

AGENDA

TITLE:

Back to Basics - Building the Foundations for the Future of Skills

SUBJECT:

A spin-off event ahead of the Torino Global Skills Summit 2026

MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2026 | 15:00-18:00 | OGR TECH
ROOM MEZZANINO

Background

The future of skills is often discussed in terms of technological change, emerging occupations and innovation. Yet success in education, work and society continues to depend on a set of foundational capabilities that enable individuals to navigate complexity, adapt to change and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Ahead of the official opening of the Torino Global Skills Summit 2026, *Back to Basics* offers an opportunity to reflect on the essential skills that underpin lifelong learning and innovation.

The spin-off event will explore two fundamental questions:

- *How can individuals develop critical thinking in an age shaped by artificial intelligence and information overload?*
- *How can education and training systems foster curiosity, creativity and innovation as core capabilities for the future?*

Through two interactive conversations and dedicated networking time, participants will exchange experiences and perspectives while setting the tone for the Summit discussions that follow.

Objectives

The event aims to:

- Highlight foundational skills as the basis for lifelong learning and employability.
- Launch key conversations that can continue throughout the Summit.

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- Showcase practical experiences from different countries and sectors.
- Foster dialogue and networking among participants.
- Reinforce the importance of human capabilities in a rapidly changing world.

Audience

The audience will constitute of 50 participants of the Torino Global Skills Summit 2026, mainly coming from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and participating in the EU programme SER (*Supporting Education Reforms and Skills in Eastern Partnership*). Participants include:

- Policymakers and government representatives
- Researchers and innovators
- Employers and business representatives
- Researchers and innovators
- International organisations and development partners
- Youth and civil society representatives

Time	Agenda Item	Speakers
15:00 - 15:15	Welcome and Opening Remarks Setting the scene for the afternoon and introducing the concept of foundational skills as a cornerstone of resilience, innovation and inclusion.	Pilvi Torsti (ETF) Director Daria Santucci (ETF) Communication Specialist
15:10 - 15:50	Session 1: Critical Thinking in the Age of AI and media literacy challenges Artificial intelligence is transforming how information is created, shared and consumed. At the same time, misinformation, synthetic content and increasingly complex information ecosystems are making critical thinking, media literacy and AI literacy essential capabilities for learners and citizens alike.	Moderator: Daria Santucci (ETF) Speakers: ▪ Valeria Kovtun, Founder, Resilience Lab Cognitive Security & Defence, Ukraine ▪ Paula Gori, EDMO EUI, General Manager ▪ Adeline Hulin, Chief of Unit MIL and digital competencies, UNESCO Communication and Information Sector
15:50 - 16:05	Networking break	
16:05 - 16:45	Session 2: Innovation Starts with the Basics Innovation is often associated with technology, but it begins with curiosity, creativity, problem-solving and the ability to learn continuously. Education and training systems play a critical role in nurturing these capabilities and creating the conditions for innovation to flourish.	Moderator: Daria Santucci (ETF) Speakers: ▪ Andrew Penaluna, Director - National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education

Time	Agenda Item	Speakers
		▪ Radmil Polenakovikj, Director of the Business Start-up Centre, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering - Skopje, North Macedonia ▪ Daniel Funeriu, Former Minister of Education of Romania
16:45 - 17:00	Networking Break	
17:00 - 17:30	Session 3: From policy to feed: Making education reform matter to young people Young influencers share their ideas and experience on how to bridge policy makers and social media environment.	Moderator: Daria Santucci (ETF) Speakers: ▪ Azra Mehmedovic, Young European Ambassador, Bosnia and Herzegovina ▪ Norayr Stepanyan, Young European Ambassador, Armenia ▪ Amr Ramadan, EU Jeel Connector, Egypt; Founder and CEO of Empower Hub ▪ Mohammed Khaled Alnaas, EU Jeel Connector, Libya
17:30 - 18:00	Closing Reflections Summary of the afternoon's key messages and transition to the Torino Global Skills Summit 2026.	Moderator: Daria Santucci (ETF)
18:00 - 19:00	Free time	
19:00 - 21:00	Welcome reception	Torino Global Skills Summit programme