

FLASH REPORT

Event name

Public-private partnerships for skills development workshop 4/5 December 2019

Main objective/s

The aim of the workshop was to provide a forum to present and discuss the results of the ETF study on Public-Private Partnerships for Skills Development.

Background

The ETF “Public-Private Partnerships for Skills Development” study results were presented and discussed in Brussels on 4-5 December, in the workshop jointly organized by the European Training Foundation (ETF) and International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS).

The study has encompassed a review of the PPP concept and of 23 cases of PPPs for skills development, in 14 countries. The case studies were selected based on their diversity, to show the many ways PPPs can be in practice, and to assess whether the different traditions of public-private cooperation did matter.

Representatives from Jordan, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Ukraine attended the meeting together with academic experts and practitioners from the EU Member States, European Commission, the KfW, EBRD and OECD. A total of 45 people participated.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The discussion covered the study approach and methodology, the transversal of the PPP main features and effectiveness, as well as zoom into several individual case studies.

The questions and key messages included the following:

- While PPPs definitions are multiple the study shows that for skills development, vocational education and training, lifelong learning the traditional understanding of infrastructure projects cannot be applied.
- The pre-conditions for establishing PPPs for skills development in fact are strong motivation for skills of the private sector, beyond the immediate financial return. Trust between the partners is an important condition too but this can be nourished over time as the partnership develops.

In these partnerships, the public sector is fully engaged, its role is not limited to objective setting and occasional monitoring.

- PPPs add value compared to other collaborative modalities in the area of skills development: they create new spaces for learning , and aggregate resources both human and financial.

- PPPs contribute innovation in the skills development policy area because are areas for experimentation. They experiment governance forms and learning approaches and content.

- Can public and private actors learn from each other, and can countries learn from each other? The answer was positive, however policy learning is the only way experience can be shared, whereas transfer is not an option due to the fundamental influence of context factors and traditions.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The participants found that the study was unprecedented; there are no other studies in this field. They appreciated the quality and depth of the analysis and there were also proposals for continuation with additional analysis. In fact this was an exploratory study, which many speakers indicated as a baseline and reference for future research.

In 2020, the ETF will disseminate the PPP for skills development study :

- at country level in Kazakhstan and at regional level in the western balkans.
- online via Open space to create the opportunity for further exchange on the topic and on the practices
- moreover when relevant the ETF and IIAS will take advantage of the IIAS network conferences.
- The new ETF initiatives will integrate the PPP concept and study conclusions into their work, notably the Creating New Learning and the Centres of Vocational Excellence initiatives.

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