Joint Albania – Kosovo – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia **VNFIL/RPL workshop**

20-21 March 2018

Tirana International Hotel – Tirana, Albania

Outline and Agenda

**RPL in Kosovo, Albania and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – state of play**

**Kosovo** adopted an administrative instruction on RPL in 2014. The National Qualification Authority (NQA) has been leading the implementation of RPL, starting with designing and executing a training course for RPL assessors, mentors and coordinators, and exposing potential RPL practitioners to EU good practices in Member-States. In 2017, NQA completed a RPL pilot of two occupations/qualifications with four providers. Based on the results of the pilot, NQA has revised the RPL policy and procedures document which the NQA Board has adopted in January 2018. The coming year, NQA will focus on the definition and application of the procedures for RPL providers’ accreditation. The process of accreditation needs to be regulated by an Administrative Instruction to be adopted by the Ministry of Education and Sports, in 2018. The EU funded ALLED II project, scheduled to start by Q3 2018, will include further capacity building activities on RPL.

**Albania** is developing a bylaw on RPL in the scope of the new VET Law that was adopted in 2017. The National Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Qualifications (NAVETQ) is leading the development and implementation of RPL in Albania. An RPL pilot in the textile sector was executed in 2014 in the scope of the ILO-EU IPA 2010 HRD project. NAVETQ developed supporting RPL guidelines and instruments for the pilot. The upscaling of the results of the pilot in different economic sectors is foreseen as part of IPA II Sector Reform Contract (Budget Support). Validation of non-formal and informal learning is also part of the Albanian National Employment and Skills Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2020).

**Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** has adopted a Roadmap for implementing a System for VNFIL on the Republic of Macedonia, in 2016, following the adoption of a Concept Paper for Non-formal Adult Education and Informal Learning in 2015. A Guidance Note on VNFIL processes and Specifications for the Methodology package were developed in 2017, which are also considering the different EU institutional frameworks, VNFIL procedures and instruments. Further on, a training session for potential VNFIL assessors was carried out in December 2017, based on a defined handbook for assessment. The Adult Education Centre is involved on all the development in VNFIL in the Republic of Macedonia.

**Aims, working method and output of the joint workshop**

This joint Kosovo-Albania-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia workshop will have a peer learning character, aiming at the same time to improve capacities of country teams in VNFIL design and implementation. It will be a technical workshop with concrete outputs: (a) two drafted first versions of by-laws, respectively, for Albania and for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and (b) draft procedures and processes for the accreditation of RPL providers, by country.

The workshop will have two distinguished parts:

**Day 1: RPL by-laws for Albania and for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; peer-to-peer learning**

As Kosovo is a few steps ahead of Albania and the Republic of Macedonia, the latter could benefit from the Kosovo experiences and possibly prevent some of the pitfalls already experienced. The aim of the first day is to prepare draft RPL by-laws for Albania and for Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Kosovo Administrative Instruction 31/2014 will serve as an example.

The by-laws will have two main topics:

1. Institutional setting, responsibilities and roles

2. Methodologies and Quality Assurance.

Representatives of Ministries in charge of education and training, and employment policies, and of the qualifications/adult education agencies will work together on these topics in two country teams. Each team will have some critical observers/ reviewers, from training providers / companies and ETF. At the end of the day, Albania and the Republic of Macedonia have drafts RPL by-laws that are ready to go into the consultation process in the respective countries.

**Day 2: Accreditation of RPL providers; peer learning EU Member States -> Kosovo, Albania and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Accreditation of RPL providers is one of the building blocks of RPL implementation. The Administrative instruction 31/2014 and the RPL policy document (Kosovo) and the draft by-laws (Albania and Republic of Macedonia) define the criteria for accreditation. In this workshop, we will go into the technical details of the design of the full process of accreditation, including the necessary forms and other documents.

We will invite RPL experts of selected EU Member States (i) to answer to technical questions from ETF partner countries representatives, (ii) to present their RPL system with a focus on accreditation of RPL providers, (iii) and to facilitate discussions on technical arrangements regarding the accreditation procedures. EU experts and ETF will provide technical information that will give an overview of elements to arrange and decisions to be made for an operational system of accreditation of RPL providers.

In the afternoon, the representatives of Kosovo, Albania and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will work separately in country groups to work out the accreditation process based on the country context, assisted by the EU experts and ETF. At the end of the day, the country groups will report to each other about the progress made and next steps.

Participants in this 2-day workshop will be the relevant representatives of line ministries, qualifications and adult education agencies, as well as some representatives of training providers / companies; approximately eight participants per country + ETF experts for Kosovo, Albania and Republic of Macedonia.

*EU experts will only participate in day 2.*

**20 March 2018 – RPL By-laws for Albania and Republic of Macedonia**

**Venue: Hotel Tirana International, Sheshi Skenderbej 8**

| **Time** | **Session** |
| --- | --- |
| *9:00 – 9:30* | *Registration of participants and Welcome coffee* |
| 9:30 – 10:15 | **Welcome and introduction**  *Mirjam de Jong* and *Carmo Gomes*, ***ETF Qualifications experts***  ***Tour de table*** |
| 10:15 – 11:45 | **Workshop for drafting the RPL by-laws for Albania and the Republic of Macedonia** *Countries representatives, split by two working groups*  TOPICS - General provisions (purpose, definitions, scope, benefits, target-groups, and principles)  *Facilitation by ETF experts* |
| *11:45* –*12:05* | *Coffee break* |
| 12:05 –13:15 | **Workshop for drafting the RPL by-laws for Albania and the Republic of Macedonia**  TOPICS – Roles and procedures (responsible institutions, methodologies)  *Facilitation by ETF experts* |
| *13:15 – 14:15* | *Lunch* |
| 14:15 – 15:45 | **Workshop for drafting the RPL by-laws for Albania and the Republic of Macedonia**  TOPICS – RPL Assessment  *Facilitation by ETF experts* |
| *15:45* – *16:05* | *Coffee break* |
| 16:05 – 17:30 | **Workshop for drafting the RPL by-laws for Albania and the Republic of Macedonia**  TOPICS – Quality assurance and other legal provisions  *Facilitation by ETF experts* |
| *19:30* | ***Networking dinner*** *(Str.Maliq Muco, Restaurant TRATORIA)* |

**21 March 2018 – Accreditation of RPL providers**

**Venue: Hotel Tirana International, Sheshi Skenderbej 8**

| **Time** | **Session** |
| --- | --- |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Welcome coffee |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | **Welcome and introduction to Day 2 objectives**  *Dajna Sorensen,* ***Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Albania***  EU Delegation to Albania *(tbd)*  *Mirjam de Jong* and *Carmo Gomes*, ***ETF Qualifications experts*** |
| 9:45 – 11:00 | **RPL implementation in EU Member States**  *Maria João Alves,* ***National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training, Portugal***  *Mirjam de Jong and Carmo Gomes,* ***ETF Qualifications experts***  Questions & Answers to the panel |
| *11:00* – *11:30* | *Coffee break* |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | **Presentations of VNFIL/RPL systems in selected EU Member-States**  Discussion |
| *13:00 – 14:00* | *Lunch* |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | **Accreditation of RPL providers; designing the process**  Working groups by country (Kosovo, Albania and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)  *Coffee during this session* |
| 16:00 – 17:00 | **Presentation of progress from the working groups** |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | **Conclusions and next steps** |