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European Software Skills Alliance.

INFORMATION NOTE

Soft Piloting by ESSA Associated Partners

This short note presents the exclusive opportunity for **ESSA Associated Partners** to **soft pilot and test the learning programmes/courses** developed by the Alliance. It describes the steps to follow to start a pilot.

1. About soft piloting

The soft pilots are **flexible** training paths that can be cherry picked by ESSA Associated Partners to take advantage of the ESSA learning programmes for software professionals. They are **customisable and modular** to respond to the specific training needs of organisations. Associated Partners can choose what modules they are interested in piloting.

The ESSA learning programmes are made to be **comparable across Europe**, allow for the stacking of specific competences (e.g., via micro-credentials or digital badges) and cover the **technical (hard) software skills** as well as **horizontal competences** such as soft and profession-related skills.

ESSA soft pilots can vary from a minimum duration of **4 hours up to 2 months** and should take place **between September 2023 and September 2024**.

2. How to start a pilot

- Apply to become an Associated Partner by [filling in the online form](#) on **ESSA website**. Make sure to select the *advanced* or *champion* package, including “*Pilot and test ESSA learning programmes or courses, including work-based elements when possible*”.
- Once you are an Associated Partner and a candidate for the soft pilots, you will be **included into the relevant working group** and be able to join regular meetings.
- ESSA Associated Partners are expected to prepare a **soft pilot of the ESSA learning programme**, following the ESSA template.

The ESSA Alliance will support the Associated Partners throughout the whole process.

