



# FACTSHEET

## The European Training Foundation in Ukraine

# SUPPORTING UKRAINE'S RECOVERY AND EU ACCESSION

The European Training Foundation (ETF) is the European Union (EU) agency based in Turin, Italy. Since 1994 it supports education and labour market reforms in the EU enlargement and neighbouring countries, in line with European external action policies.

The ETF has been actively engaged in Ukraine since its independence, offering expertise, policy advice, and capacity building in education, skills development and employment, and supporting cooperation between the Ukrainian authorities, the EU, its Member States and international organisations.

**Ukraine is a priority country for the ETF.** Through its Ukraine Task Force, the ETF provides targeted support to respond to urgent needs, working closely with EU Member States to bring together expertise and practical support for Ukraine's recovery efforts, and to support the country on its European path.

## ETF UKRAINE TASK FORCE: KEY ACTIONS IN 2026

**Support to EU accession:** the ETF assists Ukraine on its path towards EU membership by providing targeted policy advice to help align the country's reforms with EU standards. The advice is guided by key EU policy priorities, including those outlined in the EU Communication on the Union of Skills.

**Commitment to Ukraine's reconstruction and recovery:** aligned with the country's national reform priorities, the ETF supports the modernisation of the education and training system and labour market reforms. The aim is to further reinforce the resilience of Ukraine's skills ecosystem to contribute to the country's economic recovery and sustainable growth.



# RELEVANT AND FUTURE-PROOF EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

**Supporting education reforms in Ukraine:** through the EU-funded programme *Supporting education reforms and skills in Eastern Partnership countries*, the ETF supports Ukraine in improving the governance, financing, equity and quality of its education system. The focus is on strengthening capacities in evidence-based planning, management and performance monitoring, building on the *ETF Rapid Education Diagnosis (RED) in Ukraine*, launched in November 2025 to provide a fast, system-level analysis of how an education and skills system functions during crisis or recovery, also considering EU Accession priorities.

RED covers core selected areas such as governance, financing, equity and quality. The report, to be published in August 2026, aims to identify key bottlenecks and priority reform needs while linking emergency responses with longer-term development. It will provide a shared evidence base to support policy dialogue and coordinated action with national and international partners.

The ETF also contributes to the modernisation of the VET legislative framework, the optimisation of the school network and the improvement of education data collection and quality. These efforts align with EU accession recommendations and are vital for making progress on Ukraine's reform agenda and its integration into the European Education Area.

**Key competences and teacher professional development:** the ETF is supporting teacher professional development in Ukraine as part of the New Ukrainian School reform. In 2025, the ETF partnered with the Ministry of Education and Science to launch the *Scaffold: Bringing key competences into the educational practice* micro-credential course via the EU Academy platform. This initiative trained around 1,000 educators and coordinators, helping them to incorporate key competences into curriculum and lesson planning.

In March 2026, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the ETF launched the micro-credential course *FormA: Bringing formative assessment into educational practice* on the EU Academy platform. Delivered through a cascade training model, it aims to help educators integrate formative assessment and the assessment-as-learning approach into teaching using the ETF's interactive FormA tool, designed for formal and nonformal education settings.

**Digital skills for teachers:** the ETF supports Ukrainian pre-tertiary teachers in the development of their digital competences through the European Commission self-reflection tool, SELFIE for Teachers. It recently completed a study of primary and secondary school teachers, involving a sample of more than 400 schools and 8,000 teachers. The analytical report will inform digital education reforms and guide the design of targeted professional development programmes for teachers. The Interactive Dashboard provides dynamic analysis of teachers' digital competences, supporting policy making and research.

**VET reforms and work-based learning (WBL):** in the framework of the New Ukrainian School reform, the ETF is actively contributing to the modernisation of vocational education and training in the country. This includes technical assistance linked to Ukraine's efforts to join the European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA).

**Vocational excellence:** the ETF also supports the operationalisation of VET legislation related to vocational excellence and the development of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs), to promote innovation, and quality in VET, through targeted policy advice and peer learning activities under the ETF Network for Excellence. These centres promote collaboration among VET providers, industries, and regional stakeholders.

## PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

**Youth Guarantee (YG):** the ETF supports Ukraine in laying the foundations for a national Youth Guarantee scheme, in partnership with the European Commission, ILO, and EU Member States.

Through the ETF Knowledge Sharing Programme, Ukraine benefits from policy learning and peer exchange, drawing on lessons and good practice from the established YG framework. The focus is on creating inclusive and quality opportunities for youngpeople not in employment, education or training (NEETs) to transition into learning or work.

