

# GEMM FOCUS

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## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING GOVERNANCE IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN - A CROSS-COUNTRY REPORT

Good multi-level governance and the effective development of vocational education and training are now widely recognised to have significant economic and labour market potential as well as an important social role to fulfil.

The cross-country regional report focuses on three key policy areas of governance: planning and management, finance and funding and quality assurance. It also looks at the roles and functions of different public- and private-sector actors who play – or could play - a key role in VET governance.

### Planning and management

Central government departments (in the education, labour or higher education ministries or in other 'training' ministries such as agriculture and industry) tend to hold almost exclusive decision making power for aspects of VET such as curriculum, administration, finance, qualifications, accreditation and awards and for teacher training. This is an issue and a contrast with the definition of good multi-level governance in VET. Evidence suggests that current approaches to VET governance are rigid and pathways are inflexible. VET systems are isolated and substantially marginalised from the wider education systems, and this makes it difficult to approach more integrated and

open lifelong learning developments. On the other hand, there is growing recognition that an effective VET system cannot be micro-managed from the centre.

### Finance and funding

VET finance depends mainly on national revenues and so public funding is the main source of funding for national education and training systems.

Funding mechanisms (through which providers receive their allocated budgets) are based on traditional, recurrent inputs. Training providers have no incentive to supplement their income through the sales of goods or services, or to improve efficiency, performance and outcomes. However, policies are being considered to use funding as a means of improving outputs.

### Quality assurance

Current quality control procedures usually focus on inputs such as building requirements and numbers of teachers employed.

While there are clear signs of a growing emphasis on quality assurance, initiatives have been limited until now. Furthermore, a lack of effective management and labour market information systems is inhibiting the development of a quality assurance approach.

## GEMM PILOT PROJECTS: LAUNCH AND DISSEMINATION EVENTS

PALESTINE: LAUNCH EVENT  
18/11/2014

ISRAEL: LAUNCH EVENT  
03/12/2014

TUNISIA: LAUNCH EVENT  
17/12/2014

MOROCCO: FINAL  
DISSEMINATION EVENT  
29/01/2015

LEBANON: DISSEMINATION  
EVENT 07/03/2015

ALGERIA: LAUNCH EVENT  
10/03/2015

JORDAN: DISSEMINATION  
EVENT 15/03/2015



*Dissemination event in Zarqa, Jordan,  
March 2015*

For more details: <http://goo.gl/gYk6oA>



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# LESSONS FROM THE NETHERLANDS AND ROMANIA

## NETHERLANDS

Representatives of national authorities, trade unions and employers from Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Libya and Egypt visited the Netherlands on 10-12 February to see for themselves how that country's quality assurance in initial vocational education and training (VET) works. Participants visited institutions that shape and carry out quality assurance.

The Netherlands was chosen for its highly decentralised VET system and strong involvement of social partners in promoting, assuring and assessing quality and relevance in VET. The quality and relevance of the qualifications are designed, up-dated and validated by the tripartite bodies and approved by the education ministry. An independent inspectorate is responsible for assuring the quality of public and private accredited training providers and of the process of qualification development. Besides, cooperation between VET colleges strengthens the quality assurance system and the ministry supports various initiatives to promote the quality and relevance of training provision.

## ROMANIA

Improved quality assurance in vocational education training governance can increase its relevance and its attractiveness to young people. This is one of the messages that representatives from

government institutions, employer organisations and social partners from Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia heard when they visited Bucharest, Romania from 13-16 October 2014.

The study visit aimed to provide capacity building in the field of quality assurance to policy makers and social partners. It gave participants the opportunity to find out how Romania has developed and implements quality assurance in vocational education and training.

The study visit included meetings with institutions representing different stakeholders in the national quality assurance framework to learn first-hand about the practical implementation of quality assurance processes. Throughout, a special focus was given to the importance of partnerships in developing and implementing quality assurance systems.



*Mr Beukema with a trainee his supervisor and participants at Royal Dahlman, Netherlands. For more info. see the next issue of the ETF's Live and Learn (issue 33)*

# GEMM PILOT PROJECTS – UPDATE

Pilot projects constitute the second main component of GEMM. Nine proposals were selected for their focus on employability for the target group (youth and females), improvement of governance at local level, empowerment of local actors and their focus on specific local needs. Seven of them deal with the matching of local skills needs, one with career guidance and one with student tracking.

As the implementation of the pilot projects is moving ahead in all countries (Egypt joined quite recently) the first results are being more and more visible. This is particularly the case in Algeria, Jordan and Morocco where new tools and approaches to analyse the local labour market needs, analyses carried out and new courses being implemented.

In these countries, the national authorities are considering replicating the experience of the pilot project in other regions by themselves or with the support of ETF or other donors or organising national dissemination events on the results.



*In Zarqa, Jordan, Muna Abdullah, acting director of the vocational training institute launches the project that aims to bring together local VET partners and stakeholders to increase the employability of young women in the area with a particular focus on the retail sector.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Cross-country event, Turin, 4-7 May 2015

Regional conference and study visit, Morocco, 26-29 October 2015