

AGENDA

ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts - VETGT

CONNECTING EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT: LAUNCH OF THE EXPERT COMMUNITY ON GRADUATE TRACKING AND SCHOOL-TO- WORK TRANSITION

8 SEPTEMBER 2026, 10.00 – 12.00 CET

BACKGROUND

In a context of dynamic and increasingly complex labour markets, understanding the transition of young people from education and training into employment is essential for developing effective education, skills and employment policies. Graduate tracking and analysis of school-to-work transitions provide valuable evidence on education and training outcomes, labour market integration, skills matching and the pathways young people take after completing their studies. Such evidence can support better-informed policies and contribute to improving employability, social mobility and inclusion.

The online meeting will launch an Expert Community on Graduate tracking and School-to-work transition, creating a platform for experts and practitioners to exchange knowledge, experience and good practices, discuss emerging developments and identify areas of common interest for future cooperation.

The meeting will start with an introduction to graduate tracking and school-to-work transition, highlighting their relevance for education, skills and employment policies. It will provide an overview of recent developments at the EU level, as well as developments and experiences from partner countries. This will offer a common starting point for discussion and help identify emerging issues, approaches and lessons relevant to the work of the Expert Community.

An important focus of the meeting will be to jointly shape the future direction of the Expert Community. Participants will be invited to share their main interests, priorities and expectations and to identify topics where peer exchange, knowledge sharing and joint learning would be most valuable. The input gathered during the meeting will inform the planning of the Expert Community's activities for 2027.

Graduate tracking is a structured follow-up of graduates that gathers information about the outcomes of education and training in terms of career and further study pathways. This may include information on graduates' labour market integration, participation in further education and training, satisfaction with their education and training experience, and other relevant outcomes. Graduate tracking can be based on standardised surveys, administrative data, or a combination of different data sources.

School-to-work transition provides a broader perspective on how young people move from education and training into the labour market, including the pathways, opportunities and challenges they encounter. Together, graduate tracking and analysis of school-to-work transitions can provide important evidence for improving the relevance of education and training systems and supporting more effective transitions into employment.

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
10.00-10.10	Welcome and launch of the Expert Community Introduction to the Expert Community on Graduate tracking and School-to-work transition, its objectives and proposed way of working	Cristiana Burzio, Coordinator of ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts
10.10-10.45	Understanding graduate tracking and school-to-work transition: concepts, benefits and EU developments <i>Introduction of key concepts, approaches and uses of graduate tracking and school-to-work transition analysis, with an overview of relevant developments at the EU level.</i> Followed by Q&A with the audience	Eva Jansova, Data analyst and Expert in Human Capital Development, ETF
10.45-11.00	Community exchange: experiences with Graduate tracking and School-to-work transition research <i>Interactive roundtable inviting participants to share relevant experiences, initiatives and research from their countries</i>	Facilitator: Eva Jansova, Data analyst and Expert in Human Capital Development, ETF
11.00-11.40	Research spotlight: Graduate tracking and school-to-work transition <i>Two case presentations showcasing existing research and experience, with a focus on methodological approaches, key findings, the use of research results, and implementation challenges.</i> Followed by Q&A with the audience	Facilitator: Eva Jansova, Data analyst and Expert in Human Capital Development, ETF Mariana Crismaru, Senior researcher at the National Institute for Economic Research, Republic of Moldova Nermin Oruc, Director of Research at CREDI, Bosnia and Herzegovina
11.40-11.50	Shaping the Expert community: Priorities and interests for 2027 <i>Interactive discussion to identify members' expectations, priority topics and areas of interest for future knowledge exchange and peer learning.</i>	Facilitator: Cristiana Burzio, Coordinator of ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts
11.50-12.00	Wrap up and next steps	Cristiana Burzio, Coordinator of ETF Skills Lab Network of Experts