

FLASH REPORT

Title of the event

Torino Process 2018-2020 in Montenegro: Discussion on Main Findings and the Way Forward.

Main objectives of the event

Following the preparation of both the national report, based on the National Reporting Framework, and of the ETF assessment, the workshop had as primary objective to present and discuss key findings, and preliminary recommendations. More specifically the workshop focused on:

- Sharing the key findings of the national report and the main human capital development challenges identified in the ETF assessment
- Discuss the proposed recommendations in the ETF assessment
- Identify and agree on next steps

The expected outcome is that Torino process findings inform and are used for the development of the new sector strategy 2020-2024 expected to be ready by the end of the year.

Background

This second event in Montenegro, builds on the results of the first discussion that took place in March. That was the occasion to identify information gaps (based on a first draft of the country report) and point out issues that were emerging as key for the ETF assessment. The ownership of the exercise for Montenegro and its relevance for the upcoming development of the new VET strategy was confirmed.

The event in May, built on those results, being the opportunity to present the almost complete country report and the preliminary ETF assessment. The findings and assessment take into consideration the results of the 2019 Riga monitoring exercise, already completed in the country.

Furthermore, the event coincided with the “Campaign” by the Ministry, supported by the ETF, on VET attractiveness. The event is also part of the European Vocational Skills Week programme, which showcases vocational education and training; and vocational skills through a series of events, exhibitions and other initiatives across Europe.

Short description of the event

The meeting counted with the presence of all relevant institutions including Ministry of Education, Bureau of Education, VET centre, Ministry of human rights and minorities, Employers association and Chamber of commerce. An ETF journalist was also present to feed main results into the public campaign. Trade Union representatives as well as Ministry of finance did not participate. In agreement with Montenegro coordinator, donors were not invited to the discussion understanding that there was still a need for a country discussion. A meeting with international partners may be organised in Autumn once the ETF assessment is final.

In the opening session, the policy relevance of Torino process was stressed by all speakers. Ministry of Education underlined the added value of the analysis as key input for the new strategy and to prepare the sector for IPA III programming. EU Delegation stressed the relevance for the programming exercise and the importance to move forward. ETF added as well Torino process relevance in the context of regional policy dialogues (i.e the meeting of Western Balkan Ministers of Education organised by the EC on 3-4 June in Belgrade and the Ministerial employment conference in July).

The participation and ownership underlined by participants (“Torino process is our report”; “Torino process is part of our standard programme of activities”). The broader scope and the evidence based/ factual approach were as well very welcomed.

The Torino process coordinator presented a summary of the national report with focus on main issues emerging per building block. ETF presented main challenges identified and preliminary recommendations

KEY OUTCOMES / CONCLUSIONS

- Key challenges were agreed
- Regarding the recommendations submitted to feedback and discussion: there was agreement on
 - o The need for a holistic vision for VET/skills development. The new VET strategy should consider the place and role of VET in the context of country development strategies (SME development, the upcoming strategy on industrial development and smart specialisation, social inclusion etc). In this sense the idea of a “national discussion” is welcomed
 - o The need for inter-ministerial coordination, both at decision making and operational level. The silos approach and limited ownership of sector policies hampers the implementation. There are some examples, like the cross ministerial working group on policy development, that should be analysed for lessons learnt.
 - o The need to develop capacities and ensure that enough human resources are assigned to the agreed policy priorities.
 - o The need to assess current financing mechanisms, the state of implementation of existing mechanisms (fund for talented students, deficit occupations fund)
 - o The need to reinforce cooperation at local (school and subnational level) level building on existing practices such as the local teams for employment, cooperation between schools and municipalities and cooperation between school and local business in the framework of the dual system. Cooperation to be looked at beyond financing issues.
 - o The need for information systems to identify skills needs for priority sectors and sectors in “deficit” of occupations, together with tracking systems to assess the relevance of VET upon completion.
 - o The need for Validation of non-formal and in particular, informal learning as a mechanism to support adult progression and participation/progression in

employment. This should cover legislation, assessment standards and process and indicators)

- The need to build on the “dual education” initial success and look into incentives and awareness raising with business and households to ensure a further expansion. The lessons learnt of the exercise as an applied model of public-partner partnerships should also be explored
- To be added: the need to ensure full implementation of the key competences both in terms of its transversal inclusion into programmes and in terms of standards for assessment

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