



European Training Foundation

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER 2020 UPDATE: ALGERIA



A BRIEF SUMMARY OF KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN VET AND SKILLS AND EU AND DONOR COOPERATION DURING 2018–19

Since February 2019, Algeria has been in the midst of important socio-political turmoil. Political, social and economic conditions have led to a series of spontaneous demonstrations in different parts of the country, which progressively reached the capital of the country and started to grow in size, although they remained generally peaceful and organised.

The protests led to the decision of the President of the Republic not to stand for the fifth time for elections and he finally resigned from his position in April 2019. The protests did not stop and the population asked for a new election law and amendments to the constitution. The date initially foreseen for the elections, planned for 4th July 2019, was put on hold and a new date is yet to be confirmed.

A new Prime Minister was tasked, between March and April 2019, with forming a new government. Negotiations were difficult and long; however, they did manage to set up a new government, temporarily in place until the elections now planned for 12th December 2019.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Ministers as well as Labour Ministers were replaced.

Important reforms will need to be put in place and acted upon in order to address economic stagnation, the country's economy being dominated by the state and heavily relying on hydrocarbons. It is also characterised by low competitiveness and productivity. Unemployment and inactivity rates are high, in particular among young people and women, a situation that may worsen as a consequence of the decrease in state funding to support employability.

Developments in the socio-political and economic situation will have to be followed closely in order to define the strategic approach in international cooperation, including for the European Training Foundation (ETF) who is primarily present in Algeria in support of European Union (EU) interventions.

Only a few international organisations are active in the VET sector, where the main donor is the EU. The International Labour Organization manages a British-funded project, From University to the Labour Market (*Tawdifi*), which addresses skills mismatch and labour market analysis, focusing primarily on university graduates. A second phase of this project was due to start in 2019, with a view to enlarging activities to include specific measures to increase employability (such as complementary training) and to include jobseekers with medium-level skills and qualifications. In parallel, the EU programme aiming at harmonising training, employment and qualifications (AFEQ) is progressing well, with satisfactory results at the local level (pilot governorates or Wilayas). Implementation of activities in the current unstable and fragile country context may put at risk the sustainability of results. Related mitigating measures should be defined and the risks constantly monitored.



The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ, a German development agency) started a new programme in 2019, focusing on renewable energies and the integration of green skills into the curricula, in parallel with strengthening practice-oriented education, focusing on higher levels of qualifications.

In 2018, the British Council launched a reflection group among donors and ongoing projects in the field of employment and employability. The meetings do not take place regularly but they represent a first step to coordinating efforts, which is an important need, especially in Algeria where the country is opening up to a new phase of international cooperation.

AN ASSESSMENT OF MID-TERM PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ETF'S 2020 OBJECTIVES

Specific objective 1: support the EU delegation in the programming cycle associated with objective 2 of the current EU–Algeria single support framework (labour market and employment)

In 2018 and 2019, the ETF helped monitor the implementation of the AFEQ (*Adequation Formation Emploi et Qualifications*) programme by advising the EU delegation on content and methodology of the programme's deliverables.

In 2019, and in line with the objective, the ETF contributed to the design of a new project to foster employability of young people in the tourism sector and its value chain. In this framework, the ETF will also be requested to carry out the content and methodological advice of the project.

In 2018, as part of a complementary action of the ETF Forum on Quality Assurance in VET, the ETF supported the INFEP (*Institut National de Formation et Enseignement Professionnels* – National VET Institute), the focal point of the Forum in Algeria, to prepare a TAIX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) request for the organisation of a seminar to kick off discussions for the setting up of a Quality Assurance System for VET in Algeria.

Specific objective 2: support the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security and the National Employment Agency in capacity building and coaching to contextualise and apply methodologies and tools for local labour market analysis

Activities under this objective were finalised and closed in 2018.

Specific objective 3: roll out the Torino Process 2019–20

Algeria is participating in the Torino Process (TRP) for the first time in the 2019–20 edition. The focal point of the TRP in Algeria is the INFEP (see above), within which a small working group has been



appointed to implement the process. Results of the national report for Algeria were expected by the end of the year 2019.

Other activities

Algeria, through the INFEP as a focal point nominated by the minister, carried out a survey on continuing professional development of teachers and trainers. The survey report was expected to be ready in August 2019 and the presentation of results in September 2019. However, due to delays related to the manual processing of questionnaires, the holiday period and some other technical issues, the report will be submitted by the end of 2019 and the presentation of results in a workshop in Algeria will take place in the beginning of 2020, most probably back to back with the TRP event (date to be agreed).

Algeria also participated in the mapping of VET Centres of Excellence in the beginning of 2019.

ACTIONS PLANNED FOR 2020

The ETF will mainly support the EU delegation and implement the TRP activities.

Specific objective 1: support the EU delegation in the programming cycle associated with objective 2 of the single support framework (labour market and employment)

In 2020, the ETF will continue to assist the EU delegation in the content monitoring of the AFEQ project.

The ETF will also provide assistance to the INFEP in the area of quality assurance and in the framework of the TAIEX seminar and follow-up actions that are expected to start in 2020.

The ETF will be requested to assist the EU delegation in the preparation of the implementation arrangements of the new EU programme to enhance employability of young people in the tourism sector and its value chain. The support will include content and methodological advice to the EU delegation on the programme, once implementation has begun. An official request has already been addressed to the ETF by the EU delegation.

The results of the survey on continuing professional development will be shared with the EU delegation as an input for future programming.



Specific objective 2: support the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Social Security and the National Employment Agency in capacity building and coaching to contextualise and apply methodologies and tools for local labour market analysis

This objective is not applicable for this time period.

Specific objective 3: roll out the Torino Process 2019–20

In 2020, the ETF will conclude their assessment on human capital development in Algeria, based on the TRP national report, expected to be finalised in early 2020. The results of the TRP assessment will be presented at an event planned to take place in Algeria in the first half of 2020.

Other activities

Algeria is an active member of the ETF Forum for Quality Assurance, and activities will continue in 2020 (see links with the TAIEX under specific objective 1 above).

Dissemination of the results of the survey on continuing professional development will be postponed to the beginning of 2020 as this could not take place in 2019.

Given the interest of Algeria in VET Centres of Excellence, the country is expected to participate in the ETF project activities.

Algeria will be involved as a member of the Communities of Practice, as a follow-up of the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration signed after the Ministerial Conference on Skills and Labour, held in Cascais, in April 2019.

