

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER 2019 UPDATE

UKRAINE



1. A brief summary of key developments in VET and skills and EU and donor cooperation during 2017-20

The Law on Education, approved in September 2017, introduced the New Ukrainian School reform to shift the focus of education from knowledge acquisition and accumulation to skills and competences. In early 2018, a working group was created to draft a vocational education law to be completed and approved by the end of the year.

In May 2017, as part of the action plan for implementing the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) 2016–26, an order was passed on occupational standards. In September 2017, the Ministry of Social Policy established a working group on skills anticipation and labour market forecasting. The list of state-significant professions was expanded in February 2018, while the establishment of centres for informal learning recognition is ongoing.

The medium-term government priority action plan 2020 focuses on human capital development. It includes as priorities a framework to ensure stakeholder participation in VET system reform and a VET strategy/action plan based on VET Vision 2018.

The Single Support Framework for EU support to Ukraine 2018–20 identifies VET as a cooperation priority, while the European Commission (EC) programme U-LEAD (2016–20; EUR 100 million) includes VET decentralisation aspects and pilot VET activities in Rivne and Lviv.

In late 2017, GIZ launched Vocational Integration of Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine (2017–21; EUR 4 million) with short training courses and/or internships to increase employability. In the agriculture sector, GIZ helps develop food processing training programmes and teacher training with instructors from German companies. Polish Aid has VET and education projects (2012–19; EUR 2.2 million) for youth, entrepreneurship, education reform and business incubators. The Estonian Development Cooperation assists vocational colleges in Volyn Oblast and the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) as part of the Ukrainian Education Strategy until 2021. Finland will support (EUR 10 million) the New Ukraine School.

2. An assessment of progress at the end of 2018 towards the 2020 objectives

Since December 2017, Ukraine stakeholders have developed VET policy and vision (a Concept for Modern VET) with EFT support. VET Vision 2018, compiled by the MES, should be approved by the end of 2018 and lays the ground for VET reform and upcoming EU and donor support.

In May 2018, the MES introduced the Vision/Concept in a policy proposal on VET modernisation: Modern Vocational Education 2027.

Specific objective 1: support the EU external assistance intervention for VET in 2018–20

The ETF cooperated with the EU Delegation and the EC on an external feasibility study and formulation of the EU intervention. The result was EU4Skills: Better Skills for Better Jobs in Modern Ukraine 2018–20. With EUR 50 million funding, this project will contribute to VET modernisation and demand-driven skills for a competitive economy.

In 2018, the ETF supported decentralisation and NQF to prepare for the EU intervention. At implementing agencies' meetings, the EFT advised on EU project operationalisation.

Specific objective 2: support VET decentralisation

ETF strategic project governance increased stakeholders' capacity and participation in VET policymaking and created better reform conditions. An ETF conference on VET decentralization was held in April 2017 for policymakers. Policy dialogue continued on VET decentralisation, building an efficient system and VET network optimisation. Policy advice was given on regional bodies' roles in VET. In 2018, the ETF developed the centres of excellence concept for EU intervention.

Specific objective 3: support the action plan for NQF implementation

On request, the ETF evaluated competence-based vocational qualifications and worked on occupational standard and VET educational and assessment standard guidelines, linked to decentralisation of VET

curriculum development. This was part of a three-year cycle to resolve NQF methodological issues before future EU projects.

In 2018, the EFT helped develop the concept and statutes of the National Agency for Qualifications, which should be established by the end of September 2018. The ETF also supported the creation of a national qualifications website with an NQF register.

Specific objective 4: support entrepreneurial learning

The ETF focused on promoting competence-based education and integrating entrepreneurship into curricula, in line with New Ukraine School and Law on Education objectives. It helped Ukrainian experts develop the Competence Potential in accordance with the Law on Education, EU and Council of Europe frameworks.

3. Actions planned for 2019

In 2019, the EFT will help Ukraine stakeholders to develop skills and VET policy. With the new EU intervention, the ETF will focus on supporting the EU Delegation and monitoring human capital development.

All 24 regions of Ukraine and Kiev are expected to participate in the next Torino Process.

Specific objective 1: support the EU external assistance intervention for VET in 2018–20

The ETF will work with the EU Delegation in Kyiv and the Support Group for Ukraine on EU4Skills. Initially, it will review relevant documents, advise the EU Delegation in discussions with implementing agencies, and report on skills and VET reform relating to EC action. Subsequently, it will review reports, inform the EU Delegation on progress, and support VET and skills policy dialogue.

The ETF will participate in discussions with EU Member States and GIZ, Estonian Cooperation, Polish Aid and Finnish Aid. It will support EU-Ukraine policy dialogue, prepare annual country fiches for DG Employment and guide EC intervention.

Specific objective 2: support VET decentralisation

The ETF will follow-up on VET centres of excellence. The priority will be to help policymakers improve the skills situation.

Specific objective 3: support the action plan for NQF implementation

The ETF will continue to support the establishment of the National Agency for Qualifications and the integration of national standards for qualifications, assessment and curricula into Ukraine policies and practices.

Specific objective 4: support entrepreneurial learning

The EFT will further integrate Competence Potential into the VET policy debate. It will support this dialogue by developing Guidelines for educators on the key competence approach in the New Ukraine School.