

AGENDA

ETF & ENABEL Peer Learning Visit (Turin-Italy 16-20 February 2026)

Vocational Excellence and Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) to shaping skills ecosystems in Ukraine

BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND PARTICIPANTS:

The European Training Foundation (ETF) is specialized European Union (EU) agency with the mandate of improving human capital development (HCD) in the context of EU external policies. The ETF supports EU as a global actor by leveraging EU approaches to HCD to support economic competitiveness and social cohesion in 29 partner countries in the European neighbourhood¹.

The Belgian Agency for International Cooperation (ENABEL) implements -international- projects across various sectors, including healthcare, education, energy, employment, and governance. ENABEL actively cooperate with governments, the European Union, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector to support sustainable development initiatives and improve quality of life².

In this context, both institutions are consolidated partners working together for the development of Vocational Education and Training (VET -or- TVET) in international contexts and, in concrete, in Vocational Excellence closely working with Ukraine for building together resilient, inclusive and effective approaches to setting up Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs).

Following ETF international experience, CoVEs are strongly becoming crucial model to address holistic and systemic VET policy reforms worldwide, as appointed and/or recognized network organisations emphasising cooperation with other practitioners and policy players, including its role on employment, employability, competitiveness, inclusiveness and strategic regional socio-economic development for shaping skills ecosystems³.

ENABEL- via BE-Relieve Ukraine program-, is implementing key learning (peer-to peer) activities within “Education, Skills and Decent Employment” component⁴, aimed at accompanying of selected vocational schools and training centres in their journey to inclusive excellence, following CoVEs approaches. This

¹ <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en>

² <https://www.enabel.be/>

³ <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/what-we-do/vocational-excellence>

⁴ <https://open.enabel.be/en/UKR/2779/p/programme-ukraine.html>

is also alongside the ETF policy advice capacity in VET excellence and CoVEs in different moments of such component.

The journey to inclusive Vocational Excellence includes, for example learning and implementing a number of excellence dimensions such as, governance, management and funding of CoVEs, including autonomy and public private partnership forms (e.g work based learning- WBL) shaping skills ecosystems; quality assurance practices which should be better connected, for example, to CoVEs self-assessments for continuous improvement and institutional development; new forms of teaching and learning which is underpinned by continuous professional development of teachers and trainers; skills for the twin transition (digital and green); career education and guidance; entrepreneurship, innovation and research; adult learning and/or continuing vocational training as key aspects to support lifelong learning; sectoral and regional approaches for skills development better connected to smart specialization strategies; applied research to VET and internationalization strategies (etc.).

All in all, VET excellence policy approaches and CoVEs practices should ensure and facilitate high level skills provision and standards that fully meet expectations of citizens by ensuring employability of learners in labour markets (both young and adults).

The **overall objective** of peer learning visit to be hosted by the ETF in Turin (Italy- 16-20 February 2026) is to enhance the capacity of Ukrainian stakeholders to design, implement, and sustain CoVEs aligned with European standards, by deepening their understanding of the CoVE concept, its systemic components, governance, management and financing models, and practical implementation mechanisms and tools.

Specifically, the working experience will look at following Vocational Excellence elements and thematic CoVEs dimensions:

- Networking for VET Excellence and CoVEs models, types and implementation forms to support shaping skill ecosystems (conceptual approaches and policy options).
- Self-Assessment Tools (ISATCOVE) for supporting CoVEs continuous development, improvement and operational missions by approaching governance and funding, cooperation and partnerships and teaching and learning as key business-areas.
- Self-Assessment Tools (ISATCOVE) for recognizing and certifying commitment to VET Excellence.
- CoVEs implementing Autonomy and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for skills development.
- CoVEs as skills hubs for supporting *twin* transition (digital & green).
- CoVEs as Entrepreneurial and Research-oriented organisations shaping skills ecosystems.
- CoVEs for ensuring Equity and Social Inclusion via excellent VET provision.
- CoVEs as leaders for implementing VET Internationalization.

