

AGENDA

ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts Webinar

JUST AND GREEN TRANSITIONS IN CENTRAL ASIA: STRENGTHENING POLICY, FINANCE, AND LABOUR MARKET SKILLS

11 June 2025, 10.00 – 12.00 CET

BACKGROUND

Central Asia is undergoing transformative shifts in response to climate change, economic modernisation, and sustainable development goals. As countries in the region seek to align their national development strategies with global climate commitments, the integration of inclusive policies, sustainable financing mechanisms, and a future-ready workforce becomes increasingly important. Advancing these priorities requires coordinated action across governance, education, finance, and labour market systems, while ensuring that the transition remains equitable and no one is left behind.

This regional workshop, organised with the support of the European Training Foundation (ETF), brings together leading experts, policymakers, and practitioners to explore how Central Asian countries can strengthen the policy, institutional, and human capital foundations for a just and green transition. The event will serve as a platform to exchange experiences, share practical solutions, and identify actionable entry points for cross-country collaboration.

The event will begin with opening remarks and an overview of the agenda, followed by introductory reflections from the ETF's Skills Lab Network of Experts. The following session will then focus on the systems and resources needed to advance a green economy. Topics include regional climate cooperation under the Green Central Asia initiative (GIZ), approaches to mainstreaming gender in green transition policies (ADB), financing mechanisms for just energy transitions (ADB), and the role of academic research in fostering green skills (University of Cambridge).

Session II will then explore strategic and institutional approaches to climate diplomacy and national-level implementation. Presentations will cover Central Asia's participation in global climate negotiations (UNFCCC expert from Kyrgyzstan), integrating just transition principles into NDC 3.0 preparation (UNDP Kyrgyzstan), and engaging youth through national climate policy implementation (UNEP Consultant from Kazakhstan).

The workshop will conclude with a wrap-up session that synthesises insights and highlights promising practices relevant to policy and implementation. The event aims to foster exchange among regional and international stakeholders, showcase innovative approaches, and identify areas for collaboration to support inclusive, climate-resilient development in Central Asia.

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
10.00-10.10	Opening, rules of engagement, overview of agenda	Burulcha Sulaimanova, ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts
	Words of Welcome, ETF introduction to the topic	Cristiana Burzio, Coordinator, ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts
10.10-11.10	Skills, Cooperation, and Financing for Just Transitions	Chairperson: Begench Yazov, ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts
	Regional Climate Cooperation and Skills: The Green Central Asia Experience (10')	Caroline Milow, Manager, Green Central Asia Project, GIZ Uzbekistan
	Mainstreaming Gender in Green Transition Policies in Central Asia (10')	Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist at ADB's Central and West Asia Department
	Financing Just Energy Transitions in Central Asia (10')	Dina Azhgaliyeva, Senior Economist, ADB
	Leveraging Academic Research to Foster Skills for Green Transitions in Central Asia (10')	Siddharth Saxena, Director, Cambridge Central Asia Forum, University of Cambridge
	Q&A 20'	
11.10-11.55	Policy, Commitments, and Inclusive Climate Action in Central Asia	Chairperson: Asiya Tureniyazova, ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts
	Central Asia on the Global Stage: Policy Diplomacy and COP Engagements (10')	Dastan Abdyldaev, Climate Finance & UNFCCC Expert, Kyrgyzstan
	Strengthening Central Asia's Climate Commitments: A Just Transition Approach to NDC 3.0 (10')	Anna Arkhangelskaya, Energy Economist, UNDP Kyrgyzstan
	Climate Action Through National Policy Implementation and Youth Engagement (10')	Amina Akhmetzhanova, UNEP CCAC Consultant, Kazakhstan
	Q&A 15'	
11.55-12.00	Conclusions and wrap up	Cristiana Burzio, ETF