

TORINO DECLARATION

We, the participants at the high level international conference 'Torino Process: Learning from Evidence', organised by the European Training Foundation (ETF) in Turin on 9-11 May 2011, representing the ETF partner countries, European Union Member States and international organisations discussed the importance of evidence in the vocational education and training policy cycle.

Our discussions were inspired by European policies, tools and approaches, and in particular the Education and Training 2020 initiative, the EU Employment Strategy, the Copenhagen Process, and the external relations policies which place skills at the heart of sustainable development. Our work has also been framed by the increasing attention given to skills strategies for strong economic development and job creation in the international community, including the G20. Our debates have also been enriched by evidence of progress in reform in VET illustrated by cases from the ETF partner countries. These inspirations will help us to improve our VET policies and systems according to our contexts.

For the ETF's partners, the Torino Process has provided a valuable opportunity to review the efficiency and effectiveness of VET policies. This includes their contribution to sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development. The Torino Process confirmed priorities for the further development of our VET policies and systems, as well as for policy dialogue with the EU and international community. In particular, the following policy priorities were confirmed during the conference:

- Ensuring the relevance of skills provision and increased employability;
- Providing an integrated, lifelong learning approach to education and training;
- Supporting the changing role of the teachers, trainers and managers of VET institutions;
- Improving opportunities for access to education and training for all;
- Investing in quality and improving the attractiveness of VET;
- Reinforcing anticipatory, inclusive and good multi-level governance, also through education and business cooperation and enhanced social dialogue;
- Stimulating creativity and innovation also through entrepreneurial learning.

The Torino Process has underlined the value of structured evidence in guiding policy decisions from formulation, adoption and implementation to monitoring and evaluation in line with international developments. In addition, the assessment methodology adopted by the Torino Process, inspired by the Bruges Review, has encouraged national authorities to take a leading role in driving the assessment process. This helps to build a strong sense of ownership for the outcomes. The participatory approach has also reinforced the role of national networks of stakeholders representing economic and social interests in the policy cycle under the leadership of national institutions. The Torino Process has also provided a framework for peer-to-peer learning, policy dialogue and exchange with other partners facing similar policy challenges, including the European Union institutions and Member States.

The conference provided a structured opportunity for institutions and experts to share practice and experience on the contribution of evidence to policy making, as well as the importance of methods, tools and inter-institutional cooperation. As a result, we identified a number of short-term actions for consideration by each country according to its context:

- articulate a strong vision;
- focus on solutions with sustainable results in mind;
- strengthen national partnerships and peer learning opportunities;
- strengthen governance and accountability.

The conference was an important occasion for policy leaders to work together to share knowledge and build a network across the countries and with the EU institutions. It was a strategic and effective platform for tackling the critical socio-economic policy challenges facing our countries, with a view to boosting youth employment through improving the transition from education to work; and increasing the contribution of VET to competitiveness through creativity and innovation.

We appreciate the launch of the second 2012 round of the Torino Process at the conference to update the 2010 assessment. We acknowledge the principles reaffirmed for the second round, notably:

- the holistic approach linking education, training, employment, economic and social development;
- the importance of national ownership and leadership;
- the active participation of social and economic stakeholders in the process;
- the focus on evidence to guide decisions through the policy cycle.

We welcome the ETF's support and cooperation for the second round, and call upon the EU and the international community to cooperate in the review process and its outcomes.

We welcome the ETF Torinet initiative to build capacity in partner countries in this critical area.

We call for the EU, through the ETF, to continue providing opportunities for policy learning at the highest level.

Finally we thank the ETF for this rich opportunity and call upon the agency to arrange a further occasion for policy learning to celebrate the second round of the Torino Process.