Around these knowledge dimensions in Vocational Excellence, during the week the group will be tasked to shape a **CoVEs project applied to Ukrainian context, by using theoretical and practical knowledge acquired during different working sessions and field visits**. This will be better integrated in current Ukrainian projects (supported by international stakeholders) and policy developments (E.g VET Law approved in September 2025).

The **overall number of participants is 35**. The Ukrainian delegation will be composed by:

- The staff of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (Directorate of Vocational Education and Training);
- Directors of VET institutions from different regions of Ukraine, which are a part of the national pilot on CoVEs.
- Representatives of local self-government bodies and expert community (who will support VET schools in CoVE implementation).

The facilitation of the different sessions will be done by ETF and ENABEL in cooperation with different VET providers/CoVEs (See agenda below)

AGENDA -VET EXCELLENCE & COVES TO SHAPING SKILLS ECOSYSTEMS
(TURIN -ITALY- FEBRUARY 16-20TH 2026)

16 February 2026	
<i><u>A holistic and systemic approach to VET Excellence and CoVEs development:</u></i> <i><u>The key ingredients of ETF experience</u></i>	
09:00 - 09:30	Registration
09:30 - 09:45	Welcome and opening (ETF) Georgios Zisimos -Head of Unit; Iwona Ganko- ETF Team Leader-; Oleksandra Borodiyenko (ENABEL) Education and Skills development Sector- Thematic Expert-
09:45 - 10:00	Waking up- Warming up networking activity (ETF)
10:00 – 11:30	ETF Vocational Excellence Cluster Intro: VET Excellence & CoVEs to shaping skills ecosystems. A Cookbook for a Vocational Excellence Kitchen. Q&A-Discussion (ETF experts) Jolien Van Uden (Cluster coordinator VET Excellence-Senior HCD Expert) & Jose Manuel Galvin Arribas (Senior HCD Expert)
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee Break-Family Picture-
12:00 – 13:00	A short overview on ETF experience implementing VET Excellence Dimensions: Digital, Green, Entrepreneurial, Applied Research to VET (ETF experts- Filippo del Nino-Maria Vittoria Garlappi- Susanne M. Nielsen- Stephan Tomas). Followed by Q&A/Discussion
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:30	An Immersion to ISATCOVE Tool and certificates (ETF Experts) Jolien Van Uden (Cluster coordinator VET Excellence-Senior HCD Expert) & Jose Manuel Galvin Arribas (Senior HCD Expert)
15:30: - 15:40	Coffee Break
15:45 – 17:00 Transfer of participants to hotel	Practical exercise on ISATCOVE (facilitated by ETF experts) Wrap up the day
19:30 - 21:30	Dinner (Ristorante Piemontese)

17 February 2026

CoVEs as innovation and research leaders to support technological, digital and industrial transformations

09:15 - Transfer participants to ITS visit	<p style="text-align: center;">ITS Academy Sustainable mobility, Aerospace and Mechatronics Via Braccini, 17 (10141) Torino Telefono: 011 3828476 ITS Mobilità Sostenibile - Meccatronica Aerospazio Piemonte</p>
12:30-14:30 Transfer for lunch at ETF	<p>The Piedmont Region (Italy) is a <i>land of excellence</i>, especially in technology and industry. In this context, ITS Academy is a system and strategic hub where collaboration between institutions, the world of work, scientific research, and training is strengthened. The ITS Academy Sustainable Mobility Foundation – Aerospace/Mechatronics – Business Services (operational since 2010) aims to promote the dissemination of technical and scientific culture, and to support economic development measures and active labor market policies. It currently has over 200 direct and indirect partners, including universities and technical institutes, innovation hubs, local authorities, training agencies, and companies.</p> <p>Such ITS network is implemented via local public and private innovation entities, research centers and universities. The two years training programs allows graduates acquiring a recognized diploma level 5, aligned with European Qualification framework (EQF).</p> <p><u>Key colleague at ITS:</u> Vicky Edokpolor</p>
14:45-16:15	<p>Second round/ reflection on practical use of ISATCOVE implementation (<i>Selecting dimensions</i> for implementing on CoVEs).</p> <p>Facilitated by ETF experts.</p>

