AGENDA

SKILLS FOR SMART SPECIALISATION – FORESIGHT ACTION IN RIVNE REGION ON "WOODWORKING AND FURNITURE MANUFACTURING"

MEETING 1: 10-11 FEBRUARY 2021, ONLINE VIA ZOOM

BACKGROUND

The smart specialisation approach is recognised as a strategic approach to increasing evidence-based public investment in order to foster growth and competitiveness at the regional level and improve citizens' well-being. As a result of its success, the European Commission has been sharing the benefits of the smart specialisation approach beyond EU borders, where, despite different framework conditions, it is seen as having potential for promoting decentralised and innovation-led economic transformation as well as fostering interregional and cross-border partnerships.

Vocational education and training (VET) and skills development have been recognised as framework conditions for innovation ecosystems. VET and skills are already partially reflected in the tools and methodologies that guide the design of smart specialisation strategies in the ETF partner countries. However, to fully connect VET to the broader drive for innovation, growth and competitiveness, in 2019 the ETF started to develop and test a practical guide for analysing the skills implications of smart specialisation strategies.

The ETF first tested the methodology in 2019. The first tests were implemented at national level in Montenegro (renewable energy and health tourism) and Moldova (renewable energy and food processing). In 2020, the methodology was tested at regional level in two pilot regions in Ukraine, Rivne (woodworking and furniture manufacturing) and Kharkiv (high-value added manufacturing). As a result of the testing, in 2021, the ETF is introducing two new elements to the methodology which will be applied in Rivne and Kharkiv regions: a foresight action and a peer learning partnership.

The foresight consists of five steps, all carried online due to the COVID19 pandemic (tentative dates in brackets).

■ STEP 1 is structured around a virtual meeting split into two half-day meetings with plenary sessions and group works aimed to exchange on drivers of change and scenario building on skills implications (10-11 February)
■ STEP 2 consists of an online consultation (questionnaire)focused on skills implications, expressed e.g. as priority occupations, qualifications and transversal skills. (17 February – 3 March)
■ Step 3 is a half-day technical meeting focused on priority needs for skills development to meet the emerging demand and policy implications. (10 March)
■ Step 4 is an online consultation (questionnaire), focused on system's implications e.g. planning, delivery, assessment of skills development; partnerships; school to work transitions, employability aspects; interinstitutional cooperation; centres of excellence etc. (15–29 March)
■ STEP 5 is structured as final meeting to validate and share findings. (22 April)

The first objective of the foresight action in Rivne region is to help policymakers, VET schools and centres, and businesses to anticipate change, prepare responses, and create more robust strategies to address skills needs of a priority area for smart specialisation.

The second objective of the foresight action is to lay the ground for peer learning with EU regions with matching smart specialisation priorities.

In order to reach these objectives, the foresight action seeks to bring into the discussion the broader regional development planning, business conditions and the external economic environment.

DAY 1 - 10 FEBRUARY 2021

Time (Ukraine, GMT+2)	Description of Sessions
10:00 – 10:30	**Welcome** ➤ Igor Garbaruk, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine ➤ Xavier Matheu de Cortada, Head of Knowledge Hub Department, ETF ➤ Petro Korgevskyi, Head of Department for Education and Science, Rivne Regional State Administration ➤ Oleksander Protsuyk, Rivne Smart Specialisation Team, Agency of regional development, Rivne
10:30 – 10:50	**Introduction** Meeting objectives and agenda ➤ Pirita Vuorinen, Specialist, ETF
10:50 – 11:10	**Session 1: Findings of the ETF analysis on skills implications of the 'Woodworking and furniture manufacturing' preliminary priority domain for smart specialisation, Rivne** ➤ Rodion Kolyshko, National Expert, ETF ➤ Mykola Sudakov, National Expert, ETF Q&A
11:10 – 11:55	**Session 2: Adressing current and future skills needs in the woodworking and furniture manufacturing sector** ➤ Hélène Overmeer and Tjalling Mulder, Hout- en Meubilerings College (HMC), the Netherlands Q&A
11:55 – 12:05	Break
12:05 – 12:55	**Session 3: External economic factors and regional drivers for change in Rivne region** ➤ Eva Jansova, Specialist, ETF Group work: two groups Reporting back
12:55 – 13:00	**Closure** ➤ Oleksander Protsuyk, Rivne Smart Specialisation Team, Agency of regional development, Rivne

DAY 2 - 11 FEBRUARY 2021

Time (Ukraine, GMT+2)	Description of Sessions
10:00 – 10:20	**Welcome** ➢ Oleksander Protsuyk, Rivne Smart Specialisation Team, Agency of regional development, Rivne ➢ Susanne Nielsen, Country Liaison for Ukraine, ETF
10:20 – 11:00	**Session 1: Adressing current and future skills needs in the woodworking and furniture manufacturing sector (continued)** ➢ Oksana Donska, Association of furniture manufacturers ➢ Mart Nilson, Manager of Centre of Competence for Wood Processing and Furniture Manufacturing, Võru County Vocational Training Center, Estonia Q&A
11:00 – 11:40	**Session 2: Skills implications by scenarios** ➢ Eva Jansova, Specialist, ETF Group work
11:40 – 11:50	Break
11:50 – 12:30	**Session 2: Skills implications by scenarios** (cont'd) ➢ Eva Jansova, Specialist, ETF Group work: Cont'd
12:30 – 12:45	**Next steps** ➢ Pirita Vuorinen, Specialist, ETF
12:45 – 13:00	**Closing** ➢ Rivne Regional State Administration (tbc) ➢ Oleksander Protsuyk, Rivne Smart Specialisation Team, Agency of regional development, Rivne ➢ Susanne Nielsen, Country Liaison for Ukraine, ETF