

FLASH REPORT

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Title of the event

Torino process 2018-2020 kick-off meeting in the Republic of Belarus

Main objective/s of the event

- To reflect with national stakeholders on the added value and relevance of Torino Process in Belarus;
- To familiarise them with the Torino Process 2018-20 objectives and new strategic orientations;
- To present and discuss the Torino Process National Reporting Framework - NRF (framework of analysis) and the ETF assessment;
- To define the implementation of the Torino Process in Belarus (calendar, stakeholder involvement, sub-national dimension).

Background

The Republic of Belarus has participated in the Torino process since 2010 and has taken full ownership and responsibility of the Torino process report in past editions. The 5th round of the Torino Process builds on this high level of ownership in view of improving the scope and usefulness of the Torino Process further.

In terms of usefulness and relevance of Torino process, the Torino Process report will inform the next EU programming exercise. In fact the launching of the Torino process coincided purposely with the European Union (EU) programming mission.

An important new feature of the next edition of the Torino Process is the interest to carry out more detailed consultations with stakeholders in several regions of Belarus, such as Brest and Vitebsk. These two regions are involved in the new Vocational Education and Training (VET) project of the EU and are also focal regions for future EU support. Torino Process will allow to understand better how the governance of VET works at a subnational level but also to feed into identifying specific context of VET and skills development.

Short introduction/description of the event

The event introduced the Torino Process 2018-20 round, familiarised stakeholders with its revised reporting framework and principles, and developed the work programme for its implementation in Belarus. The relevance of the Torino Process findings to support EU programming and national policy development were also discussed, building on lessons learnt from the past.

KEY OUTCOMES / CONCLUSIONS

The Torino Process launch meeting in Belarus provided an opportunity to present the new orientations of the fifth round of the Process, in particular its broader scope and emphasis on the policy relevance and use of national reports and ETF assessments. The novelties were welcomed by the participants.

Subsequently Mr. Maragos, Head of Unit in DG Near at the European Commission (EC), confirmed the timeliness of Torino process and its evidence-based analysis. The findings will inform the EU - Belarus programming exercise and will shape the design of the ongoing employment and VET project. He also underlined the key Torino Process principles of participation and country ownership, which are considered the key pillars of the exercise. He also announced the possibility of Belarus hosting the next Torino process regional conference in March 2020 as part of the Platform IV programme.

In its input that followed the statements by the EC, RIPO (Republican Institute for Professional Education) reminded how the Torino process had been used for policy development and monitoring in Belarus, e.g. the definition of government plans 2011-2015, 2016-2020, and for the design of the EU project itself. The RIPO representative also underlined the added value of Torino process as a policy learning opportunity for new evidence based methodologies, revision of data and quantitative indicators and good practices from other countries.

The discussion about tentative national expectations from this round included:

- A focus on challenges concerning system efficiency, attractiveness, access and digital transformation were mentioned as key challenges to look into
- A discussion on indicators, national versus international sources, relevance for the national context and availability were part of the debate
- Insights from a subnational dimension at the level of regions, which was confirmed as a welcomed innovation for the fifth Torino Process round by both the EU and Belarusian representatives. A pilot of the Torino Process in selected regions would be in line with the EU programming and the concept of investment in focal regions, as well as with the vision of Belarus to go towards economic specialization based on the different competitive advantages of each region. The regions of Brest, Grodno and Vitebsk (the latter two already participating in the ongoing EU project) were proposed as the pilot regions.

In terms of follow up issues, it was agreed to look into:

- 1) How to broaden participation in the Process, in particular from the business sector;
- 2) How to organize the process in the regions to ensure a debate that encourages regions to articulate their region-specific problems, solutions, and needs;
- 3) Availability of data and indicators at national and sub national level.

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