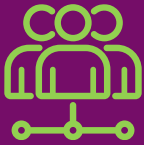


# YOUTH IN FOCUS

Youth at the heart of the ETF



# YOUTH AT THE HEART OF THE ETF



The ETF supports partner countries to develop and strengthen lifelong learning systems that can enable people to develop their skills, competences, knowledge and attitudes throughout their lives in order to realise their full potential and to contribute to prosperous, innovative and inclusive societies.



By intervening on the 'skills, the competences, the knowledge and the attitudes' of young people, the ETF works across a wide spectrum of youth-related areas



By focusing on policies that enable a successful transition from school to work, career progress and social inclusion, the ETF plays a key role in helping youth in EU partner countries to reach their full potential

**ETF IS ABOUT  
EMPOWERING  
YOUTH!**

# YOUTH AT THE HEART OF THE ETF

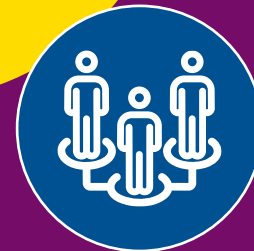
Connecting the  
dots in the Youth  
Ecosystem



**ETF and  
“Youth in Focus”**



Collaborating with  
ETF partner countries  
to put Youth centre  
stage



Supporting the  
implementation in  
ETF partner countries  
of EU Youth policies  
on skills, transition to  
work and youth  
employment

# YOUTH IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT



## UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals

### Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are critical to youth development

- UNDESA estimates that approximately 90 of the 232 indicators developed to measure the implementation of the SDGs are relevant to young people

### Key SDG's for youth empowerment and youth development

- SDG 1 on combatting poverty
- SDG 2 on hunger
- SDG 3 on good health
- SDG 4 on quality education
- SDG 5 on gender
- SDG 8 on sustainable development
- SDG 10 on reducing inequality
- SDG13 on climate change



# YOUTH IN THE EU CONTEXT



## EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 “Engage, Connect, Empower”

### 11 European Youth Goals focused on:

- Quality education and lifelong learning
- Formal and non-formal learning
- High quality jobs
- Capacity of educators
- Skills development
- Recognition and validation of competences
- Environmental and sustainable development

### EACEA (European Education and Culture Executive Agency)

- Youth Wiki platform
- Database of European countries' youth policies

### EU Youth Policies and programmes

- Erasmus+
- The EU Youth Guarantee to ensure young people under 30 receive a good quality offer of Continued Education, Apprenticeship, Traineeship and Employment
- European Solidarity Corps

### ALMA

- Helping young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) to enter the job market by combining support for education, vocational training or employment in their home country with a work placement in another EU country
- European Youth Portal (europa.eu)  
– a dedicated web portal

