

# VET developments in candidate countries: closing the Osnabrück cycle – *Country working groups GUIDELINES (AL, ME, MK, RS, TR)*

## DATE AND VENUE:

14-15 April 2025, CET - Milan, Italy

During the event, Directors General for VET (DGVTS) and members of the Advisory Council for Vocational Training (ACVTs) from Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye will participate in **TWO COUNTRY WORKING GROUPS**, one each day, linked to the monitoring of vocational education and training (VET) policy developments relevant to their country's National Implementation Plan (NIPs). The working groups will be moderated by ETF national experts in the national language. This document illustrates the objectives of the working groups and the expected input from participants.

### *Day 1, Monday 14 April from 9.30 to 11.30 – country working groups (I)*

- **OBJECTIVE:** to collect information for the monitoring of 2024 and 2025 (until April) policy developments relevant to countries' NIPs (N.B. not VET developments in general).
- **EXPECTED OUTPUT:** national experts should have the necessary information to draft for the last country brief<sup>1</sup> of the Osnabrueck cycle, which will cover policy developments of 2024 and 2025<sup>2</sup>.

**YOUR ROLE:** we invite you to come prepared by collecting – before travelling to Milan – the necessary information about policy developments relevant to your country's NIP in 2024 and until April 2025.

*If you are not familiar with ETF 'Osnabrueck reporting' please consult the 2023 and 2024 country briefs (see Annex I). Have a look also at the 'thematic priorities' of the Integrated Analytical Framework<sup>3</sup> (Annex II).*

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

- **OBJECTIVE:** to identify persisting challenges in VET and look forward to the 2026-2030 policy cycle. Based on a concise presentation of NIPs progress since 2021, participants will be invited to elaborate reflections on the future country priorities, considering the vision outlined in the new Herning Declaration, which DGVTS and ACVTs received on Monday 24 March from DGEMPL and which will be presented during the event.
- **EXPECTED OUTPUT:** identification of three areas of persisting challenges (these will be the focus of the reporting back) and of priority areas 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. ACVTs and DGVTS have received it from DGEMPL on March 24. Have a look at the 'EU priorities' of the Integrated Analytical Framework as well.

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<sup>1</sup> Country briefs are short reports summarising main policy developments relevant to the country's NIP of the previous year. See Annex I for a complete reference to the country briefs that ETF has published in the Osnabrueck monitoring cycle.

<sup>2</sup> Information about policy developments after April 2025 will be collected in October or November.

<sup>3</sup> This is the framework designed in 2021 for the purpose of the joint monitoring of the VET Recommendation and of the Osnabrueck Declaration. Türkiye monitors only the Osnabrueck Declaration. See annex II.

## Annex I – country information packages

Below are the links to your countries' National Implementation Plans and Country briefs 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

**Table 1:** Thematic priorities of the integrated monitoring framework selected by the 5 CCs

Thematic priorities	Commitments in NIP
<b>1 Agile and resilient VET, adaptive to labour market needs (VET Recommendation A, OD 1)</b>	
1.1 Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses	AL, ME, NM, RS, TR <sup>4</sup>
1.1.1 Integrating digital skills and competences in VET curricula and programmes	AL, ME, RS
1.1.2 Integrating green transition and sustainability in VET curricula and programmes	ME
1.2 Developing and updating learning resources and materials	ME, NM
1.3 Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems, including graduate tracking	AL, ME, RS, TR
1.4 Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET	AL, ME, NM, RS, TR
1.5 Acquiring key competences	ME, RS
1.6 Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships	AL, ME, NM, TR
<b>2 Flexible VET and inclusive, providing progression and lifelong learning opportunities (VET Recommendation B and E, OD 1 and 2)</b>	
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	AL, ME, TR
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	AL, ME, NM, RS
2.7 Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training	NM
<b>3 Innovative and excellent VET (VET Recommendation C and OD 1)</b>	
3.1 Supporting Centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs)	NM, TR
3.2 Modernising infrastructure for vocational training	NM, ME, AL, TR
3.2.1 Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision	
3.2.2 Making VET institutions sustainable and green	AL
<b>4 Attractive VET, based on modern and digitalised provision (VET Recommendation D and OD 2, 3, 4)</b>	
4.1 Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education	RS, TR
4.2 Expanding VET programmes to EQF levels 5-8	NM, RS
4.3 Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers	AL, RS, ME, NM, TR
4.3.1 Supporting teachers & trainers for green transition and sustainability	ME, TR
4.3.2 Supporting teachers & trainers for and through digital	AL, ME, TR
4.4 Lifelong guidance	AL, ME, TR
4.5 Mobility of learners and staff	
4.6 Internationalisation in education and VET	
<b>5 VET underpinned by quality assurance (VET Recommendation F)</b>	
5.1 Further developing national quality assurance systems	ME, NM, RS, TR

<sup>4</sup> Türkiye monitors commitments linked to the Osnabrueck Declaration only.

