



European Training Foundation

# SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE

## Managing Transition

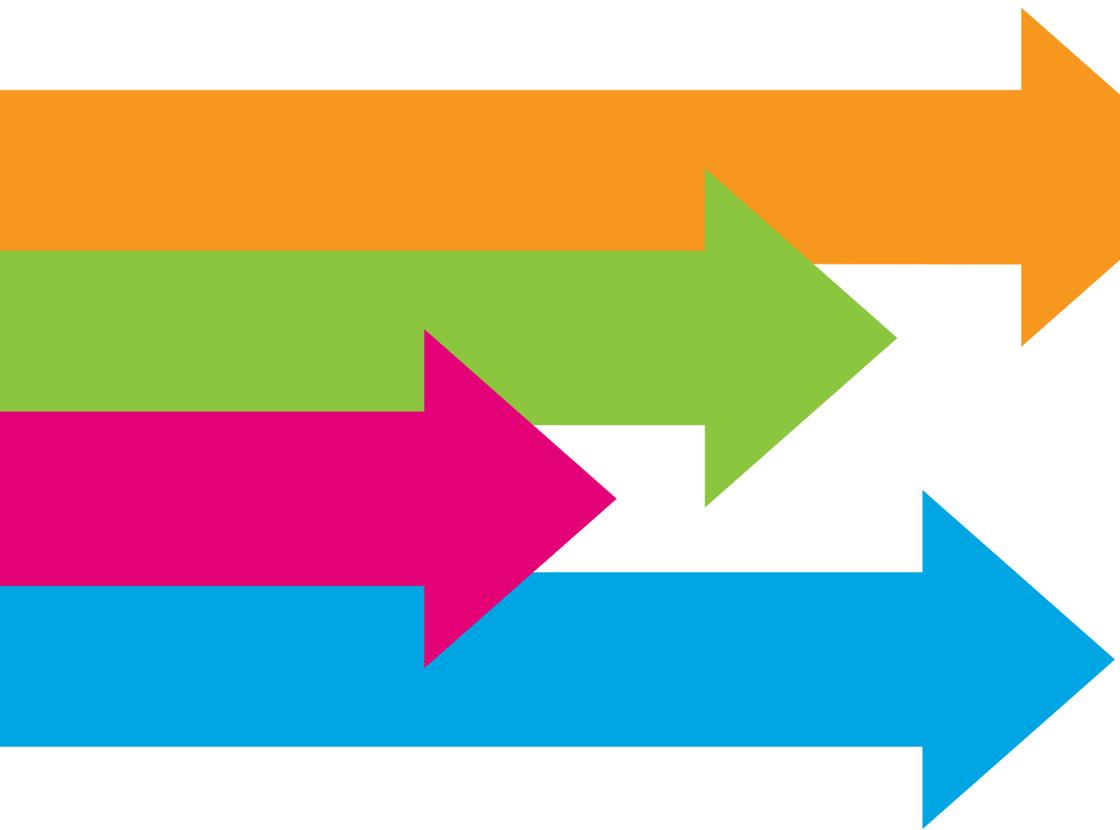
**OGR - Officine Grandi Riparazioni,  
Turin, Italy**

21-22 November 2018

#skills4future

[www.skills4future.eu](http://www.skills4future.eu)





# SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE: MANAGING TRANSITION

21-22 NOVEMBER 2018 - TURIN, ITALY

The fourth industrial revolution is upon us. Driven by new technologies that blend the physical, digital and biological worlds, it is transforming industries, economies and societies around the world. Other global trends such as shifting demographics, migration and climate change are intensifying this process. Old jobs are changing, relocating or disappearing, while new ones are emerging. As work becomes increasingly automated, jobs become polarised and non-routine cognitive and social skills become vital assets. The fast pace of change leads to a growing mismatch between the skills workers have and those employers need.



Societies need people with new skillsets flexible enough to cope with the demands of a constantly changing economic environment. This challenges societies worldwide to rethink how they equip and re-equip people with the knowledge and skills they need for life and work in the world of tomorrow. Different national and regional contexts require different solutions and alternative pathways. Their impact and how they are managed varies from place to place.

The European Training Foundation (ETF) is organising a conference in Turin on 21-22 November 2018, entitled **Skills for the future: managing transition** to explore how developing and transition countries can respond to the challenges of current global trends from a skills perspective. How do global forces interact with local realities and how does this affect the need for skills? How should governments, businesses, social partners, civil society, research institutions, communities and education and training providers work together to manage change? What skills policies work in different contexts?

