

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER 2019 UPDATE

RUSSIA



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

ETF support in Russia is framed in the context of EU-Russia cooperation. The European Council supports projects in Russia that facilitate people-to-people contacts, mainly in the fields of scientific research, education and cross-border cooperation.

After the March 2018 presidential elections, the European Union reconfirmed its policy on Russia. This is centred on five guiding principles: full implementation of the Minsk agreement, which is a precondition for lifting sanctions, strengthening relations with the EU's Eastern Partners including Ukraine and Central Asia, strengthening the EU's resilience, selective engagement with Russia, increasing support of civil society and promoting people-to-people contacts.

In May 2018, the new government reorganised public institutions and the Ministry of Education and Science was divided into the Ministry of Education, for general and vocational education, and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

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

The ETF mid-term intervention strategy in Russia was confirmed and promotes people-to-people contacts through implementation of the Torino Process: a system-wide policy analysis and progress monitoring exercise implemented by the ETF periodically.

In Russia, policy uptake of the Torino Process is high and has been increasing over the last rounds. The analysis is seen as a tool for improving the efficiency of VET policy development and as a monitoring and policy-learning exercise at national and subnational level.

The Torino Process 2018–20 is expected to provide higher added value for policy development, since it will have a broader scope including human development issues and VET policy responses. The regions involved in the implementation are Moscow, St Petersburg, Leningrad, Mari El, Tver, Samara, Kazan and Ufa. The process started in 2018, with a launch event in November at the EU Delegation premises.

The Federal Institute for Education Development (FIRO) has been confirmed as national Torino Process coordinator.

3. Actions planned for 2019

Following the launch of the Torino Process in November 2018, the ETF will coach and train subnational actors to implement the policy analysis, through online tools such as webinars. The ETF policy analysis guide and related case studies will be used as material.

In the second half of 2019, subnational reports will be drafted. The ETF will organise a discussion workshop to share Torino Process results at subnational level.

These results will feed into the Russian Torino Process report drawn up by the FIRO. A second discussion workshop will be organised by the ETF at the end of 2019 to discuss the results at national level.

Close involvement of the EU Delegation will be ensured throughout the process.