# Workshop: Flexible Curricula

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## Introduction

The aim of the workshop is to develop a shared understanding of what *flexible* and ‘future-proof’ curricula can look like. In many countries, we have been working on developing qualifications frameworks based on learning outcomes in order to make qualifications more transparent, and base them on actual labour market demands. To enable learners to benefit from these changes, the revised or new qualifications also need to be translated into curricula. Both the introduction of new technology and the evolving knowledge on how people learn actual influence the way curricula are designed. In general, we see a trend to more student-centred approaches in education, reflected in creating alternative approaches to the traditional subject-oriented curricula. The subject-oriented curricula are often perceived to be too fragmented, which makes it difficult to provide holistic and realistic content. We therefore see more and more modular curricula. These can take different forms, but are often structured around a specific set of tasks linked to the occupation the learner is preparing for. Knowledge, skills and attitudes are offered in an integrated way in a module. This also often makes it easier to adapt modular curricula to changing labour market demands than subject-oriented curricula.

There is not one answer to how *flexible*, ‘future-proof’ curricula should look, but during the workshop we will discuss different possibilities.

## Workshop programme

In the workshop we will explore together different alternatives to the traditional subject-oriented curricula and discuss how to support more authentic, collaborative and technology enabled ways of learning.

We practice a *preach what you teach* approach, and therefore this workshop will be designed as highly interactive. We will learn together how to assess (a) the flexibility of curricula and (b) how far they support new pedagogies such as ‘authentic learning’, ‘collaborative learning’ and ‘blended learning’.

Dream big! During the second part of the workshop, we will discuss different alternatives to subject-based curricula that will offer ideas on how to develop curricula that can face today’s challenges in education and training. We will learn from each other’s ideas and inspire future action, by considering a variety of strategies.

We will explore what is already possible right now in the different countries represented in the workshop. What can you do in your current role to get one step closer to more ‘future-proof’ and flexible curricula? What elements of the alternative curricula could be implemented tomorrow, next month or next year?

We will conclude the workshop by looking at how the ETF will continue its work on this concept, what you as participants take home and how we could cooperate in the future.

## Draft agenda

14.00 – 14.15: Welcome and introduction to the workshop.

14.15 – 14:50: Critical friends – analysing different curricula.

14.50 – 15.30: Dream big! New curricula.

15.30 – 16.00: Coffee break – inspire each other!

16.00 – 16.45: Sharing dreams!

16.45 – 17.00: What does the future hold for us?