

## FLASH REPORT

### EVENT NAME

Torino process 2018-2020 in Albania: presentation of ETF Torino Process findings and validation of key issues and measures in VET

### MAIN OBJECTIVE/S

- to inform and discuss with participants the key findings and recommendations of the draft ETF Torino Process assessment and
- to validate the key objectives and measures for VET from the draft NESS Action Plan 2023

### BACKGROUND

Inspired by the EU Copenhagen Process for vocational education and training (VET), the Torino Process is an evidence-based analysis of human capital development issues and VET policies in ETF partner countries. At the heart of the Torino Process lies the monitoring of progress against own-set national goals and the identification of further challenges concerning skills development and VET policy. This helps countries to determine their further reform priorities. A comprehensive national report has been compiled in January 2019. ETF experts have produced an assessment, whose main issues and recommendations for action were presented and discussed with the audience.

At the same time the Ministry of Finance and Economy, upon request by the Prime Minister's Office, has launched a process to review the National Employment and Skills Strategy 2014-2020 (NESS) and extend its targets and Action Plan until 2023. Objectives and measures of the draft Action Plan 2023 will be validated in view of the key issues and challenges for VET in Albania. The NESS Action Plan 2023 will provide inputs to the further planning of IPA and other donor programmes for the employment, skills and social inclusion policy areas for 2020 and beyond.

### SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The meeting was designed to discuss with representatives from the Ministry, national VET and employment agencies, social partners, schools, training centres and international donors the key findings and recommendations of the draft ETF Torino Process assessment. Issues of particular concern, which participants noted, included the demographic decline, as well as the high early school leaving and NEETs rates, which call for policy responses.

The meeting then went on to review the key objectives and measures for VET from the draft NESS Action Plan 2023 and to discuss the next steps to be taken. Working groups focused in particular on issues related to the National VET provider development plan; school development & investment plans; the establishment of the National Agency for Employment & Skills and its new roles in managing VET providers and monitoring the VET system; the quality assurance system and processes in VET; using ICT in the management of VET institutions and in the teaching and learning processes, and the the dual training system in the crafts sector.

## KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

The high quality of discussions led to a common understanding of priorities for the new Action Plan 2023. This included the need to better address the following priorities:

- educational planning in the form of a national VET provider development plan or roadmap for the mid to long term;
- the pressing need for tackling governance issues, mainly by setting up and resourcing the new National Employment & Skills Agency (NAES) which will be responsible for the management, quality assurance and monitoring of all VET providers
- the establishment of a dual training system for the crafts sector.

The issue of gathering and analysing additional data was underlined as key to drafting the national VET provider development plan and for monitoring the VET system. The Ministry mentioned that it intends to set up an inter-institutional working group to draft the National VET provider development plan incl. roadmap and provide guidance for individual VET providers to design development & investment plans. The latter should in turn be linked to the outcomes from providers' self-assessment exercises. NAES would take over the administration and monitoring of VET providers, while NAVETQ would deal with research and development, covering qualifications, curricula, teaching and learning materials, as well as teacher training for the entire system. Participants stressed that using ICT in both the management of VET institutions and in teaching & learning processes becomes crucial. For the separate dual training system under the Chamber of Crafts, there is still an issue of whether it is indeed desirable and feasible to set up such a system. Capacities of crafts businesses are currently assessed as very weak. The implications of the demographic decline for education and training, early school leaving and NEETs, as well as expanding and increasing the quality of adult training need to be addressed. A working group on VET financing issues has been set up.

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