

FLASH REPORT

Event name

Exploring Distance And Online Learning In Central Asia: What Is Happening With Learning? 18 and 26 November 2020, 10:00 Turin time

Main objective/s

The thematic regional on-line workshop will explore developments in distance and online education and training in Central Asia in 2020. The workshops have several objectives:

- To capture the experiences and views of the main stakeholder groups involved in distance and on-line education and training
- To share these experiences among stakeholders from different Central Asian countries
- To share information about new developments and measures undertaken in Central Asian countries in the sphere of distance and on-line education and training
- To provide a platform for stakeholders from the five Central Asian countries to discuss how emerging challenges can be addressed, considering also opportunities for cooperation among Central Asian countries.

Background

Throughout the Torino Process, launched by the European Training Foundation (ETF) for the first time in 2010, internal and external consultations with partner countries and external evaluations confirmed that the process is well established as a relevant initiative (both in terms of the content of the analysis and the implementation process) that has an added value as a forum for policy discussions and peer learning at country level.

The fifth round of the Torino Process was launched in 2018, involves a total of 28 ETF partner countries. From Central Asia four countries, namely Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have committed to prepare a national reports between 2019 and 2020, using the so-called National Reporting Framework. Turkmenistan has taken part in the launch phase of the process.

The Torino Process foresees not only analysis at national level, but also at regional and cross-country level. These reports identify key regional and trans-national developments in Vocational Education and Training in a lifelong learning perspective. They also explore ways in which emerging challenges could be addressed.

Traditionally national reports have served as key inputs for the preparation of regional reports. In the course of 2020, opportunities for on-line communication and engagement have expanded dramatically in all ETF partner countries. The ETF therefore proposes to take advantage of these new opportunities, to engage stakeholders in Vocational Education and Training in thematic on-line workshop at regional level. The outcomes of these workshops will then feed into the Central Asian regional report, which will be presented to stakeholders in 2021.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The workshop was organised into two, inter-related sessions. Each session was organised around panel discussions and group work and ensured active interaction between participants. Around 80 participants had the opportunity to engage in exchanges and joint work with their peers and colleagues from other Central Asian countries.

Session one on 18 November was dedicated to VET students, VET provider teaching and managerial staff and staff from in-service training providers. Findings from session one served as a key input for the second session.

Session two involved policy makers from the four Central Asian countries and representatives from the donor community and EC services. A number of participants from session one joined this session.



KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

A conceptual mapping was co-created by participants covering: Goals & Vision; Envisaging Digital and Online Learning in Central Asia, Threats, Obstacles and Enablers.

Reflections on What worked well, what worked less well, and what did not work at all. What could have helped.

In the Second Workshop participants worked on ideas and proposals for Regional Central Asian cooperation and co-created proposals and support ideas.

Main ideas for regional cooperation included :

- More cooperation in general in ODL

- Make better use of existing resources

- Donor coordination at national/regional level

- Competency Framework for learners

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