

DRAFT AGENDA

EU–Central Asia Partnerships for Skills

4TH DARYA HIGH-LEVEL GROUP MEETING

DATE: 30-31 October 2025

LOCATION: European Training Foundation, Turin, Italy

WORKING LANGUAGE: English with simultaneous interpretation into/from Russian

Introduction

DARYA (Dialogue and Action for Resourceful Youth in Central Asia) is the first EU-funded regional project to focus entirely on measures that support inclusive and labour market relevant skills development opportunities for young people in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The five-year project (2022-2027) is implemented by the European Training Foundation (ETF), a specialised Agency of the European Union, based in Italy. The High-Level Group (HLG) formed by the Deputy Ministers of Education and Labor from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. This high-level event serves as a platform for the High-Level Group along with representatives from EU Member States, EU institutions, and various international organizations, including social partners to engage in policy dialogue and share experiences related to regional dialogue and cooperation.

Participants

- Deputy Ministers of Education and of Labour of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
- EU Institutions representatives: European Commission (DG INTPA), European External Action Service (EEAS), EU Delegations
- Team Europe Partners: EU Member States, EU financial institutions (EBRD)
- Social partners and business representatives

Event Objectives

- To identify effective skills partnership models that serve as a driver of regional cooperation in skills development and that could inspire Central Asian experience
- To co-develop a regional Roadmap for future cooperation in skills development, positioning DARYA as a framework for regional collaboration in Central Asia.
- To secure political validation of regional priorities and explore a sectoral approach to guide the next phase of cooperation under DARYA.
- To discuss how sectoral skills approach can become an integral part of the regional cooperation framework.

DAY 0 – 29 October 2025

20:00 – 22:00	Welcome gathering with the Deputy Ministers co-hosted by Rector of Polytechnic University of Turin <i>Officine Grandi Riparazioni (OGR), Turin, Italy</i>
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DAY 1 – 30 October 2025

Venue: European Training Foundation (Sala Europa) and APRO Formazione Professionale in Alba

Moderator: Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy Advice Unit, ETF

Time	Sessions
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:25	Welcome <i>Pilvi Torsti, Director, European Training Foundation</i> <i>Stefano Lo Russo, Mayor of Turin (tbc)</i> <i>Elena Maria Baralis, Deputy Rector, Polytechnic University of Turin</i>
09:25 – 9:40	Opening <i>Eduards Stiprais, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia (EEAS)</i>
09:40 – 10:40	Remarks by Country Delegations <i>Askar Saktaganovich Biakhmetov, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population (Republic of Kazakhstan)</i> <i>Albert Damirbekovich Makhmetkulov Deputy Minister of Education and Science (Kyrgyz Republic)</i> <i>Halbib Tachjanova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population; Azat Atayev, Deputy Minister of Education (Republic of Turkmenistan)</i> <i>Alisher Akmalovich Muratov, Deputy Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction; Bakhtiyor Yuldashev, Director National Agency for Quality Assurance of Education under the Presidential Administration (Republic of Uzbekistan)</i>
10:40 – 10:55	Family picture
10:55 – 11:25	Coffee/Tea break
11:25 – 11:40	Global Gateway and skills development in Central Asia

	<i>Fabienne Van Den Eede, Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission</i>
11:40 – 12:30	Session 1: Building a Sectoral Skills Approach in the Transport Sector in Central Asia Panel discussion Speakers: <i>Johannes Baur, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> <i>Erasyl Temirbekovich Zhumanbayev, Director of the Workforce Development Center, Kazakhstan</i> <i>Maud de Vautibault, Associate Director - Impact & Human Capital Investing -Infrastructure & Energy, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</i> Moderator: Donatella di Vozzo, ETF
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch at the ETF
13:30 – 15:00	<i>Transfer to Centre of Vocational Excellence APRO Formazione Professionale, Alba</i>
15:00 – 15:45	Partnerships matter: Introduction to the Centre of Vocational Excellence APRO Formazione Professionale Welcome by Antonio Bosio, Director General of APRO Formazione Professionale Parallel Group Programme A) The founding story of APRO Formazione <i>Furio Bednarz, Senior researcher and CVET expert - Consultant by Apro Formazione</i> B) Tour of APRO <i>Federico Tubiello and Giuseppe Severino, APRO Formazione Professionale</i>
15:45 – 16:45	Session 2: From Global Vision to Local Impact: Strengthening Vocational Excellence through Partnerships Panel discussion and Q&A Speakers: <i>Agnes Roman, European Trade Union Organisation (ETUC)</i> <i>Matteo Rossi Sebaste, Vice President of Confindustria Cuneo</i> <i>Marco Bellini, Partner and Co-founder of B&B Automation, Technical Director</i> <i>Antonio Cataldi, Siemens Edu Italy</i> <i>Federico Tubiello, Apro Formazione</i> Moderators: Stefano Tirati, EfVET/World Alliance for Microcredentials and Sona Kalantaryan, ETF
16:45 – 19:00	Site visit to Ferrero factory
19:00 – 20:30	Dinner in Alba Accademia Alberghiera, APRO Formazione Professionale Welcome toast by Alberto Cirio, President of the Piedmont Region
20:30 – 21:30	<i>Transfer back to Turin</i>

DAY 2 – 31 October 2025

Venue: European Training Foundation (Sala Europa)

Moderator: Katarína Lukáčová, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF and Anna Kolobova, Project Officer, ETF

Time	Sessions
9:00 – 09:15	Introduction to Day 2 <i>Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy Advice Unit, ETF</i>
09:15 – 10:40	Session 3: Cultivating skills for competitiveness Series of Panel interviews on Good Practices from DARYA piloting initiatives in Central Asia A) Regional cooperation on qualifications at sectoral level <i>Nadezda Solodjankina, Qualification Expert, ETF</i> B) Evidence-based policies for youth <i>Eva Jansova, Labour Market Expert, ETF</i> C) Providing quality education and training for human centered development <i>Christine Hemschmeier, Expert on Teaching and Learning, ETF</i>
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:30	Picking up (DARYA) fruits for regional cooperation Interactive exercise
11:30 – 13:00	Session 4: Growing Regional Skills Ecosystem Working session on DARYA Skills Roadmap
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch at ETF
14:00 – 14:30	Session 5: Harnessing skills partnerships: Key Takeaways & Policy Messages <i>Pilvi Torsti, Director of European Training Foundation</i> <i>Fabienne Van Den Eede, Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission</i> <i>Deputy Ministers- Country Rapporteurs</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Closing and Ceremonial goodbye
15:00 –	Bilateral meetings