Participants will identify ways to develop forward-looking training and labour policies in their countries, and will have the opportunity to share their views and work together to identify how the EU can support this transition through the work of the ETF.

# Programme

The discussion will focus on four main topics.

1. **Mastering global trends:** Participants will explore the influence of global trends on the future of work and skills, as well as opportunities and risks for individuals, communities, and countries. Local, national and international actors will look at human-centric, inclusive economies and societies.
2. **Tackling country-specific challenges:** Participants will discuss how global forces interact with local economic and social realities, with a focus on transition and developing countries in the EU neighbourhood. Emphasis will also be given to skills, and the preparedness of training systems to cope with change.
3. **Addressing the future of skills, education and training:** Participants will work together to explore solutions for future oriented skills policies closely linked to countries' strategic choices for economic and social development, building on international, EU and national experiences. Developing strategies through partnership among different actors (governments, employers, trade unions, civil society, education and training providers and research community) will be considered.
4. **Supporting the transition toward the future:** Participants will reflect on how vocational education and training can empower individuals to cope with change. Based on recent EU initiatives, issues such as the adaptation of people's skills and lifelong learning, as well as how vocational education can help people build their future will be examined.

# WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2018

## 09:00-09:45: OPENING AND WELCOME

## 09:45-11:00: IMPACT OF GLOBAL TRENDS ON SKILLS IN ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES

This session will take stock of international discussions on how global trends influence the future of work and skills. It will explore opportunities and risks for individuals, communities and countries and look at how actors at local, national and international level can work together towards more human-centric and inclusive economies and societies. The keynote speech on global trends and drivers will be followed by an expert discussion on their implications for economies and societies.

## 11:30-13:00: IMPACT OF GLOBAL TRENDS ON DEVELOPING AND TRANSITION COUNTRIES

The impact and pace of change is not the same everywhere. This session will look at how global forces interact with local economic and social realities in transition and developing countries and how this interaction shapes the demand for skills. How ready are skills and training systems to cope with change? Following an introduction from the ETF, there will be a panel discussion involving conference participants.

## 14:30-15:00: EXPERIENCE PATH

The experience path will give participants the opportunity to explore different perceptions and perspectives on skills for the future.

## 15:00-17:00: POLICIES AND STRATEGIC CHOICES TO SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO THE FUTURE

Four parallel workshops will identify trends, challenges and possible solutions to manage the transition to the future. The workshops will build on international experience as well as that of EU Member States and neighbouring countries. The workshop topics are:

- **Equipped for the future: preparing young people**  
How can young people be supported to face the challenges of changing work paradigms and evolving demands for skills?
- **Skills needs uncovered: dealing with uncertainty**  
How can skills intelligence and transparency be enhanced using the potential of new new data analytics and technology?
- **Partnerships for transition: shaping skills policies**  
How can people and institutions help to shape skills policies for the future?
- **Ready for an unpredictable future: getting the skills mix right**  
How can countries define creative solutions to provide innovative skills?

## 20:00-22:30: OFFICIAL DINNER



# THURSDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2018

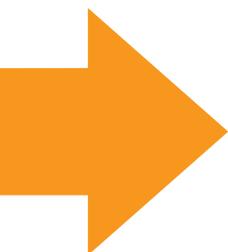
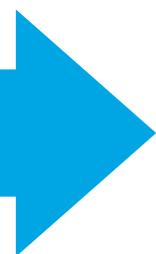
## 09:15-10:30: THE FUTURE OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS IN THE PARTNER COUNTRIES

Earlier discussions will pave the way for a reflection on the changing role of vocational education and training in empowering individuals to cope with change and adapt their skills and lifelong learning possibilities. Recent debates on the topic will provide context to the questions: What should vocational education and training look like in the future? and How can it address upcoming challenges and opportunities, and contribute to development?

## 10:30-12:30: SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO THE FUTURE: WHAT AND HOW?

Participants will collectively reflect on main messages emerged from different sessions and define some key issues to look at to support the transition toward the future.

## 12:30-13:00 CONCLUSIONS



# Participants

The conference will bring together representatives from government, industry, research community and civil society, international organisations and practitioners in the field of skills development from the European institutions and the ETF's partner countries.

Language: The event will be held in English.

## More information

- **Contact: [Skills4Future@etf.europa.eu](mailto:Skills4Future@etf.europa.eu)**
- **Twitter: [#Skills4Future](https://twitter.com/Skills4Future)**
- **[www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)**

*The ETF is an agency of the European Union supporting neighbouring countries to develop their education and training systems as part of the EU's external relations policies. By supporting human capital development, the ETF contributes to social and economic development and to long-term stability in the regions in which it works.*

