AGENDA

INNOVATION AND ADAPTATION OF ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET POLICIES TO CHANGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

ONLINE MEETING

28 October 2021, 09.30 – 13.00 hrs (CET)

INTRODUCTION

Transformations in our societies such as digitalisation and greening of economies and the profound impact of the Covid-19 pandemic mean that both design and implementation of active labour market policies (AMLPs) will have to be more flexible and reflect a very dynamic labour market situation with more frequent transitions and enhanced fluidity in skills demands.

Changes in the nature of employment and the labour market structure will amplify problems of skills mismatches, unemployment and inactivity and risks of precarious employment. The pandemic crisis has particularly impacted young graduates, women, long term unemployed population and people with disabilities. On this backdrop, institutions and organisations active in the fields of employment and (re)training are called to design a new generation of ALMPs to care for an increasing diversity of needs and profiles of beneficiaries.

The European Training Foundation (ETF) continues the series of learning exchanges[1] between countries to encourage transfers of knowledge and expertise and stimulate innovation in the field of ALMPs with particular focus on skills development implications.

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[1] Additional information available at Active Labour Market Policies and Human Capital Development | Open Space (europa.eu)

This event will prioritize three topics that are relevant for building an inclusive recovery path and enhancing the efficiency and relevance of activation and (re)skilling programmes:

- *Session 1* - The future of work. What are the policy implications to support and respond to Labour market flexibilization?

Session 1 will be dedicated to the emerging labour market trends, in particular changing patterns of work triggered by digitalisation. A specific attention will be paid to platform work, a phenomenon that has been raising in the recent years. What are the implications of these new trends on skills requirements and working conditions? How should public institutions, including education and training provision as well as employment services, support and shape these new labour market trends? Those are the key questions that will be discussed by speakers from the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), the European Labour Authority (ELA), the ETF and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound). The discussion will be based on the most recent research findings on new forms of employment from both EU member states and EU Neighbourhood countries, including the ETF recent publication The future of work – New forms of employment in the Eastern Partnership countries: Platform work | ETF (europa.eu).

- *Session 2*: Recovery and gender equality: What are the gender-responsive policy solutions to deepening inequalities?

The session 2 discusses the gendered impact of Covid-19 on employment and reflects on policy solutions to counter it. The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately affected female employment and women workers with a risk of reverting gains made in recent decades and deepening existing gender inequalities in the labour market. Globally, women's employment has been at greater risk than men's, among others due to the importance of the hard-hit service sector and informal economy as provider of female employment. Policymakers need to consider how gender can be integrated into national employment policies and measures to maintain women in the labour force and facilitate women's re-entry into employment. The session is fed by research and policy recommendations of International Labour Organization and concrete examples of female targeted employment measures to tackle the crisis.

- *Session 3*: Labour market and skills information systems: How to capture changing socio-economic context in the design of ALMPs?

Session 3 is focused on rapidly changing labour market and skills trends In the context of crisis and emerging recovery pathways, including the impact of digitalisation and green transition. In most countries, policy makers and implementers are faced with the challenge of having the right information at the right time built on efficient mechanisms to anticipate emerging skills needs. Contributors to the session will present several illustrative examples of adjustment or consolidation of labour market and skills information systems to inform policy responses in the areas of employability, (re)skilling and transition to work. Contributors from ETF Partner Countries and EU Member States as well as the representative of International Labour Organization will share their experiences.

Working languages: English, Arabic, Russian, Albanian, Serbian/Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin, Macedonian, Turkish

THURSDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2021

Time	
09.30-09.40	**Opening Session** Scene setting Introductory remarks - **Manuela Prina**, Head of Skills Identification and Development Unit, ETF
09.40-10.40	**Session 1 – The future of work. What are the policy implications to support and respond to Labour market flexibilization?**
	Facilitators: Iwona Ganko and Eva Jansova, ETF *Priorities for public policies to support workers in benefiting from the new opportunities in the online world* Panel discussion: • **Irene Mandl**, Head of Unit, European Labour Authority • **Dragos Adascalitei**, Research Officer, Eurofound • **Konstantinos Pouliakas**, Expert in skills and labour market, Cedefop
10:40-10:45	Break
10.45-11.45	**Session 2 – Recovery and gender equality: What are the gender responsive policy solutions to address the deepening inequalities?**
	Facilitator: Outi Kärkkäinen, ETF *Global challenges of gender responsive recovery and employment* **Christine Hofmann**, Skills and Employability Specialist, Team Lead Skills for Social Inclusion Skills and Employability Branch, International Labour Organization (ILO) Panel of practices of targeted employment measures • **Julian Hiebl,** Office of the Director General International Affairs, Public Employment Service, Austria • **Gohar Vardanyan**, Women's Rights House Project, People in Need, Armenia • **Ismail Iftissen**, ES.MAROC.ORG, Morocco
11:45-11:50	*Break*

11.50-12.45	**Session 3 – Labour market and skills information systems: How to capture changing socio-economic context in the design of ALMPs?**
	Facilitators: Cristina Mereuta and Doriana Monteleone, ETF
	Challenges and approaches to study labour market and skills trends in crisis and recovery contexts and reflect research outcomes in activation and (re)training measures and services
	Contributors:
	• **Eno Ngjela,** Programme Specialist of the Economic Growth and Employment Cluster of UNDP Albania
	• **Nora Condon**, SOLAS, Further Education and Training Authority, Ireland
	Discussant:
	• **Daniela Zampini**, Senior Employment Specialist at the ILO Regional Office for CEE
12.45-13.00	Conclusions and next steps Facilitator: Franca Crestani, ETF