

# AGENDA

## TITLE:

## ADVANCING EFFECTIVE YOUTH GUARANTEE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

**TIME AND PLACE:** 19-21 MAY 2026, LISBON, PORTUGAL

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### SUMMARY:

Organised by the European Training Foundation (ETF) in partnership with the European Commission and EU Member States, this in-person seminar is designed to accelerate the development of comprehensive and impactful strategies for the preparation and implementation of the Youth Guarantee in Ukraine. The event aims to serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and joint problem-solving, drawing on the collective expertise of European institutions and practitioners.

The seminar is part of the ETF Knowledge Sharing Programme for the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Youth Guarantee in Ukraine.

### Objectives

The overall objective of the seminar is to provide delegates of the Interagency Working Group on Youth Guarantee in Ukraine an opportunity to acquire additional knowledge on strategies and instruments, the Youth Guarantee governance mechanisms and youth activation approaches through partnerships, aiming at maximising effectiveness of the design and implementation methods of the scheme in Ukraine.

The seminar will delve into governance approaches of Portugal and other EU Member States, emphasising the development and refinement of Youth Guarantee implementation strategies, based on partnership principles that span public institutions, youth organisations, local authorities, social workers, and social partners. A core focus will be on enhancing capacity to engage young people, particularly through effective outreach career guidance and counselling. The event will also foster the development of partnership models and collaborative frameworks essential for delivering quality support to youth in Ukraine.

As a forum of experience sharing and discussion, it serves as a milestone in preparation for a Ukraine's Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan, fostering a network of engaged professionals and supporting the design of tailored support for young people across the country.

### Participants

The seminar will bring together representatives from the Inter-agency Working Group on Youth Guarantee in Ukraine and European practitioners. This includes stakeholders from public institutions, social partners, youth organisations, and other relevant actors who play a pivotal role in designing and

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delivering youth support services throughout Ukraine. Their diverse perspectives and experience will enrich discussions and contribute to the co-creation of practical input to the YG Implementation Plan proposal.

### **Working methods**

The seminar will feature an interactive format, including expert-led presentations, facilitated group discussions, hands-on working sessions, and field visits. Participants will actively share experiences, analyse challenges, and collaboratively develop actionable recommendations for the draft Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan. The programme will leverage best practices from across Europe, encouraging practical application and adaptation to the Ukrainian context.

### **Background**

As an EU candidate country, Ukraine has commenced a comprehensive set of reforms aiming at modernisation, adaptation and consolidation of human capital development policies in line with the EU *acquis communautaire*. Those reforms consider the deep socio-economic impact of Russia's war against the country.

In this context, the Government of Ukraine established in June 2024 the Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth Guarantee tasked with development of a specific mechanism for the implementation of comprehensive policy approaches to address the needs of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET).

Based on the commitment to support the process, the European Training Foundation (ETF) has developed a Knowledge Sharing Programme on the EU Youth Guarantee for the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Youth Guarantee in Ukraine, aiming at providing a comprehensive understanding of the initiative, examine available services and support for young people, build effective implementation strategies, and explore monitoring and evaluation frameworks. is structured to provide a thorough and integrated understanding of the Youth Guarantee initiative. The programme aims to strengthen implementation capacity, review available services and support mechanisms for young people, and introduce robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The programme is being delivered in partnership with the European Commission, ILO and is grounded in the expertise of the ETF, leading European experts and practitioners, and builds on lessons learnt from Youth Guarantee implementation in EU Member States and the Western Balkans.

