

## ISRAEL

### ETF COUNTRY PLAN 2009

#### Summary

Israel, member of the Barcelona process, the Euromed partnership and the Neighbourhood policy is an ETF partner for regional activities in particular. Due to its level of development, it is not a recipient of technical aid. However, Israel faces many common challenges in the field of human capital development which can usefully be shared with EU Member States and other countries of the region and outside. In this light, the ETF will support the participation of Israel in its regional programmes (follow up of ETE and Entrepreneurship Learning projects) and the exchange of experience and knowledge with EU Member States and other partner countries.



#### 1. ETF strategy of intervention 2009-2011

Israel, due to its high GDP and its developed economy is not a recipient of international aid in human resources. However, it is a partner of the European Union in the Euromed partnership and participates in regional programmes. Israel has also applied for OECD membership.

Cooperation with the EU is now channelled through the **European Neighbourhood Policy** and in concretely through the **Action Plan** for ENPI implementation. In the action plan, the issue of support to human resources development focuses particularly on the area of “people to people contacts”. The main objective is to foster the participation of Israel in EU and/or Member States programmes in the human resources field, as an instrument for the further development of the human resources system in the country and as source of inspiration for some of the reforms that the Israeli authorities want to implement, particularly in the field of education.

ETF mid term objective for 2009-2011: the ETF will seek to contribute to the development of human resources in Israel in the areas of education and training in the framework of the European Neighbourhood policy through the country’s participation in regional activities. The ETF will closely follow the strategy and indications from the European Commission for its support to Israel.

ETF activities/strategies:

The ETF will contribute to the monitoring of the ENP Action Plan in its human resources related aspects. This will be a combined exercise keeping “country intelligence” (i.e. updated information on the state of the art of human resources issues) and networking, keeping contacts at technical and expert level with relevant stakeholders.

At the same time, the ETF will foster the participation of Israel in its regional programmes, in particular the follow up actions of the ETE regional project and entrepreneurial learning.

In the **mid term**, providing there is a mandate from the EU and the sufficiently stable political and security conditions, the ETF envisages supporting **technical exchanges of best practice between Israel and EU Member states**, along the lines described in the Action Plan for the ENP, which can lead to improvements in the areas of **innovation** and **quality**, identified by Israeli policies as key for further action. Another potential area for cooperation would be in connection with the Observatory project, linking it with the priority given by Israeli policies to the need to set up a system to forecast and monitor human resources needs in the country.