ROAD TO TORINO

Issue 04 | Skills for Society



01
HOW CAN SKILLS HELP SOCIETIES THRIVE?

In our previous edition of Road to Torino, we explored **how skills contribute to opportunity, inclusion and lifelong learning** through the Skills for People track. This month, we turn our attention to the third dimension of the Torino Global Skills Summit 2026: Skills for Society.

What role do skills play in building resilient, inclusive and forward-looking societies?

Skills are often discussed in relation to jobs, productivity and competitiveness. Yet their role extends far beyond the labour market.
Skills systems help societies adapt to economic, technological and social change. They shape how people participate in their communities, how institutions respond to emerging challenges and how countries build resilience in periods of uncertainty.

At the Torino Global Skills Summit, the Skills for Society track explores how skills systems can contribute to resilience, social cohesion and sustainable development by strengthening trust, cooperation and opportunities for participation. It examines how governance arrangements, recovery efforts and Global Education perspectives can help societies respond to change while leaving no one behind.

02
SKILLS FOR RESILIENT SOCIEITIES

Resilience is often discussed in terms of re-creating a new equilibrium following disturbance. Thus, resilience also depends on communities and individuals.

Societies are better equipped to respond to change when individuals can access learning opportunities, develop new capabilities and participate fully in economic and social life. Skills systems help create the conditions for preparedness, flexibility, adjustment, inclusion and recovery by supporting participation throughout life and strengthening connections between people, communities and institutions.

This track looks at skills systems from the societal, institutional and democratic side: how they are governed, the space and importance they grant to individuals, how they hold up in conflict and fragility, and how they connect to the wider education system. It draws on the ETF's experience in fragile and transition contexts, on its work on governance and social partnership, and on its approach to global education. Three questions run through its three sessions:

- "Why should skills be approached from a global education perspective?"
- What aspects of governance make skills systems more effective, inclusive and resilient?
- How can skills systems be maintained and strengthened in contexts of conflict or fragility?

03
TRUST, ALIGNMENT AND DIALOGUE

Effective skills systems depend on effective governance

Governments, employers, education and training providers, social partners and civil society organisations all play a role in shaping how skills are developed and used. Governing skills systems effectively requires trust, clear responsibilities and mechanisms that allow different actors to work towards shared goals and align their efforts and resources.

The first Society-track session will present the ETF's approach to governance of skills systems and the critical aspect of aligning the key dimensions of skills governance. From there, the session will move on to explore how governance learning, action and dialogues, as offered by the ETF GLAD network, can be achieved in transnational peer learning formats.

04
SKILLS FOR RECOVERY AND JUST TRANSITIONS

Periods of conflict, fragility and transition disrupt education and training systems, labour markets and opportunities for skills development. Violence, climate-related pressures, economic restructuring, social exclusions place new demands on individuals, communities and institutions alike.

In these contexts, skills systems must be capable of adapting and responding to changing circumstances. They can help people and communities rebuild capabilities, safeguard existing opportunities and create new pathways for participation, employment and development, while strengthening social cohesion and resilience.

The Society track's second session, Skills for Peace, Reconstruction and Just Transitions: Developing Human Capital for Resilient Societies, will explore how skills policies contribute to recovery, reconstruction and long-term resilience in conflict-affected and fragile settings. Drawing on experiences from contexts such as Ukraine and Palestine, the discussion will examine how skills development can support labour market reintegration, social cohesion, reconstruction efforts and the development of inclusive pathways through periods of profound change.



05
SKILLS FROM GLOBAL EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE

Skills are developed across a wide range of learning environments and experiences. They contribute not only to employability, but also to participation in society, engagement with global challenges and understanding of the world around us.

This is why it is important to examine skills from a Global Education perspective, exploring current needs, emerging gaps and future opportunities.

The session asks several things. Which skills are needed for individuals to be equipped for work and life alike? Do education systems give learners the knowledge, skills and values to respond to global challenges? Is skills development coherent across education and training systems?

Do pathways work in both directions: does general education prepare young people for VET, and can VET graduates move on to higher education?

07
JOIN THE CONVERSATION IN TURIN

The Skills for Society track brings together policymakers, practitioners, researchers, international organisations and civil society actors to examine the broader role of skills in society. Participants will explore:

- governance and policy coordination;
- trust, dialogue and alignment;
- recovery and reconstruction;
- just transitions;
- resilience and adaptation;
- Global Education perspectives;
- social cohesion and participation

The objective is to better understand how skills systems can contribute not only to prosperity, but also to resilient, inclusive and forward-looking societies.

Explore who will be speaking in the event here.

08
NEXT STOP: BEYOND GROWTH, SKILLS FOR SOCIETY

The Torino Global Skills Summit brings together a broad community of policymakers, practitioners, international organisations, researchers and partners.

In the next edition of Road to Torino, we look beyond the Summit programme and explore the wider ecosystem helping to drive the conversation on skills, including SER, GLAD, IFIs, ACQF, UNITO and other initiatives contributing to the Road to Torino.

Torino Global Skills Summit 2026
23-25 November 2026
Turin, Italy

Skills for People • Skills for Business • Skills for Society
Participation by invitation only, if you wish to receive an invitation,
write to TorinoSkillsSummit@etf.europa.eu

#TSS26

Find out more:
https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/events/torino-global-skills-summit-2026

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TORINO GLOBAL SKILLS SUMMIT 2026

EUROPEAN SKILLS & VET WEEK 2026