**Adult learning:** the ETF has conducted a system-level mapping of adult learning in Ukraine, examining strategy and legal frameworks, governance structure and institutional roles, policy priorities and implementation challenges, presented in the Adult learning factsheet Ukraine. Building on this foundation and prior work, the ETF cooperates with Ukraine's stakeholders to strengthen adult formal and nonformal learning, including at local level. The expected adoption of the draft Law on Adult Education and Learning, currently at the parliamentary discussion stage, will give policy coherence and provide a basis for stronger data collection, quality provision, financing, incentives for adults to participate in learning, as part of the recovery and accession process.

**Career guidance and counselling:** to support the modernisation of the career guidance system, the ETF provides methodological support, policy advice and expertise. This includes assistance to Ukraine's national Career Guidance Concept and strengthening delivery mechanisms to improve outreach and impact, including in the context of developments towards the Youth Guarantee.

**Inclusion of persons with disabilities:** in line with the EU Disability Employment Package, the ETF is mapping Ukraine's policies for the labour market inclusion of persons with disabilities. The focus is on analysing institutional frameworks, legislation, and implementation mechanisms. The analysis forms a background for policy dialogue and future reform efforts aimed at strengthening inclusive employment and skills development practices.

## DRIVING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

**The ETF's analytical work** provides an evidence base for policy dialogue and reform by generating timely intelligence on education, skills and labour market developments in Ukraine. This strategic analysis also helps align national reforms with EU standards and benchmarks, supporting Ukraine's progress towards accession.

The annual report on Education, Training and Employment in Ukraine offers a comprehensive analysis of the country's human capital development, focusing on the impact of the ongoing conflict and the resilience of its education and employment systems.

The ETF is also assessing new forms of work and working conditions in the digital economy, which have grown exponentially during the pandemic and the war. This line of research relies on an enhanced collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and EU agencies - Eurofound, the European Labour Authority (ELA) and Cedefop.

Furthermore, the ETF Online Job Vacancies Platform tracks labour market demand, providing timely insights into evolving employment trends.



**Qualifications framework:** In view of the changing labour market and mobility with the EU, the ETF supports Ukraine in aligning its National Qualifications Framework (NQF) with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). This includes providing advice on implementing the EQF recommendation, NQF referencing, aligning the national qualifications database with the European learning model and mapping with ESCO to improve recognition and international comparability of Ukrainian qualifications.

**Individual learning accounts and microcredentials:**

The ETF supports Ukraine in the implementation of the European approach to microcredentials and Individual Learning Accounts (ILA). This involves providing advice on the development of ILA platform and the use of micro-credentials for skills development, in education and training and employment policies to strengthen lifelong learning and the upskilling and reskilling of adults. The European micro-credential approach has also been applied in the innovative teacher professional development initiative in partnership with the EU Academy to allow a variety of piloting experiences and to build the capacity of policy makers and practitioners in applying European approaches to the development of 21st century competences.

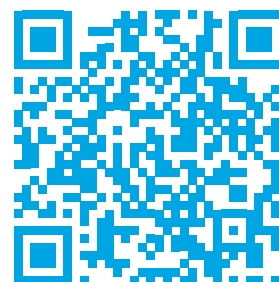
## LOOKING AHEAD

**Looking ahead to 2026,** the ETF remains firmly committed to supporting Ukraine's recovery, resilience, and integration into the European family. Building on its longstanding cooperation, the ETF will continue to reinforce key priorities such as skills development and inclusive employment, with a focus on youth and vulnerable groups. Close collaboration with Ukrainian policymakers and stakeholders will be essential, alongside active engagement with EU Member States and international partners.

Through this joint effort, the ETF aims to strengthen Ukraine's human capital, align reforms with EU standards, and contribute to a more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready society on its path to EU accession.

## MORE INFORMATION

Website: [www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)



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# FACTSHEET

## YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF UKRAINE'S RECOVERY

### European Training Foundation support to youth transitions in education, training and employment

Young people are central to Ukraine's recovery and to its path towards European Union (EU) membership. After more than four years of fullscale war, the country faces a shrinking and ageing workforce, large-scale displacement and a generation whose education and early careers have been disrupted.

The European Training Foundation (ETF), the unique EU agency supporting education, skills and labour market reforms in countries surrounding the EU, works with Ukrainian authorities, the European Commission, EU Member States and international organisations to open inclusive pathways into learning and work for the next generation.



## **THE EU YOUTH GUARANTEE: A FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE FOR UKRAINE'S FUTURE**

The Youth Guarantee (YG) is at the centre of the ETF's youth agenda in Ukraine. Applied across the EU since 2013, it commits authorities to offer every young person under 30 who is not in employment, education or training a quality opportunity to learn, train or work.

