

AGENDA

(DRAFT)

TITLE:

EMPOWERING FUTURES: DEMYSTIFYING CAREER PATHWAYS THROUGH A YOUTH LENS

SUBJECT:

Presentation and discussion of a joint ETF-UNICEF study on career guidance demand amongst youth

TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH 2024 – FACE-TO-FACE & ONLINE

BERLAYMONT NH HOTEL BRUSSELS

(Boulevard Charlemagne - Karel De Grotelaan, 11-19, Brussels, Belgium)

BACKGROUND

Career guidance and career learning for youth play a fundamental role in shaping the long-term prospects of individuals and communities. It extends beyond merely charting a path to employment and serves as a catalyst for lifelong learning, personal growth, and socio-economic advancement. Recognising this, the European Training Foundation (ETF) and UNICEF have initiated a collaborative endeavour to delve into and enhance career learning and guidance initiatives for young people.

A joint study aims at capturing young people's opinions and perceptions on access, expectations and needs with regard to career guidance and counselling as well as career education to inform policy responses to significant socio-economic and technological changes and challenges ahead, and ultimately empower young people.

Throughout the year 2023, surveys and focus groups were conducted among 7,400 young people across 11 countries and the Europe region, covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Listening to young people ensures that career guidance services effectively meet the evolving needs of young individuals supporting the digital and green transitions, fostering personal growth, lifelong learning, and socio-economic progress.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The study results will feed into the development of youth guarantee schemes in Western Balkans and EU-supported youth activities in Eastern Partnership and Central Asia countries, as well as countries' efforts to revisit career guidance standards and service delivery, (re)training of practitioners and reflection of new dimensions of career guidance and counselling, particularly social inclusion, wellbeing and mental health.

The study not only aims to recommend customised career guidance services but also to shape these services to address the unique challenges faced by youth, including vulnerable groups such as young people not in employment, education or training, those with disabilities, and migrants or displaced adolescents, ensuring a holistic approach to their lifelong learning and career development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

After the event, participants

- Know about the results of the joint ETF-UNICEF study on career pathways and expectations of young people from selected European and Central Asian countries and its main conclusions
- Understand the importance of personalised, tailored and context adequate career guidance services from early education onwards throughout life
- Understand the implications of the study results for policy and support programmes
- Are able to identify relevant career guidance actions in support of young people for funding initiatives, support programmes and policymaking.

Target audience: policy makers, young contributors, EU and international institutions and organizations

AGENDA

Time	Agenda Item
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30 - 09:55	<p>Opening session Dr Pilvi Torsti, Director, European Training Foundation Octavian Bivol, Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF Mathieu Bosquet, Director, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission David Dion, Acting Director, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Lieve Verboven, Director of the ILO Office to the EU and the Benelux countries</p>
09:55 – 10:20	<p>Joint ETF-UNICEF study on career guidance demand amongst youth Interactive presentation of key findings and conclusions of the study</p> <p>Youth representative, ETF and UNICEF ECARO</p>
10:20 – 11:00	<p>Expert panel: challenges and opportunities in career guidance for young people</p> <p>European Union’s flagship on Youth Guarantee Relevance for education-to-work for young people, including role of career guidance services and opportunities to implementation beyond the EU European Commission, DG EMPL (tbc)</p> <p>Perspective of Public Employment Services on career guidance services Career guidance in the framework of the Youth Guarantee in North Macedonia: outreach, integration into YG scheme, monitoring Goran Petkovski, Head of Unit, Employment Service Agency of North Macedonia (online)</p> <p>Career counselling for resilience Relevance of career guidance and counselling for displaced adolescents and young people in context of resilience and recovery efforts and preparation for EU accession Ukraine representative/s (tbc)</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Inspirational Practices: youth relevant career guidance services</p> <p>Career education learning approach in the education systems Corinne Lamontagne, Pedagogical Counsellor on Guidance, Training and Mobility, Cité des Métiers, Brussels, Representative of the Euroguidance Network</p> <p>Career guidance beyond school system in Albania Joniada Hito, Career Guidance Office of Tirana Municipality, Albania</p> <p>Prilike Programme Montenegro – gaining first practical experience at workplace Ivana Boskovic, Adolescent Development Officer, UNICEF Country Office – Montenegro</p> <p>How to make career guidance for youth a reality Prof. Peter Weber, University of Applied Labour Studies of the German Public Employment Service</p> <p>Questions and answers</p>
12:30 – 13:40	<p>Workshop: what are key take aways from the study and how to feed them into policies, programmes and practices</p> <p>Discussions and action prioritisation exercise involving both on-site and online audience</p>

Time	Agenda Item
13.40 – 14.00	Final reflections and concluding remarks European Commission, UNICEF ECARO, ETF, youth representatives
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch
15.00 – 16.00	Networking session