

# THE ETF SKILLS LAB NETWORK OF EXPERTS

A global knowledge community  
on skills demand, anticipation  
and analysis

# Background & purpose

## ETF

The [European Training Foundation](#) (ETF) is the EU's agency supporting countries surrounding the European Union to reform their education, training and labour market systems. It provides evidence-based knowledge and methodologies, and opportunities for exchange and learning, including a number of thematic networks of experts, researchers and practitioners.

## The ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts (SLNE)

The ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts is a global knowledge community of labour market experts and researchers working on emerging skills needs. Created in October 2021, it brings together a variety of public, private and non-profit research institutions and universities, as well as international organisations and other expert networks from ETF partner countries in Western Balkans and Türkiye; Southern and Eastern Mediterranean; Eastern Partnership; and Central Asia), as well as EU Member States and beyond. ([Where we work](#))

### Vision

“A future in which a culture of skills is established, in which researchers have the skills, knowledge and connections they need to understand and respond effectively to evolving skills demand and thus contribute to more evidence-based policymaking in their countries.”

### Theory of Change

“If the Network facilitates the circulation of knowledge and fosters collaboration, members will exchange insights, develop shared strategies, and strengthen their capacity for skills anticipation and matching. In turn, this increased capacity will inform evidence-based policy reform, ultimately leading to more effective workforce development and labour market policies.

### Mission

“To bring together researchers and experts to facilitate processes of exchange and learning, so that relevant knowledge and skills are reinforced and better disseminated, and researchers have opportunities to collaborate and build on each other’s knowledge and skills.”

# Strategic objectives

The activities of the Network aim to contribute to the achievement of four strategic objectives:

1. Enhance skills anticipation and matching in dynamic labour markets.
2. Support policy reform through evidence-based research.
3. Promote knowledge exchange and capacity building among Network members.
4. Strengthen international collaboration in ETF partner countries and beyond.

## Core Activities



### Facilitate knowledge-sharing activities

- ✓ Annual Live Events
- ✓ Peer visits
- ✓ Thematic webinars (network-wide and region-focused)
- ✓ Thematic sub-groups (e.g. on skills and migration)
- ✓ Online peer learning sessions
- ✓ Online networking events



### Leverage knowledge-sharing tools

- ✓ LinkedIn Group
- ✓ Network area on OpenSpace
- ✓ Bi-monthly Flash News
- ✓ Bi-annual Newsletter
- ✓ Direct mailings



### Present knowledge in shareable formats

- ✓ Summaries and recordings of activities and events
- ✓ Thematic articles
- ✓ Publication of research papers



### Support members to develop new knowledge

- ✓ Call for papers

# Join the Network today!

The Skills Lab Network of Experts is open to all interested researchers and analysts working on labour market skills demand in public, private or non-profit research institutions and universities, as well as international organisations and other expert networks from ETF partner countries, the EU and beyond.

Membership requires just the submission of a short application form.

## The Network in 2025



Over **3**  
years of  
activity



Over **670**  
members



Over **80**  
countries  
represented



Over **30**  
events  
delivered

## Find out more!

Join the [online Network area](#) on the ETF OpenSpace to access all Network content and articles.

## Join the discussions!

Join our dynamic online exchanges in the Network [LinkedIn Group](#).

## Send us your questions!

For further information and enquiries on network activities, please send us an email: [skillslabnetwork@etf.europa.eu](mailto:skillslabnetwork@etf.europa.eu)

## Submit your application to join!

Complete the short [application form](#) – also accessible via:



<https://openspace.etf.europa.eu/skillslab>



[network@etfskillslab.eu](mailto:network@etfskillslab.eu)



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9855530/>

