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# AGENDA

TITLE:

## Financing Excellence: Securing the Future of Centres of Vocational Excellence

28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026 – 10:00-11:30 CEST – ONLINE EVENT

**Registration link:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/pwU\\_3iBPSTWHF\\_rwH0xejw](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/pwU_3iBPSTWHF_rwH0xejw)

The **ETF Network for Excellence (ENE)**, facilitated by the European Training Foundation, brings together Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs) and key stakeholders committed to innovation, quality, and systemic impact in vocational education and training (VET).

Financial sustainability is increasingly recognised as a defining factor for the long-term success of CoVEs. As skills systems respond to economic transformation, green and digital transitions, and demographic change, CoVEs are expected to act not only as high-quality training providers, but also as innovation hubs embedded in regional skills ecosystems.

To fulfil this expanded role, they require stable, diversified, and strategic financing approaches. Reliance on short-term project funding is no longer sufficient. CoVEs must strengthen their capacity to mobilise blended funding sources, develop strong public-private partnerships, and implement governance models that ensure accountability, flexibility, and resilience.

Ensuring sustainable financing is therefore not only a financial issue — it is a strategic imperative for maintaining excellence, relevance, and long-term impact.

### Focus of the Session

This session will explore:

- Sustainable skills financing models
- The role of providers and ecosystems in mobilising resources
- Strategic financial governance for long-term resilience

The objective is to inspire ENE members with practical European perspectives and strategic reflections that can inform their own sustainability pathways.

*The webinar will be held in English, with interpretation in French.*

Time	Agenda Item	Owner
10:00 – 10:10	<b>Framing skills financing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why financing excellence matters now</li> <li>• The evolving role of CoVEs as innovation and ecosystem actors</li> <li>• From funding projects to financing systems: a strategic shift</li> <li>• Objectives and expected outcomes of the session for the ENE community</li> </ul>	Susanne Nielsen, ETF Expert
10:10 – 10:50	<b>European Provider Perspective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving beyond single-source funding: diversification and blended finance approaches</li> <li>• Building sustainable cooperation with industry and regional authorities</li> <li>• Performance-based funding and accountability mechanisms in VET</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	Theodor Grassos, Secretary General EVBB
10:50 – 11:15	<b>ETF Strategic Perspective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ETF work on financing skills: frameworks, lessons, and strategic guidance</li> <li>• Governance and financial management capacities for resilience</li> <li>• Policy frameworks that enable sustainable skills investment</li> </ul>	Donatella Di Vozzo, ETF Expert
11:15 – 11:30	<b>Closing Reflections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lessons and practical insights for CoVEs</li> <li>• What this means for the ENE network</li> <li>• Opportunities for peer exchange and follow-up actions</li> </ul>	Susanne Nielsen, ETF Expert