

AGENDA

TITLE:

EMPOWERING FUTURES: DEMYSTIFYING CAREER PATHWAYS THROUGH A YOUTH LENS

SUBJECT:

Presentation and discussion of a joint ETF-UNICEF ECARO study “Learning for Careers. What kinds of career guidance and career education services do young people want in Europe and Central Asia?”

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 Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (ECARO) 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 over 9,600 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.

* 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.

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.

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

Time	Agenda Item
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30 - 10:00	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Octavian Bivol, Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF</p> <p>Pilvi Torsti, Director (video message) and Manuela Prina, Head of Unit, ETF</p> <p>Mathieu Bousquet, Director, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission</p> <p>David Dion, Acting Director, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</p> <p>Lieve Verboven, Director of the ILO Office to the EU and the Benelux countries</p> <p>Camilla Brückner, Director of the UN/UNDP Office in Brussels and Representative of the UN System in the EU (excused)</p>
10:00 – 10:20	<p>Joint ETF-UNICEF ECARO study on career guidance demand amongst youth</p> <p>Interactive presentation of key findings and conclusions of the study: <i>Learning for Careers. What kinds of career guidance and career education services do young people want in Europe and Central Asia?</i></p> <p>Florian Kadletz, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</p> <p>Cristina Bacalso, Adolescent Development and Participation, UNICEF ECARO</p> <p>Stefan Stojanovik (North Macedonia), Maria Andronic (Romania) Oleksandra Nych (Ukraine), Rano Dilmurodova (Uzbekistan) - youth representatives</p>
10:20 – 11:00	<p>Challenges and opportunities in career guidance for young people European Union's flagship on Youth Guarantee</p> <p>Relevance for education-to-work for young people, including role of career guidance services and opportunities to implementation beyond the EU</p> <p>Emmanuelle Roure, Team Leader, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission</p> <p>Perspective of Public Employment Services on career guidance services</p> <p>Career guidance in the framework of the Youth Guarantee in North Macedonia: outreach, integration into YG scheme, monitoring</p> <p>Goran Petkovski, Head of Unit, Employment Service Agency of North Macedonia (online)</p> <p>Career counselling for resilience</p> <p>Relevance of career guidance and counselling for displaced adolescents and young people in context of resilience and recovery efforts and preparation for EU accession</p> <p>Hanna Voronina, Career Guidance expert and co-author of the ETF career guidance system review for Ukraine (online)</p> <p>Iryna Shumik, Director General of Directorate of Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine</p> <p>Role of ERASMUS+ programme in enhancing capacities and opportunities for career guidance</p> <p>Antoaneta Irikova, Directorate General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission</p>

Time	Agenda Item
	<p>Questions and answers</p> <p><i>Moderator: Cristina Mereuta, Senior Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i></p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>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> <p><i>Moderator: Aida Ailarova, Regional Adolescent Development Specialist, UNICEF ECARO</i></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> <p><i>Facilitators: ETF and UNICEF ECARO</i></p>
13.40 – 14.00	<p>Final reflections and concluding remarks</p> <p>Octavian Bivol, Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UNICEF Manuela Prina, Head of Unit, European Training Foundation</p>
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch
15.00 – 16.00	Networking session