control etc.).</p> |

Skill requirements for KETs

100+ identified competences with focus on multi-KETs

| Nr | Competence | Pillars | | Nr | Competence | Pillars | | |
|--|--|------------------------|---------------------|--|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Technological research | Product development | | | Technological research | Product development | Competitive manufacturing |
| 1 TECHNICAL | | | | 48 | Quality management | | | |
| 1.1 Technical background | | | | 49 | Computer-Aided Quality Assurance (CAQ) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1 | Chemistry | ✓ | ✓ | 50 | Quality Control Analysis | | | |
| 2 | Physics | ✓ | ✓ | 2.2 Risk & safety | | | | |
| 3 | Engineering (incl. Systems Engineering) | ✓ | ✓ | 51 | Risk Assessment | | | |
| 4 | Electronics | ✓ | ✓ | 52 | Working conditions/ Health and safety | | | |
| 5 | Biology | ✓ | ✓ | 53 | Emergency Management and Response | | | |
| 6 | Optics | ✓ | ✓ | 54 | Industrial Hygiene | | | |
| 7 | Photonics | ✓ | ✓ | 55 | Equipment Safety | | | |
| 8 | Computer science | ✓ | ✓ | 56 | Ethics | | | |
| 9 | Nanoscience | ✓ | ✓ | 3 MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP | | | | |
| 10 | Materials Science | ✓ | ✓ | 3.1 Business development | | | | |
| 11 | Mathematics | ✓ | ✓ | 57 | Strategic analysis | | | |
| 12 | Statistics | ✓ | ✓ | 58 | Technology strategy | | | |
| 13 | Micrology | ✓ | ✓ | 59 | New Product and Process Development (NPPD) | | | |
| 1.2 Design | | | | 60 | Marketing | | | |
| 14 | Design Methodology | ✓ | ✓ | 61 | Customer Focus | | | |
| 15 | Operations Analysis | ✓ | ✓ | 3.2 Operational management | | | | |
| 16 | Systems Analysis | ✓ | ✓ | 62 | Project Management | | | |
| 17 | Computer-Aided Design (CAD) | ✓ | ✓ | 63 | Time Management | | | |
| 18 | Multidisciplinary design optimisation | ✓ | ✓ | 64 | Teamwork skills | | | |
| 19 | Process Layout & Optimisation | ✓ | ✓ | 65 | Coaching & Developing | | | |
| 20 | Life-cycle analysis | ✓ | ✓ | 66 | Delegation skills | | | |
| 21 | Scalability analysis | ✓ | ✓ | 67 | Monitoring | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1.3 ICT skills | | | | 68 | Risk Management | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 22 | Computer skills | ✓ | ✓ | 69 | Management of Personnel Resources | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 23 | Programming | ✓ | ✓ | 70 | Management of Financial Resources | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 24 | Computational thinking | ✓ | ✓ | 71 | Supply chain management | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1.4 Modelling and simulation | | | | 72 | Cost modelling skills | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 25 | Mathematical modelling and simulation | ✓ | ✓ | 73 | Generation of shop floor work instructions | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 26 | Computer-Aided Engineering (CAE) | ✓ | ✓ | 74 | Procurement skills | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 27 | Non-destructive testing | ✓ | ✓ | 3.3 Entrepreneurship | | | | |
| 28 | Real-time modelling and simulations | ✓ | ✓ | 75 | Dial negotiation skills | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1.5 Equipment handling skills | | | | 76 | Acquisition of funding | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 29 | Equipment Selection | | ✓ | 77 | Intellectual Property (IP) management | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 30 | Installation | | ✓ | 79 | International regulatory affairs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 31 | Equipment running skills | | ✓ | 4 COMMUNICATION | | | | |
| 32 | Operation Monitoring | | ✓ | 80 | Interpersonal skills | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 33 | Troubleshooting skills | | ✓ | 81 | Verbal communication | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 34 | Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) | | ✓ | 82 | Written communication | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1.6 Manufacturing | | | | 83 | Presentation skills | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 35 | Process improvement tools | | ✓ | 84 | Public communication | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 36 | Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAM) | | ✓ | 85 | Virtual collaboration | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 37 | Systems Evaluation | | ✓ | 5 INNOVATION | | | | |
| 38 | Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) | | ✓ | 86 | Innovation skills | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 39 | Product labelling and packaging | | ✓ | 87 | Design mind-set | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 40 | Top-down fabrication techniques | | ✓ | 88 | Continuous experimentation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 41 | Bottom-up fabrication techniques/Synthesis | ✓ | ✓ | 89 | Complex Problem Solving | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 42 | Micro-assembly | | ✓ | 90 | Creativity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 43 | Macro-assembly | | ✓ | 91 | Systems thinking | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1.7 Diverse other technical competences | | | | 6 EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE | | | | |
| 44 | Systems integration | ✓ | ✓ | 6.1 Self-management | | | | |
| 45 | Characterisation and analysis | ✓ | ✓ | 92 | Persistence | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 46 | General Lab Skills | ✓ | ✓ | 93 | Passion, enthusiasm and curiosity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 47 | Specific Lab Skills | ✓ | ✓ | 94 | Sense of responsibility | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2 QUALITY, RISK & SAFETY | | | | 95 | Stress tolerance | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.1 Quality | | | | 96 | Attention to detail | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | ✓ | ✓ | 97 | Adaptability | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | 98 | Ability to thrive on failures | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| Nr | Competence | Pillars | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Technological research | Product development | Competitive manufacturing |
| 99 | Balancing life and work demands | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 100 | Self-discipline | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 101 | Self-control | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 102 | Proactivity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 103 | Continuous improvement orientation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 104 | Active Learning | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 105 | Alertness | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 106 | Judgment and decision making | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 6.2 Social skills | | | | |
| 107 | Friendliness/Being respectful of others | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 108 | Leadership | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 109 | Integrity | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 110 | Cooperation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 111 | Multi-cultural/global orientation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

