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Brief report of the peer learning visit to the Netherlands for the Renewable Energy (RE) future Sector skills project

Context

In the framework of an EU funded project for establishing and strengthening of a Sector Skills Council on Renewable Energy, a peer learning visit to the Netherlands was organised for the members of this new Sector Skills Council (SSC).

Objectives

The peer learning visit aimed to expose the members to relevant skills dialogue practices in the renewable energy sector and provide opportunities for peer learning and networking. This joint visit also allowed to enhance common insights in the principles for effective implementation of sector skills bodies, while addressing and adapting to current and future challenges and developments in the renewable energy sector, as well as in the TVET system.

In addition, it allowed to share experiences and know how related to technical, methodological and more generic social dialogue capacities at individual and organisational level. Specific attention was paid to collection, analysis and elaboration of labour market and skills intelligence, development and updating of sectoral labour market and skills reports, design and review of occupational standards, and public-private partnerships in the renewable energy at regional and TVET providers level.

Short description of the visit

The week started with a short explanation of the TVET system in the Netherlands, followed by a full-day visit to the National body for Cooperation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market (SBB) in Zoetermeer. On behalf of the private sector (employers and employees organisations) and TVET colleges and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Education, SBB is responsible for the collection and elaboration of labour market and skills needs information in the eight broad fields of study for Dutch TVET. In addition, SBB coordinates the sector committees for these eight fields in the translation of this information into the national qualification standards (supported by occupational standards). This first deep-dive in the TVET system was followed on the second day by a training session on labour market information and occupational standards.

The last two days of the visit were dedicated to exploring various public-private partnerships in the renewable energy sector, where educational institutions actively collaborate with the industry to shape learning and development. Key visits included the TVET college ROC Scalda , World Class Maintenance (partnering in the European T-Shore project), and HZ University of Applied Sciences in Vlissingen.

In the Utrecht region, the group gained inspiration from the Human Capital Agenda of the Topsector Energie, the Sustainable Energy Vocational Center of ROC Midden Nederland, and the Centre of

Expertise on Smart Sustainable Cities at University of Applied Sciences Utrecht and its partners. These three institutions collaborate within the European SEED project.

The four days visit was closed with e reflection session, during which the participants reflected reflect on the lessons learned and relations to the Egyptian context. The participants made the following observations about the Dutch VET system and the engagement of the private sector:

- Strong cooperation between TVET and private sector at all levels
- Quality of teachers
- Autonomy of TVET providers
- Regular up-dating of curricula and training materials/approaches is possible at providers level
- Strong benefits from EU cooperation (and funding)
- Good image of and participation in TVET
- Strong confidence in and among students
- There is transparency in educational and career pathways
- Awareness among stakeholders on importance of cooperation and joint investment in skills
- Theory and practice are combined in all learning activities
- There are clear labour market perspectives for learners and they are well informed about it
- Private sector provides funding to schools (e.g. donation of equipment)

Next steps

In order to build on the lessons learned during the visit and apply these to the Egyptian context, two assignments were proposed and discussed. They represent the next steps of the capacity building process and will be carried out by the members of the SSC, are the following:

1. **Mapping of Labour Market Information resources: What information/data is needed and where to collect data that serves:**

- The description of labour market trends and skills demand in the sector and subsectors, and definition of occupations within the sector
- The development of occupational standards for the main occupations or specialisations in the Renewable Energy sector

2. **Mapping of training provision in the sector:**

- Identify the formal and non-formal technical education and or vocational training (non-university) programmes or specialisations (modules/minors) that you know are on offer in the RE sector

Annex: Detailed agenda of the peer learning visit to the Netherlands

Monday 10 February	Agenda Item
08:30 – 09:15	Welcome & Introduction to the programme ▪ Welcome by Pasqualino and Epke ▪ Introduction of participants ▪ Presentation of visit programme and practicalities
09:15 – 10.15	Introduction to the Dutch TVET and skills landscape Objective: to provide a broad understanding of the Dutch TVET system, enhancing contextualisation of the individual visits and sessions throughout the week
11:00 – 12:30	National body for Cooperation on Vocational Education, Training and the Labour Market (SBB) Objective: to introduce the institutional setting of TVET governance and its processes for TVET-private sector cooperation and explain the role and functioning of the Sector Committees (*Sectorkamers*) managed by SBB Q&A
13:15 – 14:15	The Dutch system for labour market information and skills monitoring at sectoral level Objective: Explain the institutional landscape and procedure for collecting, analysing and elaborating labour market and skills intelligence for their application in the TVET system. Q&A
14:15 – 16:00	SSC RE team reflection session Based on all the presentations and exchanges with SBB, the participants will be able to ask further questions and reflect on the lessons learned and relations to the Egyptian context.

Tuesday 11 February	Agenda Item
09:00 – 10:00	EBRD energy transition skills mapping project in Egypt Presentation by Skill Lab, supporting EBRD in the identification of the renewable energy sector occupations and related skills that are in-demand in Egypt. Q&A
10:00 – 12.30	SSC RE team training session on occupational standards

Tuesday 11 February	Agenda Item
	Objective: providing a good understanding of occupational standards applied in the Egyptian context
Afternoon	Leisure time

Wednesday 12 February	Agenda Item
09.30 – 14.30	Centre of Vocation Excellence T-Shore: Technical Skills for Harmonised Offshore Renewable Energy Several Dutch PPP in the Renewable Energy sector are engaged in the European Centres of Vocational Excellence programme. Objective: Understand and exchange with regional and local initiatives for ppp in the renewable energy sector.

Thursday 13 February	Agenda Item
09.30 – 10.15	Introduction to the Human Capital Agenda initiative of the Energy Innovation NL programme
10.15 – 12.00	Expertise Centre Renewable Energy of TVET College Midden Nederland Objective: Understand and exchange with regional and local initiatives for ppp in the renewable energy sector.
13.30 – 15.30	SEED: Sustainable Energy Education – EU project on Vocational Excellence in Renewable Energy Objective: Understand and exchange with regional and local initiatives for ppp in the renewable energy sector.
15.30 – 16.30	SSC RE team reflection session Based on all the presentations and exchanges, the participants are invited to reflect on the lessons learned and relations to the Egyptian context.