

AGENDA (DRAFT)

ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET POLICIES AND HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

FOSTERING INNOVATION AND IMPACTFUL ACTIONS FOR RECOVERY

28 April 2021, 10.00 – 12.00 hrs (CET)

INTRODUCTION

The European Training Foundation (ETF) continues the series of events dedicated to knowledge and experience sharing on employment and skills development in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and recovery agenda.

In 2020, the ETF has launched a research action focused on innovation and effectiveness of labour market interventions, particularly in the context of COVID-19 crisis, with a view to identify main lessons and messages for the next generation of policies and measures aimed at human capital development and improved labour market performance. The work included (i) an assessment of the effectiveness of ALMPs in crisis and post crisis situations, and (ii) a mapping of innovative practices of ALMPs among EU Member States, EU Neighbourhood and Central Asia countries.

The research results are now reflected in two draft reports that capture:

- new trends and innovations related to labour market interventions in EU Member States and ETF partner countries in the context of COVID-19 crisis, covering both activation and passive support measures deployed to cushion the socio-economic impact of pandemic,
- continuity under pandemic limitations of public employment service delivery and adaptation of delivery methods,
- supporting job transitions of displaced workers and groups most at risk of unemployment, including through targeted and innovative training delivery, e.g. re-skilling and up-skilling provided online,

- overview of key evidence-based information on the effectiveness of ALMPs, with a focus on crisis and post-crisis contexts, including targeted review of those ALMPs which show the most promise to address the economic challenges met by the ETF partner countries, taking into account their specific institutional context,
- analysis of challenges related to evaluations of measures which can be applied in the ETF partner countries, taking into consideration the economic challenges met in the recovery period,
- critical review of the idea of ALMPs effectiveness, which might be differently understood in various contexts (e.g. low demand, informality, high incidence of social risks).

The papers put forward several potential policy recommendations for consideration by ETF Partner Countries for the review of their employment and skills development policies and service delivery to better deal with the labour market disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and address the challenges and opportunities of green and digital recovery, including the need to strike a balance between short term *firefighting* type of measures and long term strategic interventions.

The meeting has the following main objectives:

- Present and discuss the preliminary findings emerging from the ETF supported studies on innovation and effectiveness of ALMPs in crisis and post crisis context,
- Reflect on reform priorities and assess the long-term implications for activation and (re)skilling policies.

WEDNESDAY, 28 APRIL 2021

Time 10.00-10.10	Opening Session Scene setting Introductory remarks - Manuela Prina, Head of Skills Identification and Development Unit, ETF
10.10-11.00	Session 1 – One year after: pandemic impact on Active Labour Market Programmes and Public Employment Services
	<i>ALMPs reforms and innovation – key findings and recommendations</i> Facilitator: Iwona Ganko, Labour Market Specialist, ETF 1. Presentation Eamonn Davern , Senior expert, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini 2. Consultation Feedback on findings and next steps 3. Discussants: Regional Cooperation Council Jochen Schmidt , Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
11.00-11.55	Session 2 – Build back better: how to foster more impactful ALMPs
	<i>ALMPs effectiveness in crisis and post-crisis – key findings and recommendations</i> Facilitator: Cristina Mereuta, Labour Market Specialist, ETF 1. Presentation Lukasz Sienkiewicz , Senior expert, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini 2. Consultation Feedback on findings and next steps 3. Discussants: Theodora Xenogiani , Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Kamil Valica , Unit D3 – International Issues, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
11.55-12.00	Wrap-up, next steps - ETF