# YOUTH IN THE EU CONTEXT



## European Year of Youth – 2022

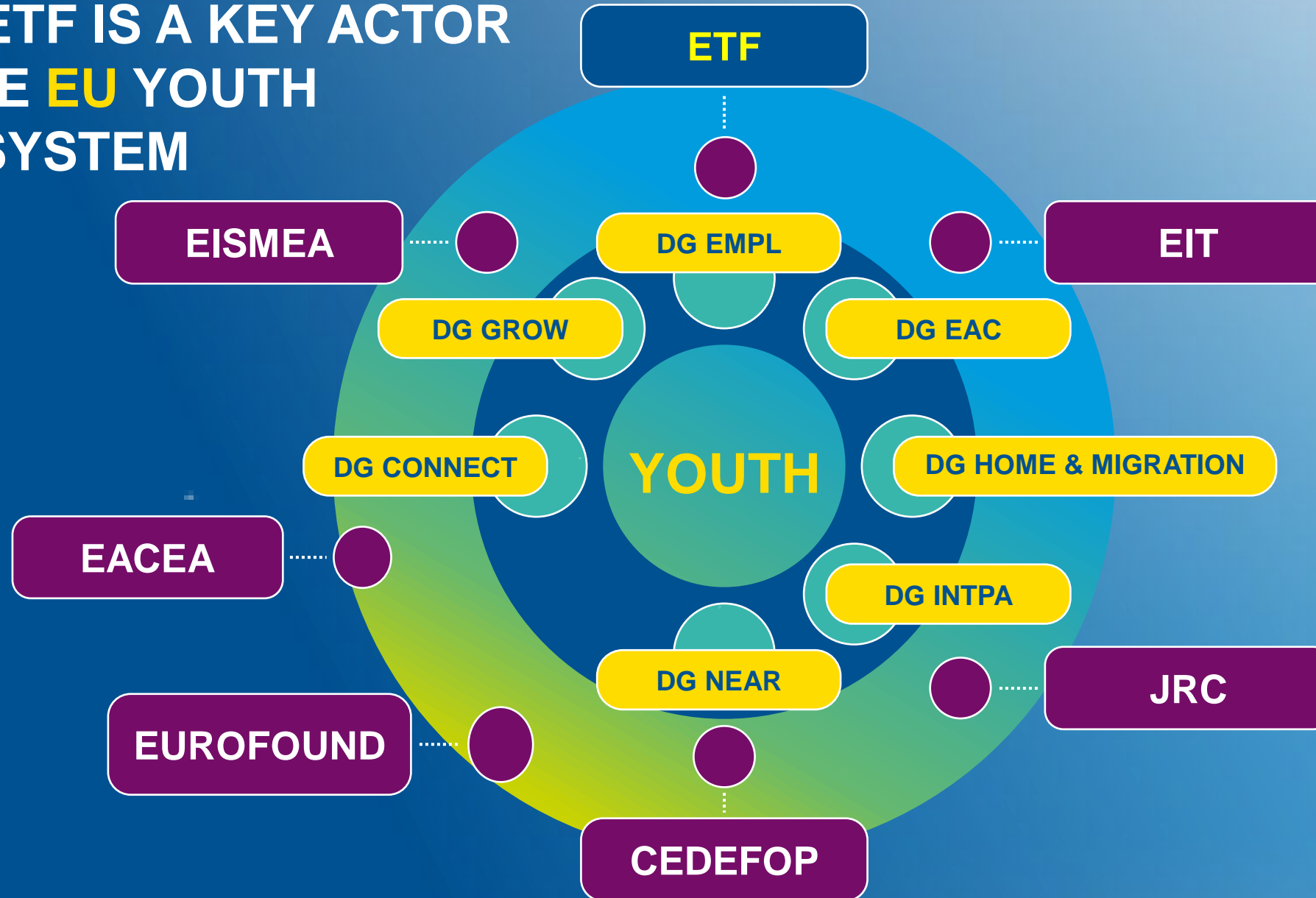
**Emphasises the role of young people to build a better, greener, more inclusive and digital future**

### **Four main objectives:**

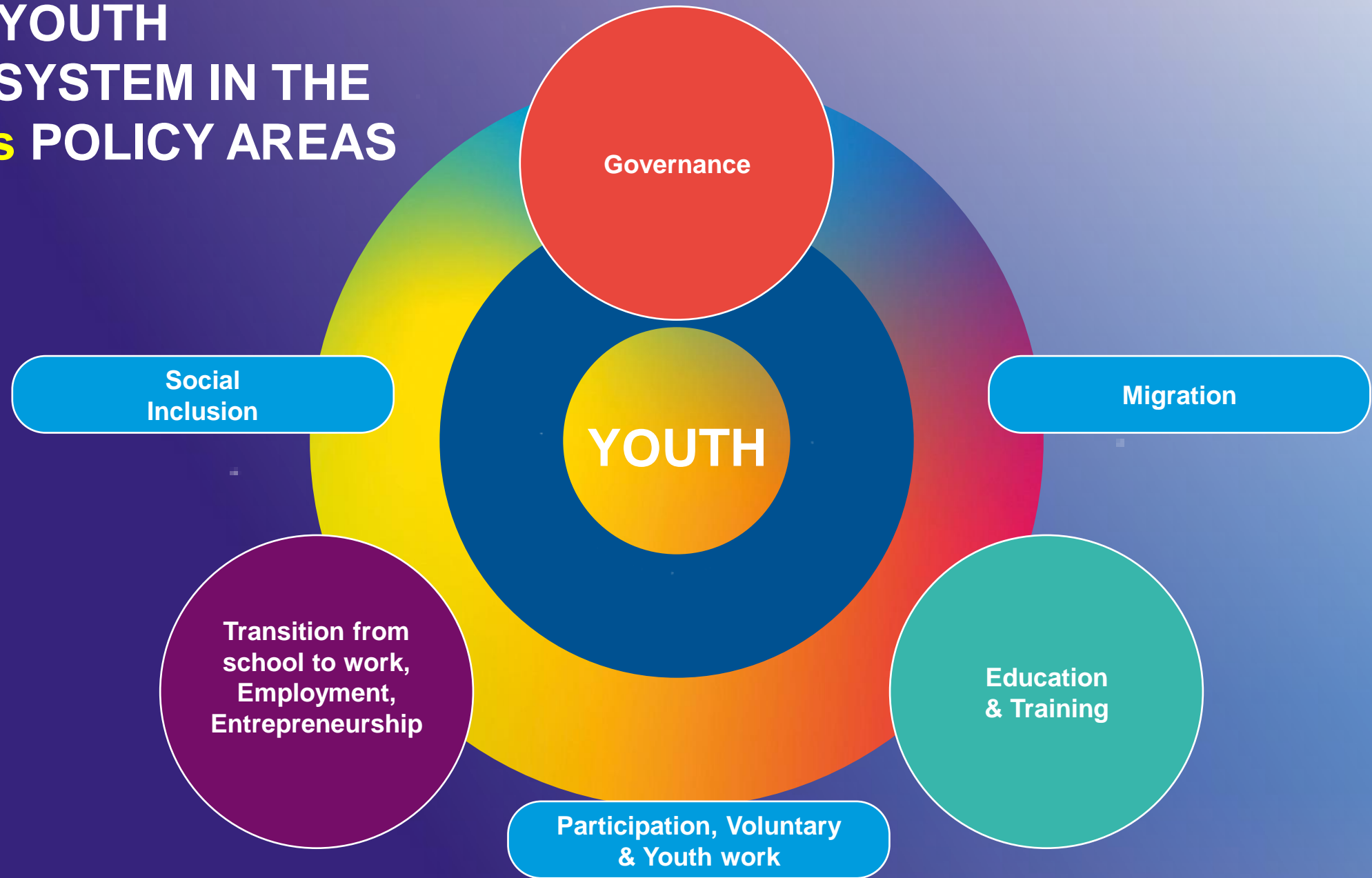
- Redress the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasise the opportunities, including a more green and digital future
- Supporting young people, especially from disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised groups to become active and engaged citizens
- Supporting young people to acquire a better understanding of opportunities available to them to support their personal, social and professional development
- Raising the profile and debate of youth among policy-makers, in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027

