

FLASH REPORT

By Lida Kita

Title of the event

Serbia Torino Process 2018-2020 Dissemination meeting – Key findings and recommendations of National report and ETF assessment, Hotel Palace, Topličin venac 23, Beograd, Serbia

Main objectives of the event

Following the preparation of the national report, based on the National Reporting Framework, and of the ETF assessment, this workshop will have the primary objective to present and disseminate key findings and recommendations, representing the main outcomes of the process.

- Share with participants the key findings and recommendations of the National Report (based on NRF) and of the ETF assessment
- Discuss in detail identified recommendations and links to the ongoing EU/ Government work for 2030 strategy
- Identify and agree specific actions to address the recommendations (both quick-wins and long-term actions)

Background

ETF launched the first round of Torino Process in 2010. In 2018-2020, the Torino Process will be implemented for the fifth time (previous rounds took place in 2010-11, 2012-13, 2014-15, and 2016-17). Serbia has participated in all rounds.

Short introduction/description of the event

Ministry of Education and Science, EU Delegation in Serbia and ETF jointly organised this workshop. The event brought 55 participants from all public and private institutions in Serbia.

The Torino Process is an evidence-informed analysis of Human Capital Development issues and VET policies responses in the ETF partner countries. The process, launched by the ETF for the first time in 2010, entered in its fifth round of implementation that will be completed in the period 2019-2020. Serbia has participated actively in the Torino process since 2010. It also hosted the Western Balkan and Turkey Regional workshop for the Torino process 2015-2017 cycle. On the 25th of October 2018, the Torino Process National Reporting Framework - NRF (framework of analysis) were presented in Belgrade.

The Serbia TPR Report has been submitted on time and it narrates through good analyses based on sound evidence. Serbia TRP5 National Report focuses on skills in a lifelong-learning (LLL) perspective. It includes evidence/analysis to broader socio-economic issues pertaining to human capital development, and makes efforts how to consider VET policy responses in a holistic perspective, which includes initial VET (IVET including post-secondary), continuing VET (CVT), training as part of active labour market policies (ALMPs), etc.).

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia has shown full ownership and has run a smooth, very inclusive and professional process. All the official communication with all the stakeholders have been supported by inclusive and constructive multi rounds of workshops, consultations (involving more than 70 institutional representations): Serbian public and private stakeholders, EUD, international and bilateral donors, employers' organisations, NGOs, think-tanks etc.

The expected outcome was an agreement on Torino process findings and a set of strategic and concrete action-oriented recommendations. The event forms part of the European Vocational Skills Week, which showcases vocational education and training; and vocational skills through a series of events, exhibitions and other initiatives across Europe.

KEY OUTCOMES / CONCLUSIONS

Key HCD issues: Demographic trends(demographic changes, ageing and (im)migration); transformation of economy and socio-economic disparities, are among the three greatest challenges in Serbia, with a big impact on the supply of skilled labour force, their diversity, the structure of jobs, intensity of skills shortages and VET provision has a big role to play. Analysis on skills development strategies in Serbia will also need to consider migration and integration policies. Regular monitoring of education system outcomes are crucial in improving skills relevance to labour market needs. Research is decisive in the whole process of evidence based policy making and monitoring and assessment. Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia Statistical Office and all the partners have launched their work to consolidate the Serbia Unified Educational Information System (UEIS).

VET policy responses: *Image of TVET and its attractiveness* needs to become a priority for the launched Serbia 2030 Education Strategy. It needs to reposition itself within the future mix of a strong foundation of basic skills, generic, soft, transversal and professional competences. Many ongoing initiatives in Serbia support this directions. However the to-be-drafted Strategy should provide the basis to prepare people not only for existing jobs, but also – for future employment and job creation.

Emerging new technologies and work organisation formats are expected to be captured faster through skills anticipation systems and translated to VET provision in terms of needed skills, curricula and qualifications. In Serbia, it is important to look at the VET provision in all the regions and sectors. It would be courageous policy and political ambitions to consider the reorganisation of VET. Serbia can boost its efforts not only in ICT sector but others to look into the reorganisation/new models which might need bolt political decisions for closing down many VET schools to think more of multi-function regional VET centre, e.g. Multi-function, regional, national and trans-national VET Centres of Excellence, Smart Specialisation among few examples) to prepare young people for entering and successfully participating in the labour market.

At the same time, due to demographic change, economic and technological developments, these multi-functional, regional centres can imbed the supply of VET skills to respond to increasing needs for upskilling and reskilling of the adult population at all levels, according to their identified skills needs, including the socially disadvantaged as well as high potentials, low-skilled and unemployed so as to enable them to stay / (re-)enter the labour market and to move freely and in a self-determined manner through their educational and professional careers.

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