

DARYA governance webinar series

DRAFT AGENDA

TITLE:

Working Together For Successful Investment:

EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT IN SECTORAL SKILLS GOVERNANCE AND VET

DATE AND TIME: 13 MAY 2026 (ONLINE)

CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME: 13 MAY 2026 11.30 – 13.00

ASTANA, DUSHANBE, TASHKENT, ASHGABAD TIME: 13 MAY 2026 14.30 – 16.00

BISHKEK TIME: 13 MAY 2026 15.30 – 17.00

LANGUAGE: RUSSIAN/ENGLISH

REGISTRATION LINK: [HTTPS://TREE.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/YP1-JTQUQEMQCXQZPOTYLW](https://tree.zoom.us/meeting/register/yp1-jtquqemqcqxqzp0tylw)

BACKGROUND:

Central Asia is experiencing growing investment in strategic sectors such as green energy, digital infrastructure, transport, including through EU and international investment initiatives such as Global Gateway. At the same time, demographic growth and structural economic change are reshaping local labour markets. These dynamics influence both skills demand and supply, creating new and evolving skills needs, and increasing the importance of governance systems that can anticipate change, coordinate stakeholders and help driving the local impact of investment.

Building on dialogue and joint work with partners from the five Central Asian countries under the EU-funded [DARYA project](#), there is a shared recognition of the importance of sectoral approaches and employers' participation in skills development in the context of emerging sectors.

Sectoral skills governance offers a practical framework for aligning skills development with economic and investment priorities. By focusing on specific economic sectors, sectoral approaches make it possible to reflect sector-specific technologies, value chains and business models in skills policies and provision. Governance mechanisms such as *sector skills councils*, *sectoral committees* or platforms anchored in *chambers of commerce* and employer organisations can support more structured and sustained employer participation, complementing existing institutional arrangements.

Employers play a central role in the context of economic diversification and investment-driven transformation in Central Asia. They are closely connected to labour market dynamics, understand how jobs and technologies are changing, and influence whether investment generates local value. Well-designed sectoral skills governance mechanisms enable the employer knowledge to be channelled into concrete skills outcomes, for example through improved skills anticipation, updated occupational and qualification standards, stronger links between education, training and work, and better use of the skills intelligence.

Purpose

The webinar will explore how sectoral skills governance can be strengthened through systematic employer engagement. It will elaborate on the different forms the employer engagement can take, and the added value it can bring to more coherent and responsive skills systems in Central Asia. In addition to national good practices, the webinar will also address practical challenges faced when engaging employers and turning sectoral dialogue into real changes in qualifications, curricula and training.

Using international and regional examples, the webinar will examine sectoral coordination mechanisms such as sector skills councils, sectoral committees and chambers of commerce that help organise and systematise employer participation, and bring businesses, public authorities, and education and training providers into closer and more regular interaction, including at system-level decision making.

Expected learning outcomes

- ✓ greater awareness of different national approaches to sectoral skills governance (Austria, Netherlands, Egypt) with particular attention to how employers participate in defining skills needs and shaping skills systems;
- ✓ improved understanding of key governance challenges and recent developments in sectoral skills governance in Central Asia, including institutional roles and mechanisms for engaging and cooperating with labour market stakeholders in skills and qualifications;
- ✓ strengthened capacity to reflect on their own institutional and country practices and to identify elements from the experiences presented that could be realistically adapted to their context.

Target audience:

Stakeholders engaged in skills and qualifications systems, including ministries (Education, Labour/Employment ministries, sectoral), workforce development institutions, national qualifications authorities, qualification recognition bodies, education and training providers, sectoral representatives, skills councils, private sector stakeholders, and other relevant actors contributing to the development and coordination of skills systems.

Central European Time	Sessions	Speaker
11:30 - 11:40	<p>Opening, rules of engagement, overview of Agenda</p> <p>Words of welcome, ETF introduction to the topic</p>	<p>Kakhaber Eradze, DARYA Governance Expert</p> <p>Katarina Lukacova, ETF</p>
11:40 – 12:55	<p>Sectoral approaches to skills governance: employer engagement across different institutional modalities</p> <p>Setting the scene: Sectoral approach to skills in labour intensive industries: case of the Slovak manufacturing sector</p> <p>Involvement of sector organizations in the development of training regulations in the dual system in Austria</p> <p>Dutch sectoral skills councils as “knowledge centres” and lessons learned from setting up sectoral skills councils in emerging renewable energy sectors in Egypt</p> <p>Sectoral skills councils in Kazakhstan’s oil, gas and energy industry: the role and experience of KAZENERGY</p> <p>Q&A 20’</p>	<p>Chairperson: Kakhaber Eradze, DARYA Governance Expert</p> <p>Katarina Lukacova, ETF and Olav Aarna, DARYA Qualification Expert (10 min) (tbc)</p> <p>Stefan Praschl, SkillsAustria (15 min)</p> <p>Pasqualino Mare, Human Capital Expert ETF (15 min)</p> <p>Lyazzat Akhmerzina, the Chair of the Kazakh sectoral council for energy, the Executive Director of "KAZENERGY" Association (15 min)</p>
12:55 – 13:00	Final commentary and wrap up	Nadezda Solodjankina, ETF