

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER 2019 UPDATE MOROCCO

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

Progress on VET Strategy 2021, Morocco's main VET reform document, has been limited. VET priorities should be reviewed with a new action plan and regular monitoring. Public concerns about the VET situation were addressed in the King's speech of August 2018 and a ministry-chaired meeting attended by stakeholders. After the meeting, the King asked the Prime Minister to prepare an action plan on agreed priorities. This renewed commitment, EU support through the Sector Reform and Performance Contract (SRPC) and other donors' VET activities should lead to revamping of the reform implementation process.

The SRPC is complemented by a technical assistance project launched in 2018 to work with the VET State Secretariat. The EU Kafaat Liljamia project, started in 2017 and implemented by the British Council and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), supports regional VET reform for socio-economic development. EU support for education and training includes a national qualification framework (NQF) twinning project planned for the end of 2018.

Non-EU donors are active in VET. The French Development Agency (ADF) supports delegated management institutes for renewable energies and builds capacity for the Sector Skills Observatory (OdB). The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) aims to increase youth employability through education and VET and skills matching. The Canadian Development Agency is implementing the second phase of a competence-based programme. GIZ has launched an apprenticeship project and the AECID focuses on distance education. The African Development Bank has two upcoming employability projects and is evaluating education and VET with the ADF. The World Bank has three Systems Approach for Better Education Results studies. UNICEF and UNESCO are also active in education and VET.

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

The ETF made slow progress in 2017 and 2018. With the new action plan for VET reform, cooperation activities are expected to resume at normal pace.

Specific objective 1: help national, regional and sector governance bodies to implement and monitor VET strategy

The ETF submitted notes on VET national and regional commissions to the Department of VET in 2017 and 2018, after appointment of the State Secretariat.

In 2018, the ETF contributed to regional policy dialogue through the Kafaat Liljamia project and technical assistance for the VET State Secretariat. It advised on a joint General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM) and OdB project. The MCC asked the ETF to help develop a VET financing model with the VET State Secretariat.

Specific objective 2: support local stakeholders' capacity to anticipate and match skills needs and apply the methodologies to priority sectors

In 2018, the ETF followed employment and labour market developments, but no specific actions were undertaken.

Specific objective 3: support consolidation of the NQF as a reference for user groups

The ETF was asked to resume support for qualifications in 2018. The NQF was identified as a reform priority at the committee meeting in October and the Law on Education also refers to an NQF agency.

The Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of National Education and VET merged. This creates a good basis for establishing the NQF as a system for all levels and qualifications.

3. 2019 actions

Specific objective 1: help national, regional and sector governance bodies to implement and monitor VET strategy

In 2019, the ETF will follow VET governance developments and maintain policy dialogue with the VET State Secretariat. The ETF's past work on governance could provide input for the technical assistance project in 2019. The ETF could reflect on how to support decentralisation, considering expectations of the technical assistance project, Kafaat Liljamia and ETF experience in Morocco and other countries.

The ETF will advise on the joint CGEM and the OdB project. The initiative, co-financed by the AFD, will implement multi-level governance in two pilot territories. The ETF will provide expertise and methodological advice, with regular input during conceptualisation and implementation.

The MCC asked the ETF for assistance with a VET financing project, in coordination with the EU support programme. The ETF could contribute methodology on governance and financing credibility assessment, according to a strategy tested in Montenegro. In cooperation with the technical assistance project, it could help adapt this methodology to Morocco.

Specific objective 2: support local stakeholders' capacity to anticipate and match skills needs and apply the methodologies to priority sectors

In the joint CGEM and the OdB project, the ETF will advise on employment and employability actions. It will follow employment and labour market developments and be ready to provide advice on request. It could analyse a potential shift in focus to labour migration, in the framework of the Mobility Partnership.

Specific objective 3: support consolidation of the NQF as a reference for user groups

The ETF will develop material on qualifications for policymakers and stakeholders to guide reform implementation and support the EU Delegation and other donors. It will draft proposals and undertake analyses for the NQF twinning project. It will explore links between the NQF and labour migration.

The ETF will launch the fifth edition of the Torino Process, with a national coordinator. The process will be coordinated with ongoing strategic reforms and provide input for the EU policy dialogue. ETF assessment of VET policies could help identify priorities for EU and other donors, serve as a basis for donor cooperation discussions and contribute to monitoring VET strategy implementation.

On request of the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, the ETF will assess VET strategy progress, relevance and credibility and may provide input on legal migration. Between 2018 and 2019, it will help prepare the NQF twinning fiche.

On request of the European Commission or the EU Delegation, the ETF will support EU-Morocco bilateral policy dialogue with input to subcommittee meetings and European Neighbourhood Policy action plan monitoring, delivery of annual country fiches to DG Employment and Mobility Partnership follow up.