

Flash report

Turkey's Education Vision 2023 (EV 2023) in the context of the EU Education and Training framework (ET 2020)

Turkey Torino Process Report and Preliminary Assessment discussed

Background

In October 2018 the Turkish government presented its Education Vision 2023, providing a comprehensive roadmap that covers the whole Turkish education system. The EV 2023 aims to guide a holistic reform process that responds to the changes Turkey and the world are undergoing. It should bring the education system in line with international standards so that learners can be equipped with the skills they need in the 21st century.

The fifth round of Torino Process (TRP) in Turkey was announced in December 2018 in Ankara. Since then the Turkish Ministry of National Education (MoNE) has provided to the European Training Foundation (ETF) the first drafts of the Turkey Torino Process Report and the Riga Monitoring Report (25th January 2019). On the 27th of February, ETF met with the Turkish MoNE TPR Coordinator and team to provide ETF's feedback on the TRP report.

The policy attention to the importance of investing in people in Turkey is vital in making sure that modernisation efforts are implemented with the required speed and scope. It is necessary to integrate forward looking economic, competitiveness and innovation policies to manage structural changes with education and training policies. Indeed, through strengthened cooperation with other countries, EU Member States, social partners and education and training providers, future education and training policies and governance systems need to be even more closely linked to other public policies and modernisation strategies, backed up by adequate levels of public and private investments. With a view to the above-mentioned challenges, it is expected that in the future Education and Training (VET) in Turkey will have to continue to balance stability with a certain degree of flexibility, while allowing for a response to labour market developments. The challenge of skills shortages, as well as the lack of basic skills, is contrasted by a forecasted demand for more medium and higher skills, which, for the upcoming period, have become acute for Turkey. Education and Training (VET), together with the overall skills systems and other policy domains will need to address this challenge and support the competitiveness and innovation of Turkish economy.

More investments are needed in the development of skills anticipation mechanisms and foresight methods, including sectorial and technological levels, so as to ensure the understanding of the specific impact of changes within sectors and occupations, while using this information to update curricula accordingly.

In Turkey, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) needs to be reorganised within new models (e.g. Centres of Excellence, Smart Specialisation, among others), which will continue to prepare young people for entering and successfully participating in the labour market. At the same time, due to demographic change, economic and technological developments, VET will need to respond to increasing needs for upskilling and reskilling of the adult population at all levels, according to their identified skills needs, including the socially disadvantaged as well as high potentials, migrants, refugees, low-skilled and unemployed so as to enable them to stay and (re-)enter the labour market and to move freely and in an autonomous manner through their educational and professional careers.

Against this background, and with the European Union's support, the European Training Foundation (ETF), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Ministry of National Education in Turkey have organised a conference on the Education Vision 2023 on 25-26th February 2019.

Main objectives

Following the requests from the Turkish Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the European Union Delegation (EUD) in Ankara, ETF responded positively to support the discussion within the framework of the Torino Process implementation in Turkey. The Conference has been jointly organised by the Turkish Ministry the EU Delegation to Turkey, the ETF and EBRD under the title "Turkey's Education Vision 2023 (EV 2023) in the context of the EU Education and Training Framework (ET 2020)" (25-26 February, Ankara, Turkey).

The conference was attended by 185 participants from Turkey, from EU Member States and from relevant international public and private institutions, academia and representatives from the civil society with expertise in the education and training sector. The Conference followed a working group format to allow for experts' exchange and result-oriented specialised discussions.

The objectives of the conference were:

- Participants exchange ideas regarding the details of the Turkey Education Vision 2030, objectives and targets as well as the educational reform agenda framework of the European Union, i.e. the ET2020 and related practices in Turkey and inside the EU.
- For the EV2023 targets, further operationalisation was explored, such as setting of performance indicators, identification of stakeholders and responsibilities and action planning with a realistic timeline.

Modality

Beside the opening and closing session, the ETF Director was a key note speaker on EU Education and Training Frameworks and forward looking discussions. The rest of the conference proceedings was organised around five parallel working groups facilitated by key experts on the themes, who presented in detail the goals and the planned road map of the Ministry. Both presentations and discussions were based on the Education Vision 2023 Report.

These were the five key topics for the working groups:

1. Data Based Management, Quality Assurance, Assessment and Evaluation in the Education System
2. Human Resources Development – Systems for Pre-Service and In-service Training of Teachers and School Managers
3. Reforms for Modern Early Years and Primary Education
4. Quality and efficiency of education with a focus on Secondary Education, including Science and Social Sciences Schools
5. Technical and Vocational Education System and Lifelong Learning

ETF participated in Working Group 1 (Data Based Management, Quality Assurance, Assessment and Evaluation in the Education Systems) and in Working Group 5 (Technical and Vocational Education System and Lifelong Learning).

In the latest working group, ETF presented and discussed with participants the key areas where ETF will focus its Turkey Assessment Report.

KEY OUTCOMES / CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Concrete proposals for implementation were reported in the closure. There will be a report prepared by the experts' group of MoNE to be shared with the participants. The key topics and proposals will be discussed in other workshops organised by MoNE.
- ✓ ETF was praised as the highest reputable EU organisation with an in-depth knowledge of education and training developments in the country by the attending Turkish high level public and private institutions, EUD, international organisations, UN Agencies, EU Member States and their development agencies;
- ✓ EU ET 2020, RIGA, TPR and the future of VET were the key inspiration for the two days discussions, embedded also in the Turkey Education Vision 2023;
- ✓ ETF input to the two working groups on TVET and data processing for policy making and implementation was highly appreciated by all;
- ✓ ETF's input to the TVET WG (the ETF Turkey Assessment key emerging areas paper) was much appreciated and none of the areas were contested- on the contrary all were reconfirmed;

- ✓ The discussions were a precious source of first-hand information, analysis and feedback from all experts and authorities present. This will contribute to enhance the robustness and credibility of the TRP ETF assessment ;
- ✓ ETF Director was interviewed by 6 main TV channels (including Turkey CNN), covered by many national media, including the tweets, Facebook, Instagram of 185 participants. Turkey Ministry of National Education published an article on its website: <http://www.meb.gov.tr/abden-2023-egitim-vizyonuna-tam-destek/haber/18109/tr>

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