

## FLASH REPORT

### Event name

**Workshop: Launching a discussion on Multi-level governance analysis in Moldova – Venue: Radisson Blu Leograd Hotel, Meeting room “Begonia”, Chisinau. 18 February 2020**

### Main objective/s

The MECR of the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with ETF are committed on assessing and evaluating in effective manner VET sector in Moldova. More in concrete, the MECR and ETF will work together for implementing VET & Skills good multilevel governance approach for assessing VET system in the context of the last phase of implementation of Moldavian VET strategy.

ETF VET Governance Toolbox should support the implementation of such review indeed. This tool has to be used or just adjusted to be inspiration to support a tailored review of VET system in Moldova by zooming on following components:

- Method for vision building.
- Assessment of institutional arrangements.
- Costing, Budgeting, Financing and Funding.
- Role of Social Partners linking VET policy to Labour Market needs.
- Territorial Governance (sub-national governance dimension).
- Monitoring and assessment of progress in VET multilevel Governance

### Background

Moldova has been implementing VET reform aimed at supporting the socioeconomic development of the country. VET Strategy 2013-2020 represents the main policy document that outlines the reform process and sets medium and long-term objectives aiming at strengthening the sector, aligning it to the national context and meeting European integration aspirations (1).

Such Strategy for the Development of Technical Vocational Education (2013-2020) defines Moldova’s vision for reforms in vocational education and training from a lifelong learning perspective. In concrete, the Moldavian VET strategy 2013-2020 aims at:

- a) Restructuring and modernizing VET network, and establishing Centres of Excellence,
- b) Adjusting VET delivery to the labour market needs based on competences,
- c) Enhancing the quality of VET through new curricula and QA and NQF developments,
- d) Increasing teaching staff quality with student-centred lifelong learning approaches,
- e) Improving the efficiency of VET funding resources,
- f) Increasing VET attractiveness for the uptake of VET places by 10%.

The Republican VET Centre (2) and Methodical Training Centre (3) (MT Centre) are supposed to provide a solid technical support to VET system, MECR and Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (MARDE). This includes:

- Promotion of VET policies;
- Development of the normative framework;

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(1) Many parts of this background is based on Torino process report Moldova (2018-2020)

(2) Under MECR

(3) Under MARDE

- Elaboration of curricula and development of methodologies;
- Carrying out training in career guidance and counselling;
- Coordination of the continuous training of the teaching and managerial staff (etc.).

However, following recent ETF Torino process report 2018-2020 it seems that these entities face difficulties to fulfil their attributions (e.g. lack of financial and human capacities; understaffing due to low wages).

In addition, other key stakeholders with a consultative role in VET governance and policymaking are followings: the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Sector Skills Committees (SSCs), Employer's Organizations, Trade Unions, Council of VET students, donors (LED, ADA, GIZ, SDC and others) and bilateral development agencies. International stakeholders (ETF, USAID, UNDP, WB, ILO, and others) provide technical support for capacity building and VET reform implementation.

The role of civil society organisations (CSOs) allow linking private sector and VET system indeed. The organisation for small and medium enterprises (OSMED) is active in policy implementation, with training projects focused on developing entrepreneurial skills. Moreover, the role of Sectoral Skills Committees (SSCs) is required to balance VET offer and requirements of the labour market. SSCs were provided legal personality through the approval of the Law on sectoral committees. However, SSCs are not yet in a position to play all their roles efficiently. The existing six SSCs might have a limited role due to lack of capacities to implement their mission.

There are three main types of VET providers in Moldova: Centres of Excellence (4), Colleges and Vocational Schools. VET system provides programmes for qualifications in accordance with the NQF, such as qualified workers, foremen, technicians and other categories of specialists (5). This also includes dual training, which is organized in VET schools and in companies. Some other institutions, including universities are authorised to provide VET programmes for IVET or CVET.

The VET establishments in the agro-food sector and in healthcare professions have a double subordination to MECR and to their line ministries such as (MARDE) and Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection (MHLSP).

The funding sources of VET institutions are allocations from the state budget, own income (sale of products and services), the resources of projects financed from external sources and other revenues allowed by law. The main source of funding are the budgetary means. The institutions are funded in compliance with the number of students. The funding of VET institutions is based on previous costs and not really considering their real needs neither based on performance and/or outcome oriented. This, in turn, does not stimulate an efficient administration of resources favouring the lack of performance. However, financing of VET system is substantially benefiting from EU funding programs and other investments done by external donors.

## SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The event was smoothly implemented. The participants learned insights on what and how to implement ETF VET good multilevel governance approaches and usefulness for rewiring VET system in Moldova. The Minister of education Culture and Research participated for a while underlining the good role of ETF and expectations on this exercise as VET is becoming a priority for the country. The panel among stakeholders brought interesting insights regarding the need to mobilizing some key stakeholders to tackle some structural problems, which will require taking decision on bodies and institutions architecture. The discussions on what and how to implement the review were fruitful. as confirmed the understanding of participants on the overall objective and meaning of this project for the country.

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(<sup>4</sup>) According to ETF Torino process report 2018-2020, it seems that Centres of Excellence are not capable to exercise their role accordingly to their official statute, due to the lack of human capacities and financial scarcity.

(<sup>5</sup>) <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=372759>

## KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

2 major short term conclusions for action:

- ETF will deliver a proposal in the next days for methodological guidelines /Data Collection tool for implementing review to be agreed by MECR. This includes a working plan for implementation and profile of actors for smart engagement.
- MECR will be key reference point to mobilize the right stakeholders according to ETF working plan.

### ETF contact person

*José Manuel Galvin Arribas, Senior Specialist in Governance and Life-Long Learning, e-mail: [jmg@etf.europa.eu](mailto:jmg@etf.europa.eu)*

### ETF Country Coordinator

*Filippo Del Ninno, Specialist in VET Policies and Systems - Country Coordinator Macedonia and Moldova e-mail: [fdn@etf.europa.eu](mailto:fdn@etf.europa.eu)*