18 February 2026

VET Excellence and CoVEs role as multiprofile and/or cross-sectoral skill hubs for employability

09:00-09:30 Departure to ENGIM	<p style="text-align: center;">ENGIM Training, Career Guidance, Cooperation and Employment C.so Palestro, 14 Torino 10122. Tel. 011.2304301 - Fax 011.2304320. In evidenza piemonte.engim.org</p>
	<p>ENGIM is an organization committed to implementing training and career support projects, comprehensive education pathways, and global citizenship programs to promote the personal and social growth of individuals. Specifically, ENGIM delivers vocational training by seeking to match job placements for young people and adults whilst promoting equal opportunities for women and sustainable development via networking and building partnerships with public and private actors.</p> <p>ENGIM operates at the local, regional, national, and international levels, delivering programs, training plans which are supported by career education and guidance strategies.</p>
12:30 – Transfer to Piazza dei Mestieri-	<p><u>Key colleagues at ENGIM:</u> Mr. Marco Muzzarelli (CEO) and Ms. Veronica Vasilescu</p>

18 February 2026

VET Excellence and CoVEs role as multiprofile and/or cross-sectoral skill hubs for employability

**Piazza dei Mestieri
13:00 – 16:30
(Lunch-Visit -
Aperitivo-)**

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The Piazza dei Mestieri (Crafts Square Foundation) is an entity which supports young people committed to building their own future and developing their talent via educating for work, innovating training (Academy); and teaching a trade. All this is to support socioeconomic development by engaging all public and private stakeholders in the ecosystem. The Piazza has five physical infrastructures (*headquarters*) which are in Turin (2), Catania (2) and Milano (1).

Agrifood -including industry, Tourism and Hospitality and ICT - are key sectors, occupations and vocational training delivered by the centre, which is also sustained by different services and activities.

Key colleagues at Piazza dei Mestieri: Ms. Benedetta Poggio, Ms. Monica Pillitu.

19 February 2026

Learning together on Inclusive Vocational Excellence

**07:45 – Departure to
Como**

**Visit to COMETA FORMAZIONE
Via Madruzzo, 36, 22100 Como**

Scuola Professionale - Cometa Como

**17:00 Return to Turin
and participants to
hotel**

Cometa Formazione is a national and international reference vocational institution, working with children and teenagers to promote their development and harmonious growth. Cometa is an educational hub envisaging the full expression of everyone's abilities and talents, preventing growth difficulties and combating school dropout by providing a stimulating and creative environment where everyone feels valued, gains self-confidence, and learns a trade.

Cometa promotes the training of young people through the acquisition of specialized skills with workshops and internships that prepare them for work, whilst engaging the world of work as an educational partner in training and facilitating young people the opportunity for long real-life experiences in companies.

19 February 2026
Learning together on Inclusive Vocational Excellence

Cometa is recognized internationally as an excellent and inclusive educational environment by welcoming people and their uniqueness and for sharing and spreading the Cometa *model* of education and training.

Key colleague at Cometa: Mr. Alessandro Mele (CEO)

20 February 2026
Connecting the DOTS:

Wrapping up and preparing a workable strategy to activate CoVEs institutional set-ups based on Ukrainian participating regions.

09:00 - 09:30	Introduction/Discussion on filling up knowledge gaps and wrapping up lessons learned: Introduction to practical exercise (CoVEs strategy for Ukrainian regions) (ETF Experts).
09:30- 11:00	Facilitation of Working Groups by ETF & ENABEL-
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break
11:20 - 12.50	Presenting working groups results/outcomes on strategy for activating CoVEs set-ups in Ukrainian regions.
12:50-13:00	Closure and Farewell -Family Picture-
13:00-14:30	Lunch at ETF