FLASH REPORT

Event name
VET GOVERNANCE IN ACTION, Online meeting – Zoom, 09/12/2020

Main objective/s
The aim of the online event was to present the ETF's VET Governance Toolkit.
The VET Governance Toolkit relies on the multilevel and multi-actor governance approach, and it is designed to help partner countries to implement their own vocational education and training (VET) reforms.

The Toolkit proposes concepts and methodologies for reviewing the institutional arrangements, the financing, the cooperation with social partners and civil society organisations, and other key areas in VET. The purpose is to check whether the VET system governance supports the objectives of the VET policies.
Each country can use the Toolkit independently: this requires expertise, which all countries have, and experience, which the countries progressively 'build by doing'.
The ETF remains available to accompany the national processes, advise and share knowledge wherever requested.

Background
Multilevel governance is one of the ETF's areas of expertise to support the transformation of VET towards lifelong learning. The multilevel governance approach considers that systems function better when mechanisms for inter-institutional, multi-actor and national/sub-national cooperation are in place.

Partnerships and the sharing of responsibility have a horizontal dimension that reaches out from each level of the system, and a vertical dimension that links national and sub-national levels of the system. Effective actors' coordination, involvement of stakeholders in the decision making and sharing of responsibilities are success factors for the design of visions and strategies and subsequent policy delivery. Reinforcing coordination and cooperation among public institutions and agencies and with the private sector, including relevant civil society organisations, is therefore an essential part of the logic of multilevel governance.

Good multilevel governance descends from participatory processes rather than the application of a supply-driven blueprint. It uses tools to map and analyse the system, to review the way institutions interact on policies, as well as their functions and ability to coordinate, in order to identify patterns and areas for improvement. It includes policy-learning, based for example on VET governance debates, the exchange of knowledge and the exploration of good practice case studies, with preference for peer-learning and mutual-learning tools. Policy mediation, a consultative process involving actors within a country or territory who interact with each other with a view to implementing agreed policies, also plays an important role in strengthening governance.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT
The programme included a short introduction to the VET Governance framework by the head of Policy Unit, Xavier Matheu de Cortada, followed by a poll on the understanding of multilevel governance among the participants.
Then, senior specialist Siria Taurelli introduced the Toolkit, giving a quick but comprehensive overview of the purpose and content. A visual session was dedicated to formally show the Toolkit pages to participants. Two cases were discussed in the breakout rooms: the Review of Institutional

Arrangements (RIA) in Modova with senior specialist José Manuel Galvin Arribas, and the Public-Prvate Partnerships for Skills Development study with Siria Taurelli. Questions were addressed to both experts and a second poll was introduced.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

Participants showed a high level of interest in the topic and were actively enganged in the conversation. Using the mentimeter exercise as reference, we understood that for participants VET Governance is important for system change and state and non-state actors should cooperate towards an improved VET Governance in all countries.

Participants highlighted their interest to see ETF more involved in a variety of aspects: public private partnerships, VET financing, cooperation mechanisms, designing tailor-made governance models, decentralization and many more.

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