

AGENDA

COVIDIMPACT – HACKSKILLS

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

27 OCTOBER 2020, 10:00hrs – 12:45hrs (CET)

BACKGROUND

A recent ETF publication on the [impact of COVID-19 on socio-economic dimensions](#) which also captures assessment by national and international organizations, in particular the EC, EBRD, OECD, ILO, the World Bank and the IMF, UNPD, UNIDO and UNICEF, reveals that countries in the EU neighbourhood and Central Asia, have so far focused mainly on short term response measures. These include income replacement and economic stabilisation, including workers and enterprise support packages to weather the immediate effects of the first wave of the COVID-19 emergency.

However, the impact of the Covid-19 crisis is not yet fully evident in economies and societies. International organisations predict a fall in economic activity globally (with a forecasted global GDP contraction of -4.9% in 2020 and meagre growth of 5.4% in 2021, IMF, June 2020 data) with longer term effects on jobs and labour markets; although the evolution of the health crisis, the policy responses and impact on economies is still highly unpredictable. Accordingly, structural measures will be needed to improve the resilience of the economies and mitigate the social consequences moving forward towards a recovery phase. At the same time the digital revolution and the prerequisite for greening of our societies create new opportunities for the future and become possible drivers for the recovery.

Improving resilience of the economies and tapping on new opportunities for recovery and development will need sustained efforts by all actors addressing a series of policy areas including skills that will both ensure (i) the adaptability of citizens to new job and labour market realities and (ii)

support companies in adopting new business models, production processes and creating new products and services.

At the centre of the 'European Skills Agenda for Sustainable Competitiveness, Social Fairness and Resilience' launched by the European Commission (EC) in June 2020, skills development, re-skilling and up-skilling are an essential component of the ability of countries, communities and enterprises to address social demands, sustainable competitiveness and innovation and resilience through challenges and crises.

Despite the recognition that the role of skills is a fundamental part of the recovery and an opportunity to transform societal challenges, evidence shows that upskilling, reskilling and other adaptive workforce measures are for the moment weaker in the COVID -19 policy responses. As it becomes more and more clear that certain economic sectors, production and trade patterns will not return to pre-crisis situation, investments in human capital development including adaptability and resilience are crucial to prepare the ground for economic relaunching. Young graduates, jobseekers, redundant workers and other groups exposed to social vulnerabilities will need enhanced support to face new labour market realities.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the ETF has launched several new work strands to capture immediate developments and provide targeted advice or sharing innovative solutions in response to pandemic induced changes to education, training or labour market transitions and employability.

One strand covers the socio-economic dynamics and labour market impact of COVID-19 pandemic and policy responses in the context of crisis, post crisis and recovery phases, with a focus on the role of active labour market programmes (ALMPs), especially for skills development and fostering adaptability of the workforce.

Another strand focuses on responses at the level of enterprises, enterprise practices and engagement in skills development within which the initiative 'Skills for Enterprise development' has been developed to address the need for skills adaptation and enhancement to enable enterprises to respond and manage challenges. The challenges for enterprises include the crisis provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic and, in a longer-term perspective, contributing to a greener, inclusive and innovative society.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

The webinar 'HACKSKILLS' will focus on how to ensure skills development to accompany the recovery and post-recovery phase looking towards a greener future with more inclusive and innovative societies. Emphasis will be given to (i) skills for enterprise development, and (ii) skills for citizens needing to adapt their skills set to new labour market conditions. More specifically, the webinar, and those which follow, will:

Provide opportunities for peer learning, sharing of evidence and good practices around SKILLS as a means to support post COVID-19 recovery, a sustainable future, prosperity and inclusion through policies and actions carried out by economic actors.

Provide opportunities for discussion on challenges and good practices that could inspire and support actions at both policy level and enterprise level for skilling, upskilling and reskilling

Identify solutions and innovative practices so that skills are an asset for resilience, innovation and embracing sustainable competitiveness through open fora bringing around the table innovators, youth, and successful public and private actors.

TUESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER 2020

<p>10:00 – 10:45</p> <p>Plenary session</p>	<p>The impact of COVID-19 in the EU neighbourhood and Central Asia – Why do we need to HACKSKILLS?</p> <p>Anastasia Fetsi, Head of Operations Department, European Training Foundation</p> <p>Alison Crabb, Head of Unit for Skills and Qualifications, Directorate General Employment Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), European Commission</p> <p>Biljana Radonjic Ker-Lindsay, Associate Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</p> <p>Sangheon Lee, Director, Employment Policy Department, International Labour Organisation</p> <p>Susan Flocken, European Director, Education International - European Region European Trade Union Committee for Education</p> <p>Facilitation by Denise Loughran, ETF</p>	
<p>After the plenary two parallel tracks are available:</p>		
	<p>Track 1 Activation and skills development policies in COVID-19 crisis context and getting ready for recovery</p> <p>Facilitation by Iwona Ganko and Cristina Mereuta, ETF</p>	<p>Track 2: Skills for enterprise development to support sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience</p> <p>Facilitation by Manuela Prina and Didier Gelibert, ETF</p>
<p>10:45- 11:20</p>	<p>Scene-setting - The role of skills development in supporting activation and transitions to employment</p> <p>Paul Comyn, Skills & Employability Branch, International Labour Organisation</p> <p><i>COVID-19 and the world of work – priorities for skills and employability policy actions</i></p> <p>Christian Solgaard, Head of Labour Market Policy, Danish Agency for Labour Market and Recruitment</p> <p><i>Major policy changes and innovation in response to COVID-19 crisis. Focus on investments in education and upskilling</i></p>	<p>Scene setting – key problems and opportunities at stake in the post COVID-19 recovery and prospects ahead for enterprises.</p> <p><i>Key note presentations by</i></p> <p>Sirin Elci, President, INOMER – Paris</p> <p><i>Challenges and opportunities facing enterprises in particular with regard to skills</i></p> <p>Stavroula Demetriades, Senior Research Manager – Employment, Eurofound</p> <p><i>The European Union perspective about impact of COVID-19 and what challenges are ahead for companies</i></p>

11:20 – 12.10	<p>Dealing with uncertainty and socio-economic shocks. (Re)actions and challenges</p> <p>Dajna Sorensen, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania</p> <p>Nino Veltauri, Acting Deputy Director, State Employment Promotion Agency, Georgia</p> <p>Hamdi Abdelwahed, Director, National Agency for Employment and Self Employment, Tunisia (tbc)</p> <p>Workforce Development Centre, Kazakhstan (tbc)</p> <p><i>ALMPs reforms and key challenges for activation and skills development in crisis and post-crisis context in the ETF Partner Countries</i></p> <p>Eamonn Davern, Senior expert, Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini</p> <p><i>Support to address Labour Market Disruption, the implementation challenge, delivering ALMPs during the pandemic</i></p>	<p>How enterprises reacted and can make of skills an asset for the future</p> <p><i>Panel discussion and reflection impact of COVID-19 on enterprises, support measures and skills, and actions ahead for the future.</i></p> <p>Western Balkans 6 Chamber Investment Forum (Name TBC)</p> <p>Gagik Makaryan, President – Union of Employers Armenia</p> <p>Raul Caruso, Director Assobenefit, Italy</p> <p>Nikoloz Meskhishvili, Georgian Farmer Association.</p> <p>Eliana Janineh, Jordan Restaurants Association</p>
12:10 – 12:45	<p>Getting ready for post COVID-19 recovery</p> <p><i>Panel discussion and reflection on emerging challenges and priorities for action in COVID-19 context and recovery</i></p> <p>Nand Shani, Team Leader, Employment and Social Affairs Platform in the Western Balkans, Regional Cooperation Council</p> <p>Said Charna, Senior Advisor, Economic Development and Employment Division, Union for the Mediterranean (U4M)</p> <p>Nina Ferencic, Senior Regional Adviser, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</p>	<p>International collaboration: skills for enterprise development</p> <p><i>Presentation of COVID-19 actions and future opportunities for international collaboration and co-creation.</i></p> <p>Riccardo Savigliano, United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</p> <p>Gokhan Dikmener, UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) “Skills for an Inclusive Future (S4IF)”</p> <p>Mohammed Elrazzaz, Union for the Mediterranean (U4M)</p>

Looking for a final plenary? Not on this day! Stay tuned for the next webinars on 10th-11th December 2020 where the discussion, more practices and opportunities for interaction will be offered. If you wish to contribute as speaker contact us!