

VET developments in candidate countries: closing the Osnabrück cycle – *Country working groups GUIDELINES (BiH, MD, UA)*

DATE AND VENUE:

14-15 April 2025, CET - Milan, Italy

INTRODUCTION

During the event, you as Directors General for VET (DGVTs) and members of the Advisory Council for Vocational Training (ACVTs) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Ukraine will participate in **TWO COUNTRY WORKING GROUPS**, respectively linked to the past and current policy cycles (until 2025), and to the new one (2026-2030).

COUNTRY WORKING GROUPS: OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

Day 1, Monday 14 April from 9.30 to 11.00 – country working groups (I)

- **OBJECTIVE:** this session welcomes new candidate countries and introduces them to the Copenhagen process. Participants will receive information about the process, the benefits to participate in ACVT and DGVT fora – in the context of the Enlargement – and the relative monitoring and reporting activities.
- **EXPECTED OUTPUT:** DGVTs and ACVTs of new candidate countries should learn about the objectives, ways of working, involved stakeholders, main activities and benefits of the Copenhagen process.

YOUR ROLE: we invite you to actively participate in this session by asking questions to the speakers (ETF, DGEMPL, DGENEST, Cedefop). *Prior to the event, you may consult relevant documents such as the 2020 [Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on vocational education and training \(VET\) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience](#) and the [Osnabrueck Declaration](#), as well as the 2023 and 2024 country briefs for the 'old' candidate countries to get an idea of the Osnabrueck monitoring products produced by ETF so far (see Annex I for the links).*

Day 2, Tuesday 15 April from 9.45 to 11.00 – country working groups (II)

- **OBJECTIVE:** to reflect on progress in VET since 2021, identify persistent challenges and elaborate reflections on future country priorities, in view of the new policy cycle.
- **EXPECTED OUTPUT:** participants should have brainstormed about persistent challenges in VET and identified possible priority areas of work for the policy cycle 2026-2030 (considering both the old integrated monitoring framework and the draft Herning Declaration).

YOUR ROLE: we invite you to read the draft Herning Declaration before the event, to be able to reflect on future priorities and actions during the working group. ACVTs and DGVTs have received it from DGEMPL on March 24.

Annex I – old candidate countries’ information packages

Below are the links to old candidate countries’ National Implementation Plans and Country briefs (see footnote 1) published in 2023 – covering developments in 2021-2022 – and in 2024 – covering developments in 2023.

Albania

- [National Implementation Plan Albania.pdf](#)
- [Monitoring VET Recommendation and Osnabrück Declaration – Albania 2023 | ETF](#)
- [MONITORING THE VET RECOMMENDATION AND OSNABRÜCK DECLARATION Albania 2024 | ETF](#)


Montenegro

- [National Implementation Plan Montenegro.pdf](#)
- [Monitoring VET Recommendation and Osnabrück Declaration – Montenegro 2023 | ETF](#)
- [MONITORING THE VET RECOMMENDATION AND THE OSNABRÜCK DECLARATION Montenegro 2024 | ETF](#)


North Macedonia

-  [National Implementation Plan North Macedonia.pdf](#)
- [Country brief on policy developments 2021-2022](#)
- [Country brief on policy developments 2023](#)

Serbia

-  [National Implementation Plan Serbia.pdf](#)
- [Monitoring VET Recommendation and Osnabrück Declaration – Serbia 2023 | ETF](#)
- [MONITORING VET RECOMMENDATION AND OSNABRÜCK DECLARATION SERBIA 2024 | ETF](#)

Türkiye

-  [National Implementation Plan Turkey.pdf](#)
- [Monitoring Osnabrück Declaration – Türkiye 2023 | ETF](#)
- [OSNABRÜCK DECLARATION MONITORING Türkiye 2024 | ETF](#)

Annex II – EU and thematic priorities of the integrated monitoring framework

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| EU priority 1: Agile and resilient VET, adaptive to labour market needs (<i>VET Recommendation A, OD 1</i>) |
| 1.1 Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses |
| 1.1.1 Integrating digital skills and competences in VET curricula and programmes |
| 1.1.2 Integrating green transition and sustainability in VET curricula and programmes |
| 1.2 Developing and updating learning resources and materials |
| 1.3 Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems, including graduate tracking |
| 1.4 Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET |
| 1.5 Acquiring key competences |
| 1.6 Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships |
| EU priority 2: Flexible VET and inclusive, providing progression and lifelong learning opportunities (<i>VET Recommendation B and E, OD 1 and 2</i>) |
| 2.1 Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs |
| 2.2 Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, VET providers and companies |
| 2.3 Diversifying modes of learning: face-to-face, digital and/or blended learning; adaptable/flexible training formats |
| 2.4 Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation |
| 2.5 Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full |
| 2.6 Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally |
| 2.7 Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training |
| EU priority 3: Innovative and excellent VET (<i>VET Recommendation C and OD 1</i>) |
| 3.1 Supporting Centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs) |
| 3.2 Modernising infrastructure for vocational training |
| 3.2.1 Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision |
| 3.2.2 Making VET institutions sustainable and green |
| EU priority 4: Attractive VET, based on modern and digitalised provision (<i>VET Recommendation D and OD 2, 3, 4</i>) |
| 4.1 Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education |
| 4.2 Expanding VET programmes to EQF levels 5-8 |
| 4.3 Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers |
| 4.3.1 Supporting teachers & trainers for green transition and sustainability |
| 4.3.2 Supporting teachers & trainers for and through digital |
| 4.4 Lifelong guidance |
| 4.5 Mobility of learners and staff |
| 4.6 Internationalisation in education and VET |
| EU priority 5: VET underpinned by quality assurance (<i>VET Recommendation F</i>) |
| 5.1 Further developing national quality assurance systems |