**“Activate Youth”**, the call for active youth participation by Tirana, the European Youth Capital for 2022.

# THE ETF IS A KEY ACTOR IN THE **EU** YOUTH ECOSYSTEM



# THE YOUTH ECOSYSTEM IN THE ETF's POLICY AREAS





# YOUTH CROSS-CUTTING THE ETF's POLICY AREAS



## Youth is transversal at the ETF:

- Gender
- Aspirations of young people
- Youth and the Green Transition
- Opportunities for youth from new forms of work and in promising economic sectors
- Competences of young migrants
- Education of youth in post-conflict zones
- Fostering Youth employment partnerships
- Developing career guidance systems
- Addressing high rates of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
- Labour market needs post-pandemics and conflictual situations
- Youth Entrepreneurship



Listen to the ETF Skills Factory podcast: “NEETs, what’s the problem?”

# ETF AND “YOUTH IN FOCUS”



## Working together for a **youth-focused** future:

**Policy advice and targeted interventions** to support countries in the EU's neighbouring regions to bring about employment and labour market reforms aimed at youth, including those from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups



## Supporting skills development for the twin **digital and green** transitions:

Supporting **peer networks and partnerships** to link VET to labour market requirements, **greening** school and VET programmes, promoting **innovative teaching and learning** (including digital inclusion) to ensure the development of skills for a sustainable future



## **Making** systems work for everyone:

Promoting **quality assurance** in VET and providing support to develop national and regional **qualifications frameworks and standards**

# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EaP)

## Youth-related priority areas of intervention at regional level recommended by ETF:

- Supporting youth employability and employment
- Improving education quality and its relevance to labour market needs
- Improving knowledge base around new forms of work and platform economy as opportunity paths for young people
- Improving the framework for transition support by providing career guidance and opportunities to gain first work experience

## Next steps

- EaP regional dialogue (ministerial meetings, expert committees) and the continued implementation of the regional EU4Youth programme
- Thematic peer exchange events and enhanced networking of public employment services (PES) for youth employment policies
- “Global careers month” - career guidance and counselling reviews and global exchanges



# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN EaP

At Iberia College, Tbilisi (Georgia), career guidance manager **Fati Jkidze** reaches out to employers to **create opportunities for students** as part of the ETF's Make it Match network.

Fati matches supply with demand by **asking business owners what their companies need** to perform better.

“

Vocational training is the quickest way to enter the world of work. My main aim is to be a guide, giving advice and creating opportunities for people who have completed their studies and are ready to set out on their careers with the skills they have acquired.

By getting out and finding the jobs, we can help the students get a good start and become successful people.