**Working languages: English, with interpretation to Ukrainian**

## DAY 1 – 19 May 2026

Time	Agenda Item
<i>Location: Hotel 3K Barcelona, R. Laura Alves 10, 1050-138 Lisbon</i>	
08:45 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:40	<p><b>Opening and Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Pilvi Torsti</b>, Director, European Training Foundation (online)  <b>Domingos Lopes</b>, President, Employment and Vocational Training Institute (IEFP)  <b>Uliana Tokarieva</b>, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine  <b>Bogdan Matviychuk</b>, Director, Employment Department, Ministry of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine  <b>Laura Corrado</b>, Head of Unit, International Affairs and ETF, Directorate General Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission (online)</p> <p>Moderated by <b>Iwona Ganko</b>, Team Leader Ukraine Task Force, European Training Foundation</p>
09:40 - 10:15	<p><b>Keynote presentation: Portugal’s approach to Youth Guarantee implementation</b></p> <p><b>Maria da Luz Pessoa e Costa</b>, Director, Employment and Vocational Training Institute (IEFP), Portugal  <i>Partnering for Youth Guarantee success: sustained strengthening of the outreach approach</i></p> <p>Introduction and moderation by <b>Paulo Feliciano</b>, Youth Guarantee Expert            Q&amp;A Session</p>
10:15 - 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:45 - 11:45	<p><b>Ukraine’s Journey towards the Youth Guarantee</b></p> <p>Representatives of the Interagency Working Group on Youth Guarantee in Ukraine</p> <p>Moderated by <b>Iwona Ganko</b>            Q&amp;A Session</p>
11:45 - 12:45	<p><b>Case study – Slovenia</b></p> <p><b>Jana Rožac</b>, Youth Guarantee coordinator at Public Employment Service, Central Office</p> <p>Moderated by <b>Siria Taurelli</b>, Senior Human Capital Development Expert, European Training Foundation            Q&amp;A Session</p>
12:45 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 15:30	<p><b>Enhancing Youth Guarantee Outreach and Wrap-Around Support for NEET Youth in Ukraine and Host Countries</b></p> <p><b>Olena Sakovych</b>, Unicef ECARO</p> <p>Discussant: <b>Jaana Kettunen</b>, Finnish Institute for Educational Research</p> <p>Reflection on the role of education system, employment and social services, and youth organisations in the YG outreach and delivery, based on EU experiences</p>

Time	Agenda Item
	Focused group reflection for Ukrainian context guided by experts
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 - 16.45	Learnings and findings for Ukraine – discussion guided by experts
16:45 - 17:00	Conclusions and closure of Day 1
19:30 - 21:30	<i>Dinner, Baia Do Peixe, Campo Pequeno, Lisbon</i>

## DAY 2 – 20 May 2026

Time	Agenda Item
<i>Location: Hotel 3K Barcelona, Qualifica Centre Lima de Freitas, Auto Europa Training Centre</i>	
08:45 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:15	Introduction to Day 2
09:15 - 10:30	<p><b>Case study - Estonia</b> - Governance and outreach approach</p> <p><b>Heidi Paabort</b>, Advisor, Employment Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications</p> <p>Moderated by <b>Siria Taurelli</b></p>
10:30 - 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 - 12:00	<p><b>Key aspects of YG coordination process in Ukraine</b></p> <p>Guided reflection based on the presented case studies</p>
12:00 - 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00	<i>Departure to Qualifica Centre in Setubal</i>
14:00 - 15:30	<p>Visit to <b>Qualifica Centre Lima de Freitas</b> in Setubal</p> <p>Role of the Qualification Centres in referral and guidance of young people within the YG, training delivery and VNFIL</p> <p><b>Maria Amorim</b>, Coordinator of the Qualifica Centre</p>
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Transfer to Auto Europa training centre (ATEC)</i>
16:00 - 17:00	<p>Visit to the companies' consortium <b>Auto Europa Training Centre-ATEC</b></p> <p><b>João Costa</b>, Director of ATEC, and <b>João Alves</b>, Project and Cooperation Manager</p>
17:00 - 17:10	Conclusions and closure of Day 2
17:10 - 17:30	<i>Transfer to the hotel</i>

## DAY 3 – 21 May 2026

Time	Agenda Item
<i>Location: Setúbal, Arrabida, Lisbon Youth Centre</i>	
08:30	<i>Departure to Setubal</i>
09:15 - 11:00	<b>Experience on reaching out to young people through local cooperation</b> Visit to <b>Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)</b> <b>Luís Sebastião</b> , President, NGO YMCA, Portugal <i>Best practices and examples of the youth-friendly approaches</i>
11:00 - 11:30	<i>Transfer to Arrabida Camp</i>
11:30 - 12:30	Closing discussion and closure of the seminar
12:30 - 13:30	<i>Lunch at Arrabida Camp</i>
14:00	<i>Transfer to the hotel / Lisbon Youth Centre</i>
15:00	Visit to <b>Lisbon Youth Centre</b> (optional)