FLASH REPORT

Event name

"Workshop on data for evidence based education, employment and social policies. Focus on measuring skills mismatches". Belgrade, 14 February 2019.

Main objective/s

After producing a series of reports concerning the skills mismatch situation in the ETF Partner Countries, ETF has planned to share with selected countries (amongst which Moldova and Georgia in 2018 and Serbia and Montenegro early 2019) the calculation and assessment methodology for the skills mismatch, including the set of key indicators fit to capture the mismatch incidence. By doing so, ETF will enable countries' relevant institutions to continue updating the skills mismatch measurement. In agreement with relevant national authorities, ETF will organise a number of country level events to share the methodology, calculation methods, data limitations and other insights about skills mismatch measurement.

The event in Belgrade (Serbia) on 14 February 2019, has had a twofold objective:
- to present the analysis of skills mismatch incidence in Serbia and other ETF Partner Countries and discuss possible solutions to continue, on regular basis, measurement of skills mismatch;
- to share the results of ETF data collection on key indicators for education, skills and employment and discuss priorities for further development and capacity building in the area of statistics, data management and monitoring practices.

Background

During 2017 and 2018, the ETF carried a specific initiative to measure skills mismatch using essentially data from reliable national sources and based on international practice. Based on previous attempts to calculate mismatches (including ETF 2012 methodology), the objectives were to revisit the ETF 2012 methodology and define an approach adapted to current context in the ETF Partner countries (both developing and transition countries). Seven Partner Countries were included in this action, namely Egypt, Georgia, Morocco, Serbia, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro. The initiative has produced, for all countries, a set of country reports and cross-country report (forthcoming 2019), presenting the results of measuring and gathering data on skills mismatch indicators.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT
[Bite-sized information, including information on participants, proceeding of the event, etc.]

ETF presented the main findings of the mismatch measurement in Serbia, such as rather high incidence of overeducation affecting the workers with university level education and difficult school to work transition with unemployment affecting young. Serbia has a good statistical and evidence basis for calculation and analysis of skills mismatch.

Participants have also discussed the state of play, current initiatives remaining challenges in developing data management and monitoring systems in areas of education, employment and social

inclusion. The aim of the discussion was to identify priorities and actions that will help Serbia to completely harmonise its statistical system with EU acquis requirements and further expand current data management practices. The outcomes of this discussion will guide EU, ETF and donors in planning future support to Serbian authorities.

Invited participants were representatives of Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS), Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MoESTD), Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs (MoLEVSA), National Employment Office (NES), Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU), National Qualification Agency (NQA) and other relevant institutions and organisations.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

- Understanding the degree, causes and consequences of skills mismatches might help in shaping the right policy response to tackle proactively skills supply and demand imbalances;

- Statistical Office can take the lead in calculating, on regular basis, key indicators of skills mismatches;

- Further discussion of the nature and incidence of skills mismatches is necessary, to include among others gender dimension, socially vulnerable groups (for example Roma) or territorial aspects (e.g. urban vs rural; regional divergence in employment and economic development);

- There is a need for a more integrated approach to labour market and skills information and this would imply cross-sector data management and exchange. Serbian authorities are working on establishing or expansion of administrative registers in the field of employment, social insurance, education etc.

- Use of currently available wealth of information and data could be complemented by additional evidence, such as tracer studies. Regular monitoring of education system outcomes would help improving skills relevance to labour market needs. Priority remains the consolidation of the Education Management Information System.

- A number of priorities for further capacity building in the area of statistics (administrative registers) and monitoring practices have been identified. These will be reflected in the upcoming EU IPA projects, ETF support to the country and other support initiatives.

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