

AGENDA

Policy Lab - Education Reforms in Eastern Partnership: Shared Lessons, Shared Future

24–25 June 2026, Stresa, Italy

Regina Palace Hotel - SALA AZALEA

SUMMARY:

The **Policy Lab on Education Reforms in the Eastern Partnership** will bring together representatives from the Ministries of Education of EaP countries, alongside representatives of the European Training Foundation (ETF), the European Commission, and education experts from EU Member States. Organised under the **EU-funded programme *Supporting Education Reforms & Skills in the Eastern Partnership region (SER)***, the event provides a space for **peer learning, strategic reflection, and exchange** among ministry officials steering education reforms.

Over two days, participants will discuss **selected case studies** of national education reform challenges identified in the **Rapid Education Diagnosis** reports in Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine. The Policy Lab will provide a forum for exchange and learning from international education policy reforms and extract key lessons for building **inclusive, resilient, and sustainable education systems**. EU experts, former senior education policy officials, will contribute comparative insights from successful reform experiences and lessons learnt across Europe, offering inspiration and guidance for the Eastern Partnership context.

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Facilitate peer learning among Eastern Partnership education policy officials through the exchange of national reform experiences and case studies.
- ✓ Identify common challenges and success factors in implementing inclusive and sustainable education reforms, focusing on key thematic areas such education governance, policy prioritisation and implementation as well as ensuring resilience and sustainability of education reforms.
- ✓ Formulate actionable takeaways and next steps to guide cooperation and support under the ETF's SER programme, contributing to the development of education systems that deliver quality learning for all.

Participants

The event brings together participants from the Ministries of Education and education authorities of EaP countries as well as experts from EU Member States and ETF staff.

The working language of the event is English.

AGENDA 24–25 June 2026 COMMON CHALLENGES, SHARED LEARNING

DAY 0 – 23/06/2026

Time	Agenda Item	
During the day	Arrival of delegations and accommodation	Regina Palace https://reginapalace.it/
15.30–18.15	Cultural visit to Isola Bella	https://terreborromeo.it/en/isola-bella
19.00–20.00	Welcome Cocktail	Regina Palace Terrace

DAY 1 – 24/06/2026 – Chair Hugues Moussy, Head of Unit ETF

09.00–9.30	Introduction and welcome of participants Objectives and Agenda	Pilvi Torsti , ETF Director Christophe Masson , European Commission, DG ENEST Timo Kuusela , Programme Coordinator ETF
09.30–10.15	Group Introductions: one key reform priority & one challenge	Moderated by Timo Kuusela, ETF Country representatives
10.15–11.00	Keynote 1: Transforming Education System to a Top Performer <i>Discussion and Q&A</i>	Jaana Palojarvi , Former Director for International Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland
11.00–11.30	<i>Coffee & Networking Break</i>	
11.30–12.30	Keynote 2: Shaping Future-Ready Inclusive Education Systems: Global Trends and Policy Priorities for 2030–2040 <i>Discussion and Q&A</i>	João Costa , Director of European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education, Former Minister of Education, Portugal
12.30–13.15	EaP Case Study 1 Armenia – Education governance reform – challenges and options <i>Presentation + Q&A</i>	Facilitator – Timo Kuusela, ETF Araksia Svajyan , Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Armenia
13.15–14:15	<i>Lunch in the venue</i>	
14.15–15.15	Keynote 3: Poland’s approach to evidence-based education policy <i>Discussion and Q&A</i>	Stanisław Drzażdżewski , General Counsel, Department of Innovation and Development, Ministry of National Education, Poland
15.15–16.00	EaP Case Study 2 Moldova – Education governance reform – setting up Regional Education Agencies <i>Presentation + Q&A</i>	Facilitator- Iwona Ganko, ETF Galina Rusu , Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and Research, Moldova
16.00–16.30	<i>Coffee & Networking Break</i>	

16.30–17.30	Peer Working Groups (Mixed EaP Teams)	Facilitation – ETF team Groups identify 3–5 transferable success factors in education governance reforms
19.30–21.30	<i>Networking Dinner</i>	Liberty Restaurant at the hotel
DAY 2 – 25/06/2026 FROM ANALYSIS TO ACTION – CHAIR Hugues Moussy, ETF		
09.00–9.30	Recap & Reflections of Day 1	Moderated by Timo Kuusela, ETF
09.30–10.15	EaP Case Study 3 Ukraine – Blended/Hybrid Learning & Digitalisation of Education <i>Presentation + Q&A</i>	Moderated by Iwona Ganko, ETF Oleksandra Husak , Director General, Directorate for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ministry of Education and Science, Ukraine
10.15–11.00	Expert Commentary on blended and hybrid learning <i>What worked, what didn't, why</i>	Moderated by Iwona Ganko, ETF Keynote speakers
11.00–11.30	<i>Coffee & Networking Break</i>	
11.30–12.15	Keynote 4: Transparency and Accountability in Education Governance Reform <i>Discussion and Q&A</i>	Daniel Funeriu , Former Minister of Education, Romania
12.15–13.15	Leading Reform in Times of Change How reforms are prioritised, sequenced, communicated, and protected politically. Perspectives from EaP and Keynote Speakers	Moderated by Hugues Moussy, ETF
13.15–14.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.30–15.30	Shaping Future Cooperation on Education Reforms in the Eastern Partnership Introduction Presentation of possible avenues and key directions on education system reforms – feedback of SER stakeholders <i>Discussion and Q&A</i>	Moderated by Timo Kuusela, ETF Thierry Foubert , Head of Unit, ETF Christophe Masson , DG ENEST
15.30 – 16.00	Country discussions on the actions and priorities	Country delegations
16.00 – 16.30	<i>Coffee & Networking Break</i>	
16.30 – 17.30	Plenary Reporting Country presentations Feedback from Keynote Speakers	Moderated by Iwona Ganko and Samuel Cavanagh, ETF
17.30 – 18.00	Closure & Next Steps ✓ Next steps and upcoming events ✓ Summary of takeaways	Timo Kuusela , ETF Christophe Masson , DG ENEST Hugues Moussy , ETF
18.00 – 19.30	Farewell Aperitivo	