



## Governing Human Capital in the Transition to Climate Action Economies

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### Employment, Skills Development and Lifelong Learning

The following call for papers has a specific focus on the human capital dimensions of climate action and its implications for governance of the policies in skills, lifelong learning and job creation.

‘The Circular Economy offers a promising alternative strategy for industrial development and job creation to the traditional manufacturing-led growth pathway. The circular economy continues to be understood primarily as a waste management and recycling strategy, but the economic opportunities are far broader and more diverse. With the right enabling conditions, the circular economy could provide new opportunities for economic diversification, value creation and skills development.’<sup>1</sup>

The shift to a carbon neutral economy will accelerate the need for adaptation of education and training systems. Whereas a consensus has emerged about the need for a paradigm shift towards lifelong learning, the structures and institutions that support human capital development in many societies appear slower to change. Although the baseline for public policies is changing, and the necessary directions are clear and the challenges are increasingly evident, many of the practices essential for the transition have yet to be created.

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<sup>1</sup> An Inclusive Circular Economy Priorities for Developing Countries, Chatham House Research Paper, Felix Preston, Johanna Lehne and Laura Wellesley Energy, Environment and Resources Department | May 2019



That a greener, carbon-managed economy will need new skills has been extensively researched with many studies highlighting the new types of skills that are expected in the future<sup>2</sup>. However, less clear are the changes required in how Governments organise and manage their skills development systems.

In its experience of working with its 29 partner countries, the ETF has found that during their transition towards more market-oriented economies, major changes occurred in the governing processes of education and employment, including greater institutional autonomy, the use of framework regulation, public private partnerships and the use of networks of professionals as sources of policy guidance.

The new transition to a climate action-oriented economy will not only change the types of skills that people need but also reshape the institutions that supply skills to the labour market through education systems. How current governance processes will adapt and or be rescaled as part of the change to a circular and carbon neutral economy is not clear. There are few consolidated studies that indicate how existing structures and regulatory processes may change and adapt.

To support the objectives of the conference<sup>3</sup> and to highlight the contribution of Governance to climate action, the ETF will explore the potential impact of climate action on the governance of human capital development systems through a specific session to add to knowledge base in human capital governance.

### **Call-for-Papers**

The ETF is therefore making a call for papers from interested experts, practitioners and researchers on the main theme of *Governing Human Capital Development in the transition of responding to climate action*.

The expected contributions for authors to participate in the ETF session are in the following topics:

- Institutional subsidiarity in a new economic and social context: Actions and Actors at a local level for addressing environment related challenges  
Research and practices on changing relationships between national, regional and community processes, including the private, the public and community sector, in advancing the delivery of inclusive human capital development policies and services. Experiences on the impact of changes to existing stakeholders and the emergence of new influencers, including the impact of digital governance.
- Inclusive lifelong learning in the context of a sustainable economy

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<sup>2</sup> See for example, Advancing Green Human Capital A FRAMEWORK FOR POLICY ANALYSIS AND GUIDANCE - [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---ifp\\_skills/documents/publication/wcms\\_607491.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_607491.pdf)

European Training Foundation, Policy Brief. INFORM - Issue 11 - Learning for a green future

<sup>3</sup> Fung, Archon. 2015. "Putting the Public Back into Governance: The Challenges of Citizen Participation and Its Future." *Public Administration Review* 75:513–22.

Pollitt, Christopher. 2015. "Wickedness Will Not Wait: Climate Change and Public Management Research." *Public Money & Management* 35(December):181–86.

Pollitt, Christopher. 2016. "Debate: Climate Change—the Ultimate Wicked Issue." *Public Money & Management* 36(2):78–80.



What can we expect from the experience of inclusion in recent years? Lessons and conclusions from the development of lifelong learning so far, including experience of workers, women and adult learners. How can governance support inclusive lifelong learning?

- Co-managing the transitions. Interacting strategies for Businesses, People and Places  
Widening the dialogue between stakeholders to connect spatial and business strategies for the benefit of people and create skilled communities with sustainable economies. How to promote shared outcomes.
- Public-private partnerships for skills development  
Analysis conditions and working processes for sustainable partnerships. Forms, different types of public and private cooperation at all possible levels (international, national, local, schools, company etc.), using fiscal arrangements, trust-building processes and other issues such as capacities of different actors and institutions involved are crucial for shaping implementing, monitoring and review PPPs for VET and skills development. Issues of equity are relevant in context of the SDGs.
- Bridging urban, rural, maritime, and coastal economies  
Lessons that can be identified from territorial strategies. What are the differences between governing in rural, urban environments, and coastal areas in the context of climate change?
- Financing and budgeting human capital development  
Financing human capital policies for dealing with climate actions. Implications for financial arrangements and incentives to private sector adaptation to low carbon production and services.

Submissions are welcome in the above topics, specifically, or in combination of the topics.

For more information on this call for papers, do not hesitate to contact the Chairpersons directly.

### **About the European Training Foundation**

The European Training Foundation ([www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)) is a European Union agency, with the core mission of helping transition and developing countries harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems, and in the context of the EU's external relations policy.

The ETF works with 29 countries bordering the EU to improve their human capital development systems, analyse emerging skills needs, and improve their labour markets. The ETF supports them to improve social cohesion and achieve more sustainable economic growth, which in turn benefits Member States and their citizens by improving economic relations.

Over the last decade, trends in technology, digitalisation, climate change, migration and globalisation have emerged as drivers of change in societies and economies.

The EU's Green Deal Strategy of December 2019 highlights Europe's deep commitment to the creation of a circular economy and the transformation to a more sustainable path. The process will be



an opportunity to expand sustainable and job-intensive economic activity. There is significant potential in global markets for low-emission technologies, sustainable products and services.

Achieving a climate neutral and circular economy will require a combination of the full mobilisation of industry and an approach that puts people first, and pays attention to the regions, industries and workers who will face the greatest challenges. It will bring substantial change with great potential for new activities and jobs. However, sound governance and active public participation and confidence in the transition will be paramount if policies are to work and be accepted.<sup>4</sup>

The transition to an economy that responds to climate change is underway across the world and sustainable development and the mitigation of climate change will shape political and economic agendas for years to come.

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<sup>4</sup> A green deal for Europe. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)