

## Annex: 6 Cooperation with Cedefop and Eurofound

### Cooperation between the ETF and Cedefop



#### Co-operation between the European Training Foundation and Cedefop

##### Progress Report 2012

Cedefop's mission is to support the development of European vocational education and training policies and contribute to their implementation. Cedefop works with the European Commission, the Member States and social partners and responds to their distinct needs as they develop and implement different aspects of European VET policy.

ETF operates under the framework of the EU's external relations policies and provides support to the European Commission and countries and territories outside the EU that receive assistance through the EU's Enlargement, Neighbourhood and Development and Co-operation policies.

Both Cedefop and ETF support the European commission in the field of vocational education and training in a lifelong learning context. The respective operations of Cedefop and ETF are distinguished by distinct mandates established by their Founding Regulations.

The differences in the operational focuses of Cedefop and the ETF are also delineated in the functions that they conduct under their mandates. The ETF carries out activities involving the following key actions: thematic and technical advice in human capital development to EU services (European Commission: DG Education and Culture, DG Enlargement, DG Development and Cooperation, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, DG Enterprise and Industry, DG Home Affairs; and the European External Action Service) and in support of the external relation programmes (IPA, ENPI, DCI) in programming and project cycle; policy advice to partner country governments and stakeholders on policy solutions appropriate to the problems they face and capacity building of key actors, including governments, in the field of education and training and employment. The ETF also disseminates information on approaches and trends in vocational education reform being followed in the EU. Cedefop aims to generate new insights and fill knowledge gaps undertaking strategic research and comparative analyses to support EU objectives in VET, providing policy advice to and raising awareness among stakeholders and the wider public. Cedefop's work aims to: (a) promoting European VET and lifelong

learning policy by providing evidence and analysis; and (b) strengthen European cooperation, by supporting Member States to implement common European tools and principles, share policy priorities, and exchange experience.

Without prejudicing the distinctive mandates and functions of either Cedefop or ETF, the shared focus on vocational education and training offers potential synergies through co-operation. Cedefop offers information and reports on EU experiences that can be useful to guide Candidate and neighbouring Countries on how they may be able to follow EU trends in education and training during the Enlargement process. Likewise, ETF's work supports Candidate Countries during reporting of progress being made under the Copenhagen process. More generally, Cedefop's work provides a pool of European research on vocational education and training policies that can be partially shared with partner countries and territories.

The potential for the synergies and complementarities is recognised in the Founding Regulations of both agencies. In particular, ETF's Council Regulation requires ETF and Cedefop to systematise their co-operation in the framework of a joint annual work programme annexed to their annual work programmes. This report is subsequently provided to the European Parliament as part of their annual reporting processes.

#### **Report of ETF – Cedefop Co-operation 2012**

During 2012, ETF and Cedefop further systematised their co-operation to maximise the benefits for their respective mandates. This resulted in co-operating for the 2012 reporting progress of Candidate Countries as part of the follow up of the Bruges communiqué on reinforcement of cooperation in VET, in organising a knowledge sharing seminar, collaboration in the area of qualifications development and implementation of the common EU instruments, in skill matching and anticipation.

#### **Progress in the implementation of the Bruges communiqué in Candidate countries**

In 2012, Cedefop's analysis of and reporting on VET policies focused on establishing an overview of progress with the 22 short-term deliverables agreed in the Bruges Communiqué, which constitute measures and means to reach the strategic goals set for European VET until 2020. Cedefop cooperated with ETF in the context of the Copenhagen working group on how to include progress of candidate countries in the synthesis report which was drafted by Cedefop on progress across the EU and in candidate countries. Cedefop drafted the fiches of progress per country and per deliverable, of the EU Member States as well as the synthesis describing progress across the EU and in candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey). ETF drafted the candidate countries fiches.



In addition, Candidate Countries that are involved in the Lifelong Learning programme (Croatia and Turkey) participated in the study visit programme of Cedefop on the same basis as Member States.

#### **Knowledge Sharing**

In 2012, the ETF and Cedefop conducted one knowledge sharing seminar. The event took place in Thessaloniki on 26 September 2012 and focused on the ETF's work on:  
a) the validation of qualifications and competences in the framework of migration and  
b) the good multilevel governance for VET.

#### **Qualifications Development**

As confirmed in the Bruges Communiqué, Cedefop and ETF have also cooperated to integrate and align their analyses of NQF developments into a world-wide overview of developments to be prepared in cooperation with UNESCO in 2013. Cedefop will cover the EU2020 countries, ETF the partner countries and UNESCO the third countries developments. During 2012 Cedefop was involved in the development of the ETF Qualifications Platform which is a communication tool on qualifications and framework developments worldwide. ETF also contributed to the Cedefop monitoring of National qualifications frameworks development in Europe (covering 36 countries) by providing information on Croatia, Turkey, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

#### **Skills matching and anticipation**

Since April 2012, Cedefop and ETF are establishing members of the Interagency group on "Greening TVET and skills development" together with UNEVOC, OECD, ILO and other international agencies. The Inter-agency Working Group meets on a regular basis with the aim to enhance cooperation among members by building on on-going projects and activities.

Cedefop and ETF together with ILO also engaged in a joint venture to publish series of guides on skills anticipation and matching. The first three guides, under the leadership of ETF will cover skills mismatch analysis, intermediary agencies (with emphasis on Public Employment Services) in skills matching anticipation and matching at sectoral level. A fourth guide under the leadership of Cedefop will cover macro-level anticipation. All guides will be published in 2013.

In many events ETF and Cedefop coordinated their participation and contributions. Examples include: ETF is represented in the new thematic working group on professional development of trainers in VET set up by the Commission with coordination support from Cedefop. ETF also participated in the Refernet plenary meeting (Thessaloniki, 16-17 October 2012) that focused on policy reporting

activities. ETF contributed to Cedefop workshop on "The role of qualifications in governing the labour market", Thessaloniki 26-27 September 2012.

#### Administrative Co-operation

In line with the joint work programme for 2012, co-operation also took place at the administrative level, when applicable<sup>1</sup>.



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<sup>1</sup> participation of ETF Human Resource staff in Cedefop's recruitment panels