

Global Career Education Forum |20-21 April 2026 | Brussels

Shaping Students' Career Readiness and Future Skills Through Partnerships

Overview & Framing

The Global Career Education Forum 2026 brings together a diverse, experienced group of leaders committed to advancing career readiness worldwide. This invitation-only gathering brings together educators, career education and guidance practitioners, industry partners, and leading policy and research organizations shaping career education worldwide, ensuring that every student has access to opportunities that prepare them for future careers.

The theme of the Forum, “Shaping Students’ Career Readiness and Future Skills Through Partnerships,” reflects the critical role of collaboration across sectors in creating meaningful, equitable career learning opportunities. Building on two years of learning and action through the [Global Career Education Network](#) and the [Future of Work initiative](#), the Forum highlights insights that show how partnerships and system-level alignment can unlock impactful career education— helping students explore possibilities and develop the skills, confidence, and adaptability they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Over two days, participants will explore approaches and practices that:

- **Ensure student access and relevance**, providing learning experiences that are meaningful, locally grounded, and connected to future pathways;
- **Strengthen delivery through partnerships**, collaboration, capacity building, and technology, creating consistent, high-quality experiences for all students;
- **Enable system-level transformation** through coherent outcome frameworks, aligned policies, and leadership that support scalable and sustainable impact.

The Forum is designed to move participants from insight to action. It provides a space to connect across sectors and geographies, reflect on lessons learned, and co-create solutions that advance system-level change. By combining evidence, practice, and collaboration, participants will leave with tangible ideas and commitments that can strengthen career education in their contexts, as well as globally, ensuring every student benefits from meaningful, future-ready learning experiences.

This framing prepares participants to engage in a learning experience that combines evidence, real-world practice, and structured co-creation. Across two days, the Forum moves deliberately from shared learning and system-level reflection to the development of Minimum Viable Solutions, practical next steps, and mechanisms for sustained impact beyond the event.

Objectives

- **Learn From Evidence & Practice:** Exchange insights, case studies, and real-world experiences to spark new thinking and innovative approaches.
- **Connect & Collaborate Across Sectors:** Deepen partnerships among educators, policymakers, industry, and researchers to drive systemic impact.
- **Translate Learning Into Action:** Co-create actionable solutions, strategies, and commitments to strengthen career-readiness pathways for all students.
- **Ensure Sustained Impact:** Provide tangible outputs, pathways, and mechanisms — including a post-Forum virtual session — to help participants maintain momentum beyond the event.

Forum Flow: From Shared Learning to Action

The two days of the Forum are designed as a single, deliberate arc – not as standalone events.

- **Day 1 (Connect & Explore)** sets the vision and explores the systemic conditions needed to advance career readiness. Participants align around global evidence, hear from system-level leaders across sectors, and begin forming connections across geographies and roles. The opening remarks and panel are designed to surface shared priorities and deepen understanding of the enablers that will anchor the collaborative work on Day 2.
- The networking gathering at the end of Day 1 serves as the intentional bridge between the two days, where relationships and early ideas begin forming before the collaborative work starts.
- **Day 2 (Collaborate, Act & Commit)** turns shared understanding into action. In cross-sector groups organized around four Opportunity Areas – Technology, Measurement & Evidence, Employer Engagement, and Government Partnerships – participants define problems, build solutions informed by three cross-cutting considerations (AI, multistakeholder partnerships, and equity), and commit to concrete next steps.
- The Forum closes with individual and group commitments that connect directly to the two-month post-Forum virtual follow-up, ensuring that what begins in Brussels continues into practice. Day 2 activities also provide a structured space for participants to identify additional ways to continue sharing insights and exploring collaborations beyond the formal follow-up, ensuring that what begins in Brussels continues into practice.

Agenda

Day 1 - April 20th | Setting the Vision & Exploring Systemic Change | 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Hotel NH Brussels EU Berlaymont Jean Rey 1+2+3 meeting room at the hotel (floor -1)

Time Day 1	Activity
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Participants' arrival and registration & Networking
2:30 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.	<p>Opening Session: A Shared Vision for the Future of Career Education</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy Kopp - CEO, Teach For All • Hanka Boldemann - Executive Director Global Philanthropy, JPMorgan Chase
3:05 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.	<p>Keynote: Global Evidence on Career Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Kitchen - Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Education & Skills
3:50 p.m. - 5:05 p.m.	<p>Panel: Europe's Future of Work: Driving System Change</p> <p>Moderator: Xavier Prats Monné, Former Director General for Education at the European Commission</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Chardon - Public & International Partnership Coordinator, Article 1 • Julie Fionda - Deputy Head of Unit, Skills Agenda, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission • Juan José Juárez - Senior Project Manager, Fundación Bertelsmann • Banalata Sen - Global Head of GoTeach, DHL Group • Heike Yürgüç - Head of Career Guidance, IHK Berlin
5 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	Day 1 Closing & Reflection
5:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Networking Gathering

Day 2 - April 21st | Learning, Co-Creation & Action | 9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Hotel NH Brussels EU Berlaymont Jean Rey 1+2+3 meeting room at the hotel (floor -1)

Day 2 brings together leaders from education and career guidance, employers, and policy and research organizations to collaboratively address key challenges in career readiness. Participants will work in small cross-sector groups on Opportunity Areas shaped by two years of GCEN member and Future of Work Initiative insights, case studies, and shared learning from real-world practice. Using a Design Thinking-informed co-creation methodology, they analyze challenges, define actionable problem statements, and develop Minimum Viable Solutions (MVS). Presentations on multistakeholder partnerships and equity as cross-cutting considerations will inform solution design before groups begin building their MVS. The day concludes with group presentations, peer feedback, individual commitments, and a clear path for post-Forum follow-up.

Time Day 2	Activity
9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.	Plenary Kickoff & Day Framing Opportunity Area Insights & Challenges Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technology – Pedro Cunha - Programs Manager, Iochpe Foundation ● Measurement & Evidence – Jonas Fathy - Impact Director, Phineo ● Employer Engagement – Claudio Anjos - President, Iochpe Foundation ● Government Partnerships – Priyanka Sanghai - Jt Executive Director, Antarang Foundation
9:55 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Cross-Cutting Considerations Spotlight Multistakeholder Partnerships - Max Rowe - Associate Director Grants and Development, The Careers & Enterprise Company
10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.	Transition into Opportunity Area Groups
10:25 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Explore Opportunity Area Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Measurement & Evidence ● Government Partnerships ● Employer Engagement ● Technology
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Analyze Root Causes & Formulate Problem Statements
11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Refine Insights & Identify Solution Opportunities
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	Cross-Cutting Considerations Spotlight Ensuring Equity in Career Readiness - Tom Ravenscroft, CEO - Skills Builder Global
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Co-Create Minimum Viable Solution (MVS)
2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Reflect: Translate to Implications for Work & Programs
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Prepare Presentations
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Group Presentations & Peer Discussion
5:00 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.	Individual & Group Actions + Collective Reflection
5:10 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Closing + Next steps
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Dinner