

AGENDA

COVIDIMPACT – ACT ON SKILLS

*FOR POST COVID-19 RECOVERY – SUPPORTING
COMPETITIVENESS, SOCIAL FAIRNESS AND RESILIENCE*

**10 December 2020, 09:30 – 13:15 hrs (CET) and 11 December 2020,
9:30 – 13:15 hrs (CET)**

INTRODUCTION

The European Training Foundation (ETF), in collaboration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), continues the series of events dedicated to knowledge and experience sharing on skills development in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and recovery agenda.

Improving the resilience of citizens, companies and public, private and non-governmental organisations is crucial as the European Union, EU Neighbourhood region and Central Asia countries brace for a new surge in COVID-19 infections and growing restrictions. The socio-economic impact of the health crisis is currently deepening and will stretch into 2021. The education and employment policy makers and stakeholders are posed with a double challenge – manage the current effects of the crisis and explore new sets of policies, programmes and delivery mechanisms; to make sure they fit the new socio-economic paradigm in post-COVID-19 times as digitalisation and sectoral transformations deeply change the demand for skills, accelerate labour market transitions and require robust social protection mechanisms for wider categories of people.

The EU Neighbourhood and Central Asia countries, like all the other countries around the world, are faced with several challenges and difficulties in delivering services and support schemes in the areas of initial education, up/re-skilling and employment. These challenges include: (a) insufficient digital infrastructure to deliver online services; (b) reduced opportunities for providing on the job training, internships, apprenticeships; (c) insufficient staff to deal with increased number of registered

unemployed, (d) need to build up the professional competences of the teaching and training staff to deliver education and training measures in online or hybrid format; (c) difficult planning and targeting of activation and training programmes due to uncertain economic conditions.

The event will focus on priorities to build up and strengthen the resilience of people, companies and education and employment systems and explore solutions for a fair and inclusive recovery. More specifically, the webinar will:

- Provide opportunities to review the type, targeting and effectiveness of active labour market measures, implemented in the crisis context, with a focus on the skills development dimension;
- Discuss the COVID-19 toll on young people and explore key actions for inclusion, resilience, skills and employment, including the potential of regional cooperation to improve youth's skills and labour market prospects;
- Share experiences on how skills are a priority for companies' survival strategies during the crisis and future development, with a focus on inclusion, innovation, and greening to foster competitiveness, resilience and social fairness.

THURSDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2020

09:30 – 09:45	Opening Session Facilitator: Manuela Prina, Policy Advisor, European Training Foundation, ETF Introductory remarks – Anastasia Fetsi , Head of Operations, ETF
9:45 – 11:15	Session 1 - Activation and skills development – policy innovation and partnerships
	<p>Key topics: Activation and skills related challenges during the COVID-19 crisis and policy responses. Building up partnerships and innovative implementation mechanisms to deliver upskilling and reskilling programmes in the context of deeply changing labour markets. Effectiveness of active labour market programmes (ALMPs) in crisis and post crisis contexts, with a focus on human capital development in the EU Neighbourhood and Central Asia.</p> <p>Part 1 – Skills development in the framework of ALMPs: new measures and delivery mechanisms; cooperation between public employment services (PES) and training providers</p> <p>Facilitator: Iwona Ganko, Labour Market Specialist, ETF</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <p>Hilde Olsen, Policy Officer - Public Employment Services, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), European Commission – <i>Introduction on the state of play at EU level with focus on how ALMP delivery and up/reskilling have been adapted since the outbreak of COVID-19</i></p> <p>Inès Baer, Coordinator of the <i>Future Skills Initiative</i>, Agency for the Development of Employment (ADEM), Luxembourg - <i>“FutureSkills” initiative: anticipation and development of future skills for jobseekers and employees</i></p> <p>Zulum Avila, Employment Services Specialist, International Labour Organization - <i>Turning challenges in opportunities for sustaining jobs and skills during the COVID-19 pandemic</i></p> <p>Part 2 – ALMPs innovation in response to COVID-19 challenges in the EU Neighbourhood and Central Asia countries</p> <p>Facilitator: Cristina Mereuta, Labour Market Specialist, ETF</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <p>Raisa Dogaru, Director, Employment Agency of the Republic of Moldova – <i>Key reforms in the area of active labour market programmes in COVID-19 context and challenges ahead</i></p> <p>Lukasz Sienkiewicz, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini – <i>Effectiveness of Active Labour Market Programmes in crisis and post crisis contexts: evidence, determinants and current developments</i></p>
11:15 – 11:30	‘Virtual’ Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:15

