

Constructing Change: The Buildings and Construction Sector, NDCs, and the Skills for Climate Action

17 November 2025, 12.00 – 14.00 CET (online meeting)

Session Context

As COP30 unfolds, the world reflects on a decade since the Paris Agreement — a milestone for climate cooperation and a renewed call to accelerate implementation.

Countries are now shaping and delivering their NDC 3.0 (Nationally Determined Contributions), setting ambitious paths toward climate neutrality. Yet, these ambitions can only be realised through skilled people, innovative systems, and strong partnerships.

The buildings and construction sector — responsible for nearly a third of global energy use and around a third of emissions — stands at the heart of the green transition. It is both a major challenge and a powerful opportunity for climate action. Encouragingly, global building emissions have begun to level off, showing that real progress is possible when innovation, technology, and skills align.

In this ETF online session, we explore how skills systems, vocational excellence, and policy innovation can drive the green and digital transformation of this crucial sector. The event will present insights from two new ETF studies — on NDCs and their skills implications, and on green transformation in the construction value chain — complemented by experiences from Egypt, Denmark, and Ukraine.

 Interpretation available in Ukrainian, French, Arabic, and Russian

AGENDA

Time	Activity	Speaker/s
12.00 – 12.10	<p>Opening</p> <p>Welcome and framing of the session: from the Paris Agreement to COP30 — the critical role of the buildings and construction sector in delivering climate commitments through skills.</p>	<p>Susanne M. Nielsen, Lead Expert for GRETA, ETF</p>
12.10 – 12.30	<p>NDC 3.0 and the Human Capital Challenge</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NDC 3.0 and its implications for national skills ecosystems - Aligning human capital development with climate targets and industrial strategy. 	<p>Romain Boitard, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</p>
12.30 – 12.45	<p>Country Example - Montenegro case: readiness of the key sectors for the NDC implementation and climate action</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the contrast between ambitious climate targets and limited institutional and infrastructural readiness • Addressing pathways for a just transition through retraining, economic diversification, and sustainable local development. 	<p>Natasa Kovacevic, Heating sector decarbonization campaigner for the Western Balkans</p>
12.45 – 13.00	<p>The Buildings and Construction Sector: Innovation, Materials, and Skills Transformation</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green transformation of the construction value chain. • Emerging technologies and sustainable materials reshaping the sector. • Collaboration models between research, business, and training institutions. 	<p>Karsten Frølich, Director, Danish Technological Institute</p>
13.00 – 13.15	<p>Comfort Break</p>	

<p>13.15 – 13.30</p>	<p>Accelerating Vocational Excellence for Green Transitions</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) as levers for transformation. • Pathways for system change to embed sustainability and innovation in VET. 	<p>Susanne M. Nielsen, Lead Expert for GRETA, ETF</p>
<p>13.30 – 13.50</p>	<p>Case Study: Ukraine – VET Reforms and Centres of Excellence in Action</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ukraine’s new VET law and implementation progress. • The role of CoVEs in driving modernisation, resilience, and green transition. 	<p>Maryna Rydnytskykh, Senior Legal Expert, Ministry of Education and Science</p> <p>Oksana Rumovska, State Expert on Management and Public-private partnership, Ministry of Education and Science</p>
<p>13.50 – 14.00</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Reflections and next steps — from NDCs to action in the buildings and construction sector.</p>	<p>Susanne M. Nielsen, ETF</p>