

BUILDING GREEN GREENING TO EXCELLENCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

20 May 2025, 12.00 – 14.30 CEST (online meeting)

The European Training Foundation's **Network for Excellence – ENE** – supports vocational excellence development together with more than 330 centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs) from more than 50 **European Neighbourhood countries, EU Member States, African and Asian countries**.

The network's global greening VET partnership, **GRETA** (Greening Responses to Excellence through Thematic Actions), supports greening of VET as response to the green and digital transitions.

The **buildings and construction sector**, responsible for nearly 40% of global CO₂ emissions, holds immense potential for impact. With sustainable building practices, emissions could be halved within just five years. Yet, this transition is constrained by critical skills shortages: by 2030, 60% of construction workers will require training in sustainable methods, while 85% of renewable energy roles will demand new competencies to support emerging technologies.

To meet this challenge, vocational education and training (VET) systems must accelerate **vocational excellence** – not only to advance the green transition but also to strengthen **industrial competitiveness and resilience**.

Central to this effort are robust **skills ecosystems** that connect VET providers, enterprises, and policy actors in meaningful collaboration.

This online learning session will include insights on:

- **The Union of Skills:** The European Commission's new strategy to help people stay ahead in a rapidly changing world and keep Europe competitive
- **UNIDO's industry insights** on evolving value chains and the growing demand for green skills in the construction sector
- **Practice examples** Demonstrating how cooperation between VET providers and enterprises fosters green innovation, work based learning and lifelong learning
- **UNESCO-UNEVOC's global guidelines** on greening VET: Highlighting the importance of integrated approaches and strategic partnerships to equip today's learners for a competitive, sustainable future
- For more information contact Lead Expert, **Susanne M. Nielsen** at smn@etf.europa.eu.

ETF report '**Greening of Vocational Education and Training: Processes, Practices and Policies**' is available at: [GRETA report.pdf](#)

AGENDA

Time	Activity	Speaker/s
12.00 – 12.05	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETF Network for Excellence and its global green initiative GRETA – Greening Responses to Excellence through Thematic Actions Approach and agenda <u>Going green: GRETA ETF</u>	Susanne M. Nielsen, Lead Expert for GRETA, ETF
12.05 – 12.20	The Union of Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy advancing skills development to boost Europe's competitiveness Focus on VET including Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) <u>Union of skills - European Commission</u>	Tim van Rie Policy Officer, European Commission
12.20 – 12.35	Skills for the Construction Value Chain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry insights on evolving skills demands across the construction sector Opportunities for skills development along the full value chain <u>UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization</u>	Juan Pablo Davila Head of Unit, UN Industrial Development Organisation
12.35 – 12.50	Practice example: BUILD SKILLS ACADEMY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erasmus+ project – CoVEs in construction sector ENRICH methodology: A practical, employer-led approach to skills development supporting green and digital transition within CoVEs. Regional cooperation: Involvement of partners to strengthen cross-border collaboration and innovation in vocational training. 	Elisa Petkova Senior Project Coordinator, Cleantech Bulgaria
12.50 – 13.00	Comfort break	
13.00 – 13.20	Practice example: Collaborating for Skills Excellence - partnerships between enterprises and vocational training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridging skills gaps by aligning training with industry needs and real-world challenges Promoting innovation and work based learning through targeted partnerships <u>Construct2 </u>	Tamar Zakarashvili Director, CoVE Construct2, Georgia Zurab Guntsadze Lead for green bricklaying programme, CoVE Construct 2, Georgia

13.20 – 13.40	<p>Practice example: EXCEL4HOUSING4.0: Advancing Skills for a Green and Digital Construction Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for excellence: Defining the skills, standards, and training pathways to lead the green transition in the building sector. • Sectoral transformation: Supporting innovation and sustainability in construction through CoVE collaboration and industry engagement 	<p>Sotiria Tsalamani, EU Project Manager, EVBB</p>
13.40 - 14.00	<p>Practice example Build4Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WBL in public projects: Embedding work-based learning in construction via partnerships with development banks and VET systems. • Employer engagement: Involving contractors to link training with real-site experience and boost employability. 	<p>Cynthia Kamau Senior Programme Manager, GIZ</p>
14.00 – 14.10	<p>Greening Skills and Qualifications in Africa – call for African practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inviting stakeholders to shape green skills and qualifications for sustainable development • Encouraging collaboration between industry, education, and policy makers for future-ready qualifications 	<p>Peter Kwasi Kodjie, All-Africa Students Union</p> <p>Maria Rosenstock, HCD expert, ETF</p>
14.10 – 14.25	<p>Shaping Sustainable Futures: Guidelines for Greening Vocational Education and Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical guidelines for embedding sustainability into vocational education curricula • Empowering VET institutions to foster green skills for a sustainable workforce <p><u>UNESCO-UNEVOC</u></p>	<p>Ken Barrientos, Senior Advisor, UNESCO-UNEVOC</p>
14:25 – 14:30	<p>Closure</p>	<p>Susanne M. Nielsen, ETF</p>