Session 2 - Skills and labour market transition in pandemic times – the case of youth

Key topics: Young people's priorities, needs and concerns in pandemic contexts, with a focus on resilience, skills and employment support. Presentation of the key findings of the UNICEF-ETF study *Preventing a 'Lockdown Generation' in Europe and Central Asia. Building Resilient Societies with Young People in the Era of COVID-19*. Potential of regional cooperation to manage the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on youth's skills and labour market prospects and build up recovery paths.

Part 1 – Building the resilience of young people in Covid-19 times: skills, employability and innovations

Facilitator: Nina Ferencic, Senior Regional Adviser on Adolescent Health, Development and Participation, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office

Introductory remarks:

Afshan Khan, Director, UNICEF Europe and Central Asia Regional Office

Cesare Onestini, Director, European Training Foundation

Contributors:

Murat Sahin, Head of Office, UNICEF Kosovo

Trina Hoti, Facilitator of UNICEF Kosovo's Youth Reference Group

Osama Makkawi, Representative, UNICEF Tajikistan

Ulrike Damyonovic, Country Coordinator for Montenegro - Focal Point for South Eastern Europe and Turkey, ETF

Part 2 – New challenges and opportunities for youth – zooming in on regions

Facilitator: Iwona Ganko, Labour Market Specialist, ETF

Contributors:

Jeroen Willems, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission - New Deal for Youth in the Eastern Partnership

Mohammed Elrazzaz, Economic Development and Employment Division, Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

Ognjen Markovic, Expert, Western Balkans Youth Lab (EU IPA funded initiative), Regional Cooperation Council

FRIDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 2020

<p>09:30 – 11:30 Plenary session</p>	<p>Session 3 - Skills for Enterprise development - managing the impact of COVID and transitions demands</p>
<p>9:30 – 9:50</p>	<p>Facilitator: Manuela Prina, Policy Advisor, ETF</p> <p>Setting the scene: <i>the impact of COVID-19 on Enterprises results from Global surveys and research</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mattias Larsen, The results of the Global survey on the impact of COVID on Industries, ETF-UNIDO - Alastair Usher, An overview of research demands and drivers for change in the world of enterprises – ERGON Associates
	<p><i>Following the opening session, the webinar will offer the opportunity to interact with lead specialists in the fields of inclusion, greening and innovation to explore the impact of COVID-19 on enterprises, opportunities for the future, policy, practices and financial instruments supporting sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience.</i></p>
<p>09:50 – 10:15</p>	<p>Supporting Resilience and Development: the role of Inclusion</p> <p>Open dialogue with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) followed by Questions and Answers (Q&A)</p> <p>Biljana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay, Associate Director, Access to Skills and Employment - Gender and Economic Inclusion, EBRD</p>
<p>10:15-10:40</p>	<p>Working towards sustainability: greening enterprises</p> <p>Open dialogue with the United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) followed by Questions and Answers (Q&A)</p> <p>Riccardo Savigliano, Chief of Agro-industries and Skills Development, UNIDO</p>
<p>10:40-11:10</p>	<p>Innovation ecosystems, enterprise support and public policies: attracting skills and investments</p> <p>Open dialogue with the head of Innovation of a Smart city followed by Questions and Answers (Q&A)</p> <p>Nicola Farronato, Head of Innovation Team, City of Turin</p>
<p>11:10-11:15</p>	<p>Concluding remarks Xavier Matheu de Cortada, Head of Policy Unit, ETF</p>
<p>11:30 – 13:15</p>	<p>Workshop ‘Skills for enterprise development’: mapping skills focused support across enterprise development programs</p> <p>Upon invitation</p>