

AGENDA

Civil society for lifelong skills development in Europe and partner countries ETF-LLL-EEA joint conference

TIMING: 23RD May 2023, 09.15-16.30 CEST

VENUE: Rue de Spa 2, Brussels - Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

CONFERENCE RATIONALE

The European Year of Skills 2023 focuses on the priority to reach 60% of adults engaged in learning. This priority stated by major EU policies – the European Pillar of Social Rights' Action Plan, Skills Agenda and Council Resolution on new European agenda for adult learning 2021-2030¹ - calls for greater attention to and increased investment in education, training, lifelong learning.

The European Training Foundation (ETF), the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL) and the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) join forces in promoting policy dialogue and partnerships between governments and civil society organisations that are active in the sector, both in ETF Partner Countries and EU Member States, as a means towards access to good quality lifelong learning for all.

The Conference participants suggest that lifelong learning policies should be shaped by all stakeholders: Ministries, agencies, schools and other training providers and their teachers, Civil Society Organisations and private sector. Including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in policy dialogue and design will bring advantages, and lead policies to address the diversity of people and their learning needs.

The Conference participants will discuss the conditions for an inclusive policy dialogue on lifelong learning. The programme will draw from experiences, such as the drafting of National Skills Strategies in few countries and/or other approaches that tackle the challenge of building lifelong learning and skills development systems, by considering each country specific context.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- 1) To highlight the advantages of civil dialogue at all stages of policy making
-

¹ [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#)
[European Skills Agenda](#)

[Council Resolution on a new European agenda for adult learning 2021-2030 \(2021/C 504/02\)](#)

2) Discuss and agree upon follow up actions, in EU and partner countries

QUESTIONS PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION

- How far have CSOs been involved in the formulation of skills development policies in partner countries? Are the National Skills Strategy a good practice case for EU Member States and partner countries?
- What are the CSOs' main contributions to policy formulation, which would be missed otherwise?
- Do the National Skills Strategies and other policy formulations pay attention to the local level?
- What kind of cooperation is envisaged at local level, to address challenges such as lack of opportunities, marginalisation and people left behind, brain drain, or other challenges?
- How do the Strategies help creating aligned vision on lifelong learning?
- What policy objectives do the Strategies identify? How is the impact measured?

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

The conference is organised in presence in Brussels with online participation: up to 60 participants on site, 60+ participants online. The working language is English.

22 nd May 2023 19:30 - 21:30	Official Dinner
23 rd May 2023	
09:15 - 10:00	Welcome and Networking Breakfast
10:00 - 10.20	<p>Setting the scene: Stakeholders dialogue to shape lifelong learning policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Swedish Presidency - European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs: Dragoş Pişlaru, Chair - European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion - European Economic and Social Committee (EESC): Tatjana Babrauskienė, Member <p>Moderation: European Training Foundation (ETF)</p>
10:20 – 11:10	<p>Session 1: How Civil Society Organisations address the diversity of learners and their needs: youth, adults, migrants, gender approach – Lessons for policy</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova: Anna Gherganova - Head of the Occupational Policy and Labour Migration Regulation Directorate - Community Development Institute Macedonia: Sreten Koceski - Director - European Vocational Training Association (EVTA): Monica Verzola – Board member and Vice President of LLLP - European Training Foundation <p>Open discussion with participants</p> <p>Session facilitated by: Hugues Moussy, ETF</p>
11:10 – 12:00	<p>Session 2: How Civil Society Organisations engage with stakeholders, public authorities and other non-state organisations – Lessons for governance modalities</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ukrainian Association of Adult Education: Mykyta Andreev, President of the Association and Chairman of the Public Council under the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine - Committee of Regions: Tanya Hristova – Chair, Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture tbc - European Association of Regional & Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning (EARLALL): Camilla Winter, EARLALL Academy coordinator - Education International or ETUCE from a Partner Country or Brussels (tbc) <p>Open discussion with participants</p> <p>Session facilitated by: Uwe Gartenschlaeger, EAEA President</p>
12:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 3: The case of the National Skills Strategies – What's the role of Civil Society Organisations in this process?</p> <p>Keynote conversation on building and implementing NSS by Andrew Bell, Head of Skills Strategies, OECD and a representative from a Flemish CSO</p>

	Session facilitated by: Carlo Scatoli, European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	“What I take with me from the discussion” video interviews and other actions
14:30 - 16:20	<p>Session 4: Skills development, climate change and digitalization – Policy and civil dialogue till 2030</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Commission Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations - Government representative from a partner country (tbc) - International Labour Organisation (ILO): Lieve Verboven – Director of ILO office to the European Union <p>Open discussion with participants</p> <p>Session facilitated by: LLLP</p>
16:20 - 16:30	<p>Closing remarks LLL, EAEA, partner country representative Moderated by ETF</p>