

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER 2019 UPDATE

ALGERIA

1. A brief summary of key developments in VET and skills and EU and donor cooperation during 2017–18

The government made a commitment to address employment and education challenges in an action plan presented in September 2017. The plan focuses on improving conditions for private sector development and enhancing the quality of education and training.

The VET and employment sectors also developed action plans. The VET plan covers the entire system with 23 measures including improved career guidance, professional development for teachers, continuing training, quality assurance, work-based learning, VET for disadvantaged groups, social partnership and distance learning. One objective is to expand training infrastructure with new centres of excellence, in partnership with enterprises.

Important steps were taken in 2018 with a new law on apprenticeship to increase the quality and attractiveness of this type of training. A new executive decree was adopted (April 2018) to relaunch Partnership Council actions, with greater ministerial and business participation. These steps show commitment to VET sector reforms and require regular monitoring and evaluation. Algeria's participation in the Torino Process could help to establish a monitoring system.

EU-Algeria cooperation entered a new planning phase in 2018 to define priorities and strengthen relations. One objective is to further integrate skills development and employment, including in sectoral programmes.

Only a few international organisations are active in the VET sector, in which the main donor is still the EU. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) manages a British-funded project entitled From university to the labour market, which addresses skills mismatch and labour market analysis. Results of the ETF local labour market analysis, carried out with the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security, were shared with the ILO and could feed into the second phase of its project. Complementarities with the EU Programme to harmonise training, employment and qualifications (AFEQ) were explored to exchange information, avoid duplications and benefit from results.

GIZ has been active in Algeria, particularly in renewable energies. At the end of 2018, an appraisal mission was undertaken for a new project financed by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development to promote employability. Results will be available by the end of 2018 or beginning of 2019.

2. An assessment of mid-term progress towards the ETF's 2020 objectives

Specific objective 1: support the EU Delegation in the programming cycle associated with objective 2 of the single support framework (labour market and employment)

The ETF helped monitor implementation of the AFEQ programme by advising the EU delegation on content and methodology. ETF support was requested on AFEQ deliverables, as this is a lump sum contract.

In collaboration with the EU Delegation, in 2018 the ETF identified projects that it could contribute to in 2019 to foster integration of employability and skills development. They include a green economy project run by Expertise France and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, with a local skills development component, and the CapDEL Programme (programme de renforcement des capacités des acteurs du développement local), allocated a further EUR 10 million to support local development and participation of local actors to the decision making process.

Specific objective 2: support the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security and the National Employment Agency in capacity building and coaching to contextualise and apply methodologies and tools for local labour market analysis

Cooperation with the Ministry of Labour on local labour market analysis ended in 2018. Conclusions and proposed follow-up actions have been sent to the Ministry for endorsement. The ETF indicated that follow-up could be provided through ongoing projects, notably the AFEQ programme, the ILO project Tawdif and twinning and technical assistance and information exchange (TAIEX) instruments. The ETF may remain available in 2019 to advise the Ministry of Labour if it expresses interest in a TAIEX or twinning funded initiative.

Specific objective 3: roll out the Torino Process 2018–20

Algeria is participating in the Torino Process for the first time in the 2018–20 edition. The ETF collaborated with the Torino Process working group to define the analytical framework and policy analysis. In April 2018, in cooperation with the Ministry of VET and the National Institute of Vocational Education (INFEP), the ETF launched the Torino Process at an event attended by around a hundred participants. Two thematic areas were selected for the policy analysis. At a technical workshop (Torino, July 2018), the Torino Process team from the INFEP participated in a two-and-a-half-day policy analysis workshop organised by the ETF. A second technical workshop (October 2018) presented the new analytical framework and established an implementation schedule, considering potential policy uptake for the process in terms of reform recommendations and progress monitoring.

3. Actions planned for 2019

The ETF will mainly support the EU Delegation and the Torino Process.

Specific objective 1: support the EU Delegation in the programming cycle associated with objective 2 of the single support framework (labour market and employment)

In 2019, the ETF will support monitoring of the AFEQ project. It may be asked for input on specific projects to contribute to integration of employability and skills development. These projects are described in Section 2.

On request of the European Commission or the EU Delegation, the ETF will support EU-Algeria policy dialogue by delivering annual country fiches to DG Employment. The Torino Process report could help initiate policy dialogue on skills development.

Specific objective 2: support the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security and the National Employment Agency in capacity building and coaching to contextualise and apply methodologies and tools for local labour market analysis

Activities ended in 2018 and no follow-up actions are foreseen for 2019.

Specific objective 3: roll out the Torino Process 2018–20

Algeria participates for the first time since its launch in 2010 in the Torino Process. In 2018, the ETF worked closely with national stakeholders to prepare the official launch of the process in Algeria in 2019. The work in 2018 focused mainly on getting familiar with the analytical approach and the process itself. The national coordination of the Torino process is under the Ministry of Vocational Education and Training with a focus point which is the Institute for Vocational Education and Training. In 2019 the Torino Process analysis will be carried out. Results are expected to be ready and disseminated in early 2020.

Algeria is an active member of the ETF Quality Assurance Forum, and activities will continue in 2019.