

AGENDA

TITLE:

Adult Learning and Education – way forward in system building

20.01.2026, 11.00-12.30 CET IN ZOOM

SUMMARY:

The Governance Learning, Action and Dialogues (GLAD) network, launched by the European Training Foundation (ETF) in 2022, supports system-level reforms in vocational education and training (VET), lifelong learning (LLL) and labour market in the partner countries of the EU.

GLAD promotes participatory approaches to the governance of human capital development systems. To this end, it brings together state and non-state actors, including governmental and public institutions, social partners, business organisations, civil society representatives and practitioners that are committed to mutual learning and policy dialogue.

This GLAD webinar, which is part of the cycle dedicated to the governance of Adult Learning and Education (ALE), will put the system approach at centre stage. The system approach differs from treating ALE as a collection of separate programmes or as a set of participation rates. Systems of adult learning are complex, multi-level configurations in which interdependencies between education provision, labour market dynamics, and welfare policies give rise to outcomes that single interventions alone cannot generate.

High participation and low inequality do not emerge simply because some courses are excellent or one policy has been adopted; they result from how multiple components of the system work together over time. In this perspective, a coherent architecture encompassing the legislative framework, strategic planning provisions and financing mechanisms is critical. These foundational axes should moreover lay the ground for coordination and responsibility sharing among stakeholders.

This was one core conclusion of the High-Level Round Table ‘**A Framework to drive Adult Learning Reforms. Advancing Lifelong Learning in the context of EU accession and neighbourhood**’ organised by the ETF and DVV International in November, 2025. The webinar will draw from the event’s key question – how can countries develop Adult Learning Systems (ALS) that simultaneously raise participation and reduce inequality? – and the resulting Policy Brief that elaborates the answers emerged through the panels and interactive sessions, a social theatre performance and the celebration of country successes.

The ETF and DVV International are pleased to host in the webinar Ms Jasna Jovanovic (Montenegro) and Mr Jan Kalenda (Czech Republic) who will speak about the three-layer governance architecture of ALS comprising legislation, strategic planning and financing, with specific examples of progress made in Montenegro.

All participants in the webinar are invited to address questions and contribute own experience regarding ALE legislation, strategic planning and financing depending on country contexts and governance traditions.

The webinar language will be English, with interpretation into BCMS, Albanian, Ukrainian and Romanian.

Time	Agenda Item
11:00 - 11:05	<p>Welcome and opening <i>Siria Taurelli, GLAD coordinator, Senior HCD Specialist, ETF</i> <i>Levan Kvatchadze, Regional Director for Eastern Neighbours, DVV International</i></p>
11:05 – 11:55	<p>Introduction to the topic of ALS and speaker <i>Nicolas Jonas, Human Capital Development Expert, ETF</i></p> <p>Understanding Adult Learning Systems and Building the Foundation <i>Jan Kalenda, Tomas Bata University, Czech Republic</i></p> <p>Q&A</p> <p>Introduction to the topic of ALS in Candidate Countries and speaker <i>Levan Kvatchadze, Regional Director for Eastern Neighbours, DVV International</i></p> <p>New legislation, governance and financing of Adult Learning and Education in Montenegro <i>Jasna Jovanovic, Director General, Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Montenegro</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
11:55 – 12:25	<p>Open discussion <i>Moderators: Levan Kvatchadze, DVV international, and Nicolas Jonas, ETF</i></p>
12:25 – 12:30	<p>Wrap up and closing remarks <i>Siria Taurelli, ETF</i></p>