

ETF WEBINAR: The Skill Continuum in Education Systems: Insights from new ETF Evidence

CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

Wednesday 20 May, 14.00 – 15.30 CEST - Online

In a context marked by climate change, geopolitical instability, and widening inequalities, education systems must equip individuals not only with skills which serve the competitiveness of the economies, but also with the skills and competences required to contribute to cohesive, resilient and sustainable societies.

ETF recognizes that skills are not produced solely within vocational education and training (VET) systems—even when broadly defined. Instead, skills emerge across the entire education continuum, from early childhood to higher education, and through formal, non-formal, and informal learning.

Adopting this perspective implies moving beyond fragmented approaches and towards a whole-of-education-system vision, in which skills development serves multiple and interconnected purposes, including: economic participation, social inclusion, active citizenship, and sustainable development.

To this end, ETF Global Education cluster organises the webinar “The skills continuum in education systems: insights from new ETF evidence”, in order to share the first findings of two studies conducted in early 2026:

- Comparative analysis of the skills dimension embedded in education, employment and other key national strategies; this study covered 27 ETF partner countries.
- Analysis of the skills continuum in education through 3 case studies articulated around the sustainability competence.

The presentations will be completed by a panel discussion with some partner organisations, and will pave the way for an open dialogue on the pending challenges related to the skills continuum at global and local levels, such as: which skills to target in priority for reinforcing the skill continuum, how to consider, beyond formal education, non-formal and informal learning, and other questions that the participants will raise.

The working language of the meeting will be English only.

| Time | Agenda Item |
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| 13.45 – 14.00 | Registration |
| 14:00 – 14.10 | <p>Opening remarks <i>Pilvi Torsti, ETF Director</i></p> <p>Presentation of the webinar <i>Marie Dorléans, Senior Expert, ETF Global Education Cluster Coordinator</i></p> |
| 14:10 – 14:25 | <p>Cross country analysis of the mapping of skills strategies</p> <p><i>Elma Aga, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i> <i>Nina Brankovic, ETF Consultant</i></p> |
| 14:25 – 14:40 | <p>Analysis of the skill continuum in education, applied to the sustainability competence</p> <p><i>Marie Dorléans, Senior Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i> <i>Hazel Israel and Ouissem Ghorbel, ETF Consultants</i></p> |
| 14:40 – 14:55 | <p>Questions from the chat & Answers moderated by <i>Wouter Van Damme, Human Capital Development Expert and Antonin Olszak-Olszewski stagiaire, ETF</i></p> |
| 14:55 – 15:25 | <p>Panel discussion on Skills in a Global education perspective moderated by <i>Hugues Moussy, ETF Head of Intelligence Unit</i></p> <p>Discussants:</p> <p>Christine Hofmann, Senior Regional Skills Specialist, ILO Africa Skills Hub</p> <p>Bart Staats, Policy Analyst, OECD Centre for Skills</p> <p>Claudia Pompa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO</p> |
| 15.25 – 15.30 | Wrap-up and closing remarks |