Ukraine created an interministerial working group on the Youth Guarantee in June 2024, bringing together the ministries of youth and sports, economy, education and science, and social policy, alongside public employment services, employers and youth organisations.

In June 2025, the Law on the Basic Principles of Youth Policy anchored the Youth Guarantee in national law as a pathway to education, training or work, and the country is now moving from preparatory analysis towards concrete implementation arrangements.

The ETF supports this process through a structured Knowledge-Sharing Programme on the Youth Guarantee, run by the European Commission, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), UNICEF and EU Member States. The programme has helped build a shared understanding of the Youth Guarantee model, including governance, outreach and partnerships, evidence and monitoring.

Step by step this work has supported Ukraine in moving towards a Youth Guarantee implementation plan. Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia have shared practical experience along the way, offering lessons that are directly relevant for Ukrainian counterparts.

This exchange has also reinforced an important message: the Youth Guarantee is not only an employment measure. It is a cross-sectoral framework for activation, inclusion and support. Dedicated outreach will be needed for the young people furthest from services, including those from veteran and military families, those leaving institutional care, returnees from temporarily occupied territories and internally displaced young people.

## **STRENGTHENING WORK-BASED LEARNING**

The ETF has assessed Ukraine's apprenticeship and traineeship arrangements against EU quality criteria to inform reform. Under the new Law on Vocational Education, in force since September 2025, dual programmes place 60 to 70% of training in real work settings. More than 220,000 vocational learners now take part in work-based learning across around 1,000 enterprises.

In July 2025, with ETF support, Ukraine joined the European Alliance for Apprenticeships. This gives Ukrainian partners access to regional seminars, communities of practice and peer exchange on dual and work-based learning.

## **IMPROVING CAREER GUIDANCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Young people need good information to make informed choices about their future. The ETF provides methodological support, policy advice and expertise to help modernise Ukraine's career guidance system, with a focus on outreach and delivery in the context of the Youth Guarantee.

National digital platforms, including Diia.Education, now reach over two million users with career tests, job simulators and guidance pathways. The Association of Career Counsellors of Ukraine, established in 2023, is also helping to professionalise the field in line with European standards.

## **REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE FURTHEST FROM OPPORTUNITY**

Effective youth policies must reach those most at risk of exclusion. Around seven in ten young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) in Ukraine are women, many with family responsibilities. Other groups also face specific barriers, including displaced young people, young people from veterans' families, young people with disabilities and those affected by war-related trauma.

Local delivery will be essential. Youth Guarantee services need to be close enough to communities to identify, reach and support young people experiencing difficult circumstances.

The ETF's evidence work helping to inform this process. Under the EU programme 'Supporting education reforms and skills in the Eastern Partnership region', the ETF's Rapid Education Diagnosis has outlined the challenges facing Ukrainian youth and the possible measures to address them.

The ETF also provides intelligence on education, training and employment in Ukraine, including analysis of the size and profile of the NEET population. In line with the EU Disability Employment Package, the ETF is mapping Ukraine's policies for the labour market inclusion of persons with disabilities. This will provide a baseline to support progress in inclusive employment and skills development.

## **BUILDING MODERN SKILLS AND VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

Young people need training that matches Ukraine's changing economy. The new Law on Vocational Education provides a framework for modernising the VET ecosystem, including Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs). These specialised institutions in sectors such as IT, engineering, agriculture and healthcare, link training more closely to industry needs.

The ETF supports vocational excellence through policy advice, peer learning and cooperation with international partners, including through the Team

Europe approach. These exchanges give Ukrainian vocational leaders direct access to European practice and create opportunities for collaboration through the ETF's Network for Excellence (ENE). ETF teacher development courses on the EU Academy platform also support the quality of learning available to young people.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

The Ukraine Recovery Conference 2026 in Gdańsk offers an opportunity to show how Ukraine's reforms are reaching young people.

Ukraine has appointed a national Youth Guarantee coordinator to steer policy actions across ministries and connect the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) with delivery on the ground. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has reaffirmed the government's commitment to the scheme.

The ETF makes its Youth Guarantee resources available to Ukrainian stakeholders OpenSpace, its collaborative platform. The work continues with a clear aim: to help young people in Ukraine gain real opportunities to learn, work and shape their own future.



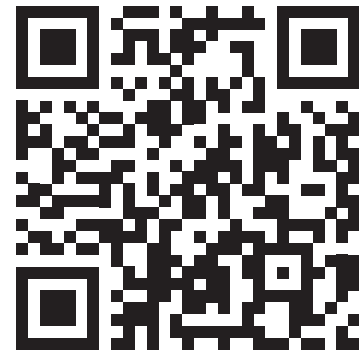
## More information

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