

# AGENDA

## Harnessing youth employability in the Western Balkans

### *Validation of non-formal and informal learning and its relevance for Youth Guarantee schemes*

**5 April 2022, 09.30 – 12.00 hrs (CET)**

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#### INTRODUCTION

On 8 July 2021, the Western Balkans high level representatives endorsed the *Declaration on ensuring sustainable labour market integration of young people*, a commitment to establish, implement and consolidate Youth Guarantee schemes, taking inspiration from the Council Recommendation (2020) on A Bridge to Jobs – Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee. Western Balkans authorities are invited to develop, in consultation with employment, education and youth stakeholders, and adopt Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans by June 2022. The main objective of YGIPs is to gradually secure all young people under 30 years of age receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

The European Commission jointly with the International Labour Organization and the European Training Foundation (ETF) provide technical assistance to the Western Balkans stakeholders to identify the key challenges and policy solutions, and to create opportunities for cross-country learning and exchanges. In this context, the European Training Foundation runs a series of events focused on skills development dimensions of Youth Guarantee schemes. Validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) is recommended in both preparatory phase and delivery of Youth Guarantee offers to young people not in employment, education or training.

The main objective of this meeting is to discuss the relevance of VNFIL for design and implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes in the Western Balkans, and the conditions that have to be met to gain synergies between qualification systems reform and the active labour market programmes. The meeting will include a review of the state of play in the region with regard to VNFIL developments, challenges and priorities for the future. The ETF will facilitate an exchange of illustrative practices on how VNFIL measures can support swift labour market integration for various categories of beneficiaries, including young people.

The working languages of the event are English and the languages of the region. The event will take place in an online format.

## 5 APRIL 2022

09.30-09.45	<b>Opening session</b>  Manuela Prina, Head of Unit, ETF  Fanny Serée, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission
09.45-09.55	<b>Validation of non-formal and informal learning: relevance for youth employability</b>  <i>Introductory presentation on VNFIL developments, challenges and potential benefits of incorporating the VNFIL services in the Youth Guarantee in the Western Balkans.</i>  Maria Rosenstock, ETF
09.55-10.55	<b>VNFIL practices in Europe</b>  <i>Presentation of illustrative practices focused on validation of non-formal and informal learning and youth. Challenges and lessons learnt.</i>  Speakers:  Teresa Valentino, Directorate for Education, Training and Work, Piedmont Region, Italy  Maria João Alves, National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training, Portugal  Q&A
10.55-11.00	Break
11.00-12.00	<b>How to move forward VNFIL agenda in the Western Balkans</b>  <i>Discussion with inputs from the Western Balkans representatives on implications for Youth Guarantee, with a particular focus on:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Interest and readiness to include VNFIL in the Youth Guarantee measures;</i></li><li>- <i>Conditions to be met and challenges to be resolved to assure a quality of VNFIL offers, in particular:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>Regulatory gaps and requirements;</i></li><li>▪ <i>Institutional aspects and stakeholders' collaboration;</i></li><li>▪ <i>Financial implications: funding and cost-sharing;</i></li><li>▪ <i>Capacity building needs.</i></li></ul></li></ul>
12.00-12.15	<b>Final reflections and future steps</b>  <i>Concluding remarks</i> Ulrike Damyanovic ETF
	Closure of event