DRAFT agenda

Empowering competitiveness

Investing in Skills Ecosystems and Strategic Partnerships for Prosperity

DATE: 26 November 2025

Location: NH Collection Piazza Carlina, piazza Carlo Emanuele II, 15 Torino

Working Language: English

**26 November**

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| **Time** | **Sessions** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | **Welcome Coffee & Registration** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening Session**  Welcome Remarks:   * Pilvi Torsti, Director, European Training Foundation (ETF) * Stefano Lo Russo, Mayor, City of Turin * Mario Nava, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission (DG EMPL) |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | **Skills for competitiveness: An ecosystem approach**  Setting the scene: the case of Vocational Excellence  Panel 1: *How an ecosystem approach can accelerate skills development, foster innovation, and ensure inclusive, sustainable economic growth*.  Speakers:   * Representative of the Ministry Moldova (tbc) * Christos A. Ioannou, SEV Hellenic Federation of Enterprises * Representative of Asian Development Bank (ADB) (tbc) * Alessandro Mele, Cometa * Representative of ETUC (tbc)   Closing: Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) (tbc) |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | **Coffee Break** |
| 11:20 – 12:20 | **Company-based competitiveness and innovation in the context of skills shortages**  Setting the scene: The journey of Skilling-up in priority sectors (ETF)  Panel 2: *Shaping Innovation and Competitiveness through Smart Specialisation Policy*  Speakers:   * Minister Albania (tbc) * Minister Egypt (tbc) * Ivana Janković Mijanović, DG Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation Montenegro * Tanja Kotevska, Owner/Executive Manager, Greenagro * Biljiana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay, Associate Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)   Closing: European Commission Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) (tbc) and Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA) (tbc) |
| 12.20 – 12-30 | **Concluding Remarks: Pilvi Torsti, Director, ETF** |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | **ETF-EIB Official Launch of Gender and Social Inclusion Facility Agreement**  Speech:   * Mathieu Bousquet, Director, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission * Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf, European Commission (tbc)   Followed by comments:   * Lionel Rapaille, Director, Directorate Enlargement and Neighbourhood, European Investment Bank Global (EIB Global) * Pilvi Torsti, Director, ETF   *Official Signature*:  ETF and the European Investment Bank formalize the Gender and Social Inclusion Facility Agreement |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | *Networking Lunch* |