

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

Time	Chair: Donatella Di Vozzo
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome Coffee & Registration
09:30 – 10:00	<p>Opening and welcome session</p> <p><i>Pilvi Torsti, Director, European Training Foundation (ETF)</i></p> <p><i>Michela Favaro, Deputy Mayor, City of Turin</i></p> <p><i>Mario Nava, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission (DG EMPL)</i></p>
10:00-10:10	<p>Setting the Scene: Empowering Competitiveness through Skills Ecosystems</p> <p><i>Donatella Di Vozzo, ETF lead on Skills Investments & Financing</i></p>
10:10 – 11:00	<p>Skills for competitiveness: An ecosystem approach</p> <p>Setting the scene: the case of Vocational Excellence, Georgios Zisimos, Head of Human Capital Development Policy Advice Unit; Nikola Radovanovic, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</p> <p>Panel 1: How an ecosystem approach can accelerate skills development, foster innovation, and ensure inclusive, sustainable economic growth</p> <p>Moderators: <i>Georgios Zisimos and Nikola Radovanovic, ETF</i></p> <p>Panel speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>[online] Liudmila Stihi, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova</i> ▪ <i>[online] Fook Yen Chong, Senior social sector specialist, Asian Development Bank</i> ▪ <i>Angelo Cappetti, Director, Unione Industriali Torino</i> ▪ <i>Ola Kukkasniemi, entrepreneur, Wooden</i> ▪ <i>Alessandro Mele, CEO, Cometa</i>

	<p>Closing: <i>Erica Gerretsen, Director Human Development, Migration, Governance and Peace, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)</i></p>
11:00 – 11:20	<p>Coffee Break</p>
11:20 – 12:20	<p>Company-based competitiveness and innovation in the context of skills shortages</p> <p>Setting the scene: The journey of Skilling-up the Western Balkans Agri-food Sector <i>Pirita Vuorinen, Senior Expert, Lead on Engaging Enterprises in Skills Development, ETF</i></p> <p>Panel 2: Shaping Innovation and Competitiveness through Smart Specialisation Policy</p> <p>Moderators: <i>Cristina Mereuta, Acting Head of Knowledge Hub for Skills and Jobs Unit; Kristien Van den Eynde, Human Capital Development Expert – Entrepreneurship, ETF</i></p> <p>Panel speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>[online] Stavri Lako, Director, Directorate of Vocational Training Policies and VET Inspection, Ministry of Economy, Culture, and Innovation, Albania</i> ▪ <i>Shimaa Mahgoub, Head of Labour Market Policies Unit& Advisor to National Wages Council, Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation</i> ▪ <i>Ivana Janković Mijanović, Director General Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro</i> ▪ <i>Tanja Kotevska, Owner/Executive Manager, Greenagro</i> ▪ <i>Biljana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay, Associate Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</i>
12.20 – 12-30	<p>Concluding Remarks</p> <p><i>Pilvi Torsti, Director, ETF</i></p> <p><i>Mario Nava, Director General, DG EMPL</i></p>
12:30 – 13:00	<p>ETF-EIB Official Launch of Gender and Social Inclusion Facility Agreement</p> <p>Remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>[online] Mathieu Bousquet, Director, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission</i> ▪ <i>Fulvio Capurso, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf</i> <p>Followed by signatories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Lionel Rapaille, Director, Directorate Enlargement and Neighbourhood, European Investment Bank Global (EIB Global)</i> ▪ <i>Pilvi Torsti, Director, ETF</i> <p>Official Signature:</p> <p>ETF and the European Investment Bank formalize the Gender and Social Inclusion Facility Agreement</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<p><i>Networking Lunch</i></p>