

# European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) and European Training Foundation (ET) Seminar for EAfA Partner Countries

**Date:** 9-10 December 2026

**Location:** Brussels (Belgium)

**Venues:** Thon Hotel EU, Brussels

## Background

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The European Commission and the European Training Foundation (ETF) are organising the annual *Seminar for EAfA Partner Countries* in Brussels, Belgium, on 9-10 December 2026. The seminar will bring together stakeholders from government bodies, businesses, social partners, vocational education and training (VET) providers, youth organisations, and other relevant parties from EU Member States and ETF partner countries that are members of EAfA. This edition will provide a Brussels-based platform for policy dialogue, exchange and networking among participants engaged in the development of apprenticeships and work-based learning and improvement of their quality.

The event will provide an opportunity to promote the EAfA network and its main objectives, namely, to strengthen the quality, supply, mobility, and overall image of apprenticeships, among EU neighbouring countries. It will link to the VET strategy, as relevant.

## Objectives of the event

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The event will provide a platform for participants to share experiences and achievements in the development, enhancement and delivery of apprenticeships. It will showcase recent policy developments in apprenticeships and work-based learning across selected EAfA partner countries, while promoting dialogue on current European policy priorities. Through peer learning and exchanges among EAfA members, participants will discuss practical approaches to strengthening apprenticeship and work-based learning systems and fostering mutual learning across countries.

## Themes

The event will focus on two themes and be strongly linked to the VET strategy:

## Site visits

Participants will have the opportunity to join one of three site visits:

## Agenda

### Wednesday, 9 December 2026 AFTERNOON SESSION

| Time          | Title / Description                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13:30 – 14:00 | Arrival and registration of participants                                                                                                                                 |
| 14:00 – 14:20 | Welcome & Objectives of the seminar                                                                                                                                      |
| 14:20 – 14:30 | Keynote address <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness</li></ul>     |
| 14:30 – 14:55 | Welcoming Newcomers in EAfA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jordan, Egypt, Morocco</li><li>New pledgers</li><li>Family photo</li></ul>                             |
| 14:55 – 15:05 | VET STRATEGY and how it impacts EAfA [TBC]                                                                                                                               |
| 15:05 – 15:45 | Quality of Apprenticeships in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cedefop and ETF</li></ul>                                                                     |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                             |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | The role of social partners for quality apprenticeships <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ETUC</li><li>BusinessEurope</li><li>SMEUnited</li><li>SGI Europe</li></ul> |
| 17:00 – 17:15 | EAfA latest developments + Toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>DG EMPL</li></ul>                                                                               |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | Closing remarks and introduction to Day 2                                                                                                                                |
| 19:00 - 22:00 | Networking dinner                                                                                                                                                        |

### Thursday, 10 December 2026 MORNING SESSION

| Time         | Title / Description                          |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 -09:10 | Welcome and repartition to parallel sessions |

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>09:10 – 10:10</b> | <b>Learn from and exchange with new and old EAfA Members (two parallel groups)</b><br>Speakers from Partner Countries and Member States will present the latest developments (or a national priority topic) in their countries and have a discussion with the participants.<br><br>Parallel Group 1<br>Parallel Group 2 |
| <b>10:10 – 10:30</b> | <b>Feedback session from parallel groups</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>10:30 – 11:00</b> | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>11:00 – 11:45</b> | <b>WBL in Belgium</b><br>Representatives from Belgium WBL systems to provide an overview of how apprenticeship is working in the country.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>11:45 – 12:00</b> | <b>Introduction to site visits and practical organisation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>12:00 – 12:45</b> | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>12:45 – 13:00</b> | <b>Departures</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

### AFTERNOON SESSION

| <b>Time</b>          | <b>Title / Description</b>                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>13:00– 16:00</b>  | <b>Site visits</b><br>Group 1 /Group 2 / Group 3 |
| <b>16:00 – 16:30</b> | <b>Reporting &amp; Closure (tbc)</b>             |