



#GLADnetwork NEWSletter

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**European Year of Skills
and GLAD online
seminar on 20th of
April, 2023**

**GLAD 2023 priorities
and new initiatives**

What's next?

2023 IS THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS

The **European Year of Skills'** main objective is to raise awareness about the value of skills and to encourage individuals, businesses, and governments to invest in skills development for economic growth, social inclusion, and personal fulfilment.

One of its key themes is **digital skills**. With the increasing digitalization of the economy, digital skills have become more and more important for both individuals and businesses. The EU has launched several initiatives to support the development of digital skills, including the Digital Education Action Plan and the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition.

Another important theme of the European Year of Skills is **green skills**. As the world seeks to transition to a more sustainable economy, there is a growing demand for workers with green skills. The EU is promoting the development of green skills through a range of initiatives, including the European Green Deal and the Skills for Climate Action campaign.

In summary, the European Year of Skills is an important initiative aimed at promoting the value of **skills development** and **lifelong learning**. Through series of activities and initiatives, the EU is working to encourage individuals, businesses, and governments to invest in skills development, particularly in areas such as digital skills and green skills.

In this context, we are pleased to invite you to attend an online GLAD network seminar focussed on the **contribution of teachers in social dialogue** to the successful achievement of the **green and digital transitions** in the Partner Countries of the European Union. On **20th April 2023, from 10 to 12.30 CEST** we will discuss the broad needs of vocational education and training teachers' development created by the transition towards more digitalisation and sustainability. We also will look at digitalisation and the contribution of Europe's education architecture bringing together several experts with different perspectives on the issue, offering the audience a thought-provoking discussion that analyses the green and digital transition from many angles.

This event includes participants from the ETF, the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE), experts from Partner Countries and EU Member States. It is organised by the European Training Foundation (ETF) in cooperation with the European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) in the framework of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

GLAD 2023 PRIORITIES AND NEW INITIATIVES

On January 24th we had a very good discussion with the country representatives on the GLAD achievements in 2022, and on what to focus in 2023 considering **3 macro-areas** :

- **Social dialogue** and dialogue with civil society organisations (we refer to social partners and CSOs as “non state actors”),
- **Quality Assurance** at system level (which grows in importance), and
- **Resilience in education and training systems** (changes and disruptions make us aware of it).

GLAD is stabilising around **3 operational modalities**:

- **Mutual learning** in the form of online meetings i.e. on: teacher unions’ role in lifelong learning; governance of work-based learning; effectiveness of VET councils, skills agencies and other governance bodies; role of state and non-state actors in the greening of the economy.
- **Initiatives by 2 or more countries** in the field of participatory governance in VET and lifelong learning. i.e. for updating the functioning of a governance body (e.g. a skills council, etc.), which GLAD may reinforce with methodology, facilitation, mutual learning. This is *NEWEST*modality.
- **Actions agreed at country level** i.e.: integration of CSOs in the Youth Guarantee implementation in the Western Balkans; advice on quality assurance to Armenia, Georgia, Tunisia in collaboration with the ETF’s Quality Assurance Forum; concept and practice of resilience in education, training and employment systems starting in Lebanon, Moldova, Palestine and Serbia.

We are grateful for all the proposals received, and especially to **Georgia, Palestine and Moldova** for taking the lead on:

- **Financing mechanisms**, notably performance-based financing
- **Enhancing research in VET and LLL**, notably identifying gaps in research
- **Capacity building**, notably of **non-state actors** that should engage in the governance of non-formal learning.

These 3 countries have already elaborated their idea further, and we’ll share with you the details as soon as ready. For any clarification, additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us on [OpenSpace](#) or by e-mail: glad@etf.europa.eu

WHAT’S NEXT?

Please pencil into your calendar **23rd of May 2023** to follow the conference “**Civil society for lifelong skills development in Europe and partner countries**”, organised jointly by the ETF, European Commission, Lifelong Learning Platform, European Association for the Education of Adults, to discuss the state of affairs for an **inclusive policy dialogue in lifelong learning**, and in particular, emphasize on how the **role of civil society organisations** could be strengthened in **policy design and implementation**. The conference programme is built around concrete examples, such as drafting of National Skills Strategies and other approaches addressing the challenges of lifelong learning and **skills development systems building**. As **lifelong learning policies** should be shaped by all stakeholders, we will invite to the debate the representatives from national and European level institutions – governmental representatives as well as civil society organisations including youth organisations. The conference will be held both face-to-face in Brussels and online.

And finally, we renew our invitation to become **members** on the **#GLADnetwork** area at the ETF OpenSpace: [About GLAD | Open Space \(europa.eu\)](#) – this space has been created for our community to share resources and information on what’s going on within the network– to bring most value for you.

We wish you success in all your endeavours!

Your ETF GLAD Team

Stay in touch with us:

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The content and the design of the #GLADnetwork NEWSletter is taken care by Liia Kaarlõp.

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