Fati Jkidze

”





# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE AND TURKEY (SEET)

## Youth related priority areas of intervention at regional level recommended by ETF:

- Need for a long-term strategy to support the transition into a post-pandemic economy
- Improving knowledge base around new forms of work and platform economy as opportunities for young people
- Focus on young migrants and refugees
- Re-design unemployment insurance and rules for accessing active labour market programmes
- Reform VET by focusing on technology, sectoral and cross-sectoral skills programmes, development of management skills, and competences for a sustainable and entrepreneurial economy

## Next steps

- Support for the definition of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plans in the six Western Balkan countries; adaptation of YG monitoring framework;
- Contribute to peer learning and exchanges organised in the framework of EC, ILO, ETF Technical Assistance Facility for Youth Guarantee
- Ensuring recognition of platform work and digital skills as part of all policy discourse concerning youth employment prospects
- Fostering participation in the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, including potential for Youth Guarantee and overall development of Work Based Learning opportunities and improved monitoring and evaluation
- Reviewing Career guidance and counselling systems and enabling global exchanges through participation in the Global Careers Month





# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN SEET



## Embracing the digital age

- ETF has conducted a study looking at today's landscape and the future of work for young people in the Western Balkans
- In-depth analysis emphasises the impact of technological advancements on economies, accelerating digitalisation trends and labour flexibility
- This work highlights the implications of the increase in non-standard, flexible online-based platform work aimed predominantly at young people, and how it cuts across issues including gender and skills polarisation
- The ETF is supporting policy makers to ensuring platform work and other new forms of work enabled by digitalisation is recognised in policy discussions with partner countries and collaborating with stakeholders to identify and address the implications for education and training systems

# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN SEET

At the **Mihajlo Pupin Electrotechnical High School in Novi Sad (Serbia)**, students get to experiment with learning through play. As part of the ETF's **Benefits4People initiative**, the high school has implemented a programme which gives students the opportunity to recycle electronic components and use them to create new working systems including toys and ornaments.

“

We take things that would otherwise be thrown away and pollute the environment and turn them into nice gadgets that we can give to someone.

Milos Prodanovic,  
*ICT student*

”

“

Classic teaching methods are history. This project increases the children's involvement in lessons.

Munir Rageb,  
*Electronics Teacher*

”

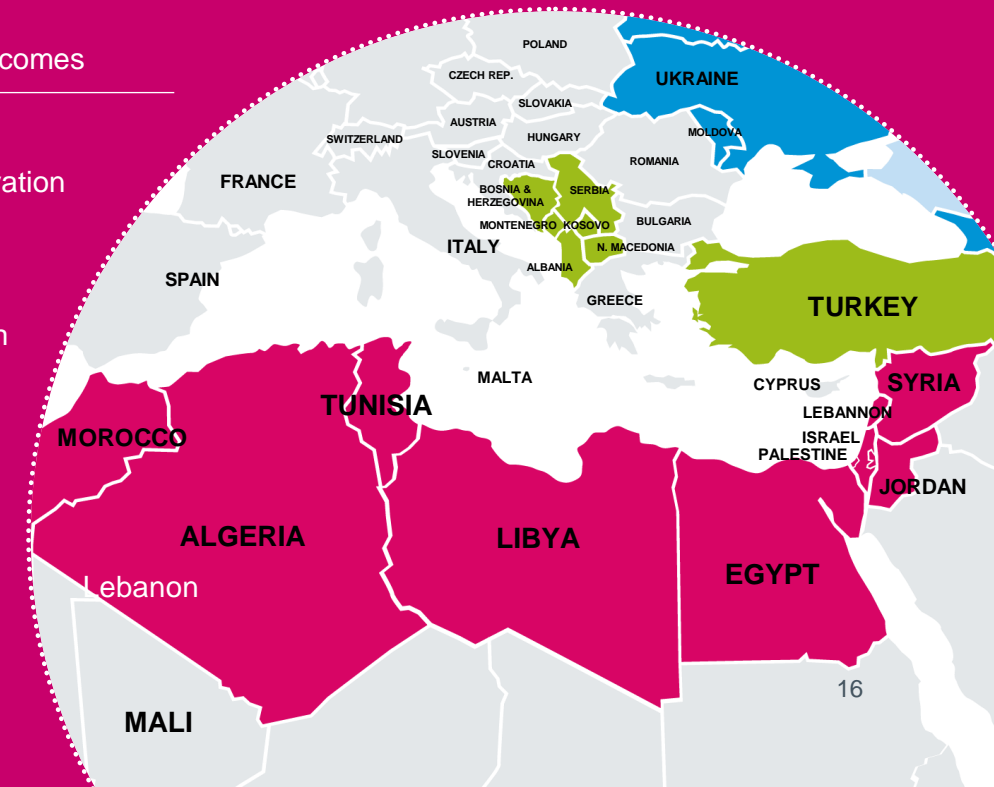


# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (SEMED)