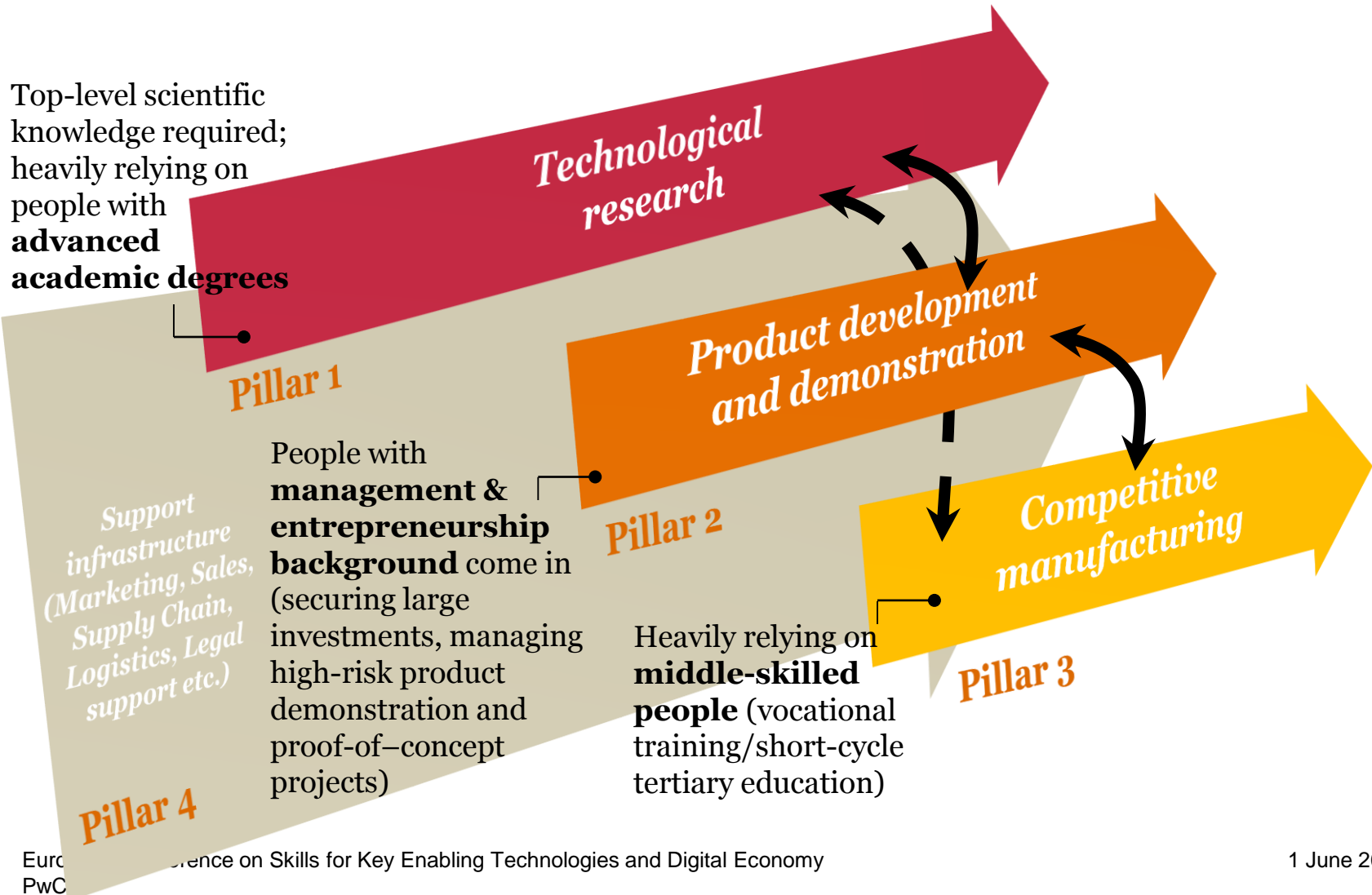
Skill requirements for KETs

100+ identified competences with focus on multi-KETs

- A high diversity in skill requirements for KETs ***can never be covered by a single person or even a company.***
- ***‘Smart’ combinations of people with diverse profiles are needed,*** with many of them coming from domains not directly related to KETs (application areas).
- Even in case of ‘soft’ roles like marketing and sales, ***KETs companies in general prefer to hire technical people with basic business skills*** rather than business people with basic technical skills

Skill requirements for KETs

Difference in terms of skill needs between KETs pillars



Skill requirements for KETs

Collective KETs competences

- Besides individual competences, KETs also heavily rely on ***collective competences***.



Skill requirements for KETs

General observations

- ***KETs heavily rely on people from general STEM domains.*** At the same time, business support roles are typically filled by non-technical people. However, in terms of total employment, they form a minority in KETs.
- In order to maintain a competitive position in KETs, we need to teach our students ***learning-to-learn skills, alertness, adaptability, continuous experimentation*** and ***ability to thrive on failures***, and particularly ***collective competences***, including integration skills.

Skill requirements for KETs

General observations

In what respect are KETs skills unique?

- Rather than some particular competences, ***it is a combination of the individual and collective competences, linked to an endless number of potential application areas***, what makes KETs skill requirements unique.
- KETs commercialisation trajectories are linked to knowledge and skills from literally every field of life.

Thanks a lot for your attention!

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