

# Vocational Excellence for the Green and Digital transition



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Chiara Riondino is head of unit for vocational education and training in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission, where she is also responsible for skills for the green and digital transformation.

Chiara previously worked on employment policies, focusing mainly on employment opportunities and challenges in the changing world of work, active labour market policies and fair working conditions. She also worked more broadly on taking forward the European Pillar on Social Rights. Before joining the Commission, Chiara had worked in both the private and the public sector, including as head of unit in the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance.

## Chiara Riondino

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Birgit Arens is working as Senior Project Officer at Eurochambres and currently deals with labour migration and vocational education and training related subjects and projects.

During her career at Eurochambres she has been managing numerous projects and policy files linked to regional economic development, trade & investment facilitation, female entrepreneurship and the development of Chamber services.

Prior to joining Eurochambres she worked as sales manager for different raw materials trading companies with international reach. She holds translators and neurolinguistic programming practitioner degrees.

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Bojan Jovanovski holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering and Management, with focus on Innovation Management. He is researching, teaching, and developing policies in the area of innovation, entrepreneurship, and entrepreneurship education, since 2008. In 2009 he has co-founded the National Center for Development of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Learning in North Macedonia.

Since 2011, he was a teaching and research assistant at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, until 2018 when he joined the team of FH JOANNEUM. Currently, his research focus is on development of ecosystems, practices, and policies for development of skills for a green Europe. His main research projects are the EU funded KnowHub and GREENOVET, which he coordinates.

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## Ralph Hippe

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Ralph Hippe is an expert in the Department “VET and skills” of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) in Thessaloniki (Greece).

Prior, he worked, among others, in the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre in Ispra (Italy) and Seville (Spain), and at the London School of Economics (UK).

Hippe received his PhD in economics from the universities of Strasbourg (France) and Tübingen (Germany) (summa cum laude). He has numerous publications on human capital and regional development in Europe, including a recent book.

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