

# AGENDA

## Civil society for lifelong skills development in Europe and partner countries EAEA joint conference ETF-LLL- EAEA joint conference

**TIMING:** 23<sup>RD</sup> May 2023, 09.15-16.30 CEST

**VENUE:** Rue de Spa 2, Brussels - Directorate-General for Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

### CONFERENCE RATIONALE

The European Year of Skills 2023 focuses on the priority to reach 60% of adults engaged in learning. This priority stated by major EU policies – the European Pillar of Social Rights' Action Plan, Skills Agenda and Council Resolution on new European agenda for adult learning 2021-2030<sup>1</sup> - calls for greater attention to and increased investment in education, training, lifelong learning.

The European Training Foundation (ETF), the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL) and the European Association for the Education of Adults (EAEA) join forces in promoting policy dialogue and partnerships between governments and civil society organisations that are active in the sector, both in ETF Partner Countries and EU Member States, as a means towards access to good quality lifelong learning for all.

The Conference participants suggest that lifelong learning policies should be shaped by all stakeholders: Ministries, agencies, schools and other training providers and their teachers, Civil Society Organisations and private sector. Including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in policy dialogue and design will bring advantages, and lead policies to address the diversity of people and their learning needs.

The Conference participants will discuss the conditions for an inclusive policy dialogue on lifelong learning. The programme will draw from experiences, such as the drafting of National Skills Strategies in few countries and/or other approaches that tackle the challenge of building lifelong learning and skills development systems, by considering each country specific context.

### CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- 1) To highlight the advantages of civil dialogue at all stages of policy making
- 2) Discuss and agree upon follow up actions, in EU and partner countries

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<sup>1</sup> [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#)  
[European Skills Agenda](#)  
[Council Resolution on a new European agenda for adult learning 2021-2030 \(2021/C 504/02\)](#)

## QUESTIONS PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION

- How far have CSOs been involved in the formulation of skills development policies in partner countries?
- Are the National Skills Strategy a good practice case for EU Member States and partner countries? How is the impact measured?
- What are the CSOs' main contributions to policy formulation, which would be missed otherwise?
- Do the National Skills Strategies and other policy formulations pay attention to the local level?
- What kind of cooperation is envisaged at local level, to address challenges such as lack of opportunities, marginalisation and people left behind, brain drain, or other challenges?
- How can co-creation and participation in skills policy making shape a common vision among stakeholders?
- What concrete mechanisms for policy and civic dialogue are available?

## CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

The conference is organised in presence in Brussels with online participation: up to 60 participants on site, 60+ participants online. The working language is English.

22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023 19:30 - 21:30	Official Dinner at "Meet Meat", Rue Stevin 124, Brussels (upon invitation)
23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2023	
09:15 - 09:50	<b>Welcome and Networking Gathering</b> Moderated by the Lifelong Learning Platform - European Civil Society for Education: Andrea Lapegna, Deputy Director
09:50 – 10:20	<b>Setting the scene:</b> Stakeholders dialogue to shape lifelong learning policies  Chaired by the European Training Foundation (ETF), Pilvi Torsti, Director (tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Swedish Presidency, Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union: Anders Lindholm</li> <li>- European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs: Dragoş Pişlaru, Chair</li> <li>- European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</li> <li>- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC): Tatjana Babrauskiene, Member</li> <li>- European Association for the Education of Adults: Gina Ebner, Secretary General</li> </ul>
10:20 – 11:10	<b>Session 1:</b> How Civil Society Organisations address the diversity of learners and their needs: youth, adults, migrants, gender approach – Lessons for policy  Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova: Anna Gherganova - Head of the Occupational Policy and Labour Migration Regulation Directorate</li> <li>- Community Development Institute Macedonia: Sreten Koceski - Director</li> <li>- European Vocational Training Association (EVTA): Monica Verzola – Board member and Vice President of LLLP</li> <li>- European Training Foundation: Pilvi Torsti, Director (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion with participants</p> <p>Session facilitated by: Hugues Moussy, ETF</p>
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11:30 – 12:30	<b>Session 2:</b> National Skills Strategies: What's the role of Civil Society Organisations?  <b>Keynote conversation on developing and implementing NSS</b> by Andrew Bell, Head of Skills Strategies, OECD and Ms Mairead O'Connor, Skills Development Senior Manager, the Wheel, Ireland's national association of charities, community groups and social enterprises  Session facilitated by: Carlo Scatoli, European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  <i>For online participants - interactive session moderated by the EAEA.</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 14:30	"My take on civil and social dialogue" – interactive session facilitated by the LLLP

	<i>For online participants - interactive session moderated by the EAEA.</i>
14:30 - 15:30	<p><b>Session 3:</b> Civil Society Organisations engagement with public authorities and other non-state organisations – Lessons for governance modalities</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ukrainian Association of Adult Education: Mykyta Andreev, President of the Association and Chairman of the Public Council under the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine</li> <li>- Committee of Regions: Tanya Hristova – Chair, Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture tbc</li> <li>- European Association of Regional &amp; Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning (EARLALL): Camilla Winter, EARLALL Academy coordinator</li> <li>- UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)</li> </ul> <p>Open discussion with participants</p> <p><i>For online participants - interactive session moderated by the EAEA.</i></p> <p>Session facilitated by: Uwe Gartenschlaeger, EAEA President</p>
15:30 - 16:00	<p><b>Closing remarks</b> ETF and partner country representatives</p>