- **Youth related priority areas of intervention at regional level recommended by ETF:**
- Build strong skills partnerships, a must for socio-economic prosperity and agile and resilient systems
- Establish a lifelong learning culture and reinforce adult education to ensure economic growth, social inclusion and digital/green transition
- Skills provision should ease labour market transition, support job creation, and reinforce inclusion
- Data for better skills anticipation and matching, and monitoring labour market outcomes

## Next steps

- Contribution to knowledge creation and sharing and policy dialogue on youth activation and skilling
- Supporting the set up and running of the Community of Practice on 'Youth Employment in the Southern Mediterranean' in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean, European Commission and GIZ
- Contribution to UNICEF-ILO Regional study & summit on learning to earning transition (MENA)
- Provision of expertise in Palestine - youth employment programmes and transition from school to work; Jordan - ALMPs and skills mismatches; Lebanon - mainstreaming career guidance to support youth transition to work
- Fostering exchanges on career guidance and counselling (Global Careers Month)





# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN SEMED

- In 2021, THE ETF published its report, “Youth in Transition in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean: Identifying profiles and characteristics to tap into young people’s potential”
- The report assessed the situation of young people in relation to changing labour markets and social conditions from the regional perspective, responding to a need to highlight the plight of young people in a region affected by widespread unemployment
- Many young people are categorised as NEETs (young people not in education, employment or training), many others are forced to work in the informal economy, characterised by precarious working conditions, low wages, few training opportunities and no social protection. Even more drop out of the labour market altogether
- ETF research highlighted access to education, skills mismatch, gender inequality and an underdeveloped private sector as major contributors to high unemployment rates among young people. But the increasing impact of new digital technologies and platform work does offer new opportunities that young people are generally more able to seize
- The report findings have informed ETF objectives to work closely with our partner country stakeholders to improve the relevance of education, to encourage policy makers to work with employers to identify skills shortages and skills mismatch, and to facilitate the transition from school to work including career guidance



# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN SEMED

Together with our partners the ETF has carefully **listened to young people talking about their challenges and concerns** in the era of COVID-19.

We looked at the challenges, opportunities, determinants for success and, most importantly, the views, sentiments and opinions of the **young generation** concerning their current and future prospects.

“

I decided to get involved with associations in civil society and I saw a complete change in my skills.

After that, I followed many courses for young entrepreneurs and young people to help them start their own business. **Entrepreneurship can help to train people to start their entrepreneurial life and to become change-makers**

Mokhles Mechri,  
*a young entrepreneur  
from Tunisia*

”





# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN CENTRAL ASIA (CA)

**Youth related priority areas of intervention at regional level recommended by the ETF:**

- Youth employability, skills development
- DARYA regional initiative funded by the European Union

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## **Next steps**

- DARYA – programme to support post-Covid recovery in Central Asia by fostering improved employability of young people through inclusive and labour-market oriented skills development
- ETF expertise input to the inception phase of DARYA with focus on policy approaches for youth activation
- Cooperation with country and international organizations on promoting youth, generation of new quantitative and qualitative evidence on youth transitions and wellbeing, and dissemination of findings





# ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN CA

Together with our partners the ETF has carefully **listened to young people talking about their challenges and concerns** in the era of COVID-19.

We looked at the challenges, opportunities and, most importantly, the views, sentiments and opinions of the **young generation** concerning their current and future prospects.

“

There used to be a problem in that we were disconnected from the labour market, our graduates were not always able to find a job. But we found the solution – to work with employers, to understand their needs, to include competences needed in the labour market.

**The focus is on making training relevant for the workplace.**

Nurizat Imankulova,  
*School Director, Lyceum 98*  
*Kyrgyzstan*

”



# ETF “YOUTH IN FOCUS” – LOOKING FORWARD



The European Training Foundation is the EU agency supporting countries surrounding the European Union to reform their education, training and labour market systems



Our unique role is based on the expertise of our staff, and experience gained over nearly 25 years of working hand-in-hand with government, business, and social partners in countries in and around the EU neighbourhood. Our aim is to support each country's own process for education, training, and labour market reform, with a range of evidence-based methodologies



Effectively preparing young people to give them the skills to face the challenges that lay ahead including climate change and the twin digital and green transitions will be key to support their personal, social and professional development, and to ensure they become active and engaged citizens



**By building on young people's strengths and resilience and realising the potential of everyone, effective transitions towards greener, digital and more equitable societies will be possible.**

*Xavier Matheu, ETF Director Ad Interim*





European Training Foundation

[www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)