



European Training Foundation

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER 2020 UPDATE: EGYPT



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

The Executive Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, established by decree in 2014, exists on paper but is not yet operational. As such, the issue of fragmentation of technical vocational education and training (TVET) has not been addressed.

Nevertheless, the institutional set-up of TVET in Egypt has undergone changes. As announced by President el-Sisi in September 2018, a new quality assurance and accreditation agency will be established for TVET (ETQAAN). In addition, a teacher training academy will be created for TVET under the working title TVETA.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education (MoETE) started developing a reform strategy called Technical Education 2.0 to review the governance and management of secondary technical education and to establish a public/private partnership model based on five main reform pillars, namely quality assurance, competence-based training, teacher training, centres of excellence and visibility.

In parallel, an educational path through technological universities has been introduced. In the medium term, the government plans to establish eight technological universities.

A new Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency was created. The Industrial and Training Council, the Social Fund for Development and technology centres under the Education Development Fund merged.

The EU–Egypt Partnership Priorities (2017–20) address common challenges facing the European Union (EU) and Egypt, to promote joint interests and guarantee long-term stability. The priorities are guided by a shared commitment to the universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and will reinforce cooperation on Egypt’s Sustainable Development Strategy: Vision 2030.

The EU-supported programme, TVET II, has been renamed TVET Egypt and has been extended until 2021. It supports revision of the governance model, TVET curricula updates and school-to-work transition reforms.

Apart from the EU, the main donors in the TVET sector are the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ, a German development agency). USAID is finalising its Workforce Improvement and Skills Enhancement (WISE) programme. The programme focuses on improving technical secondary education and skills to meet labour market needs. A new programme is under preparation, to build on WISE achievements. GIZ is active in the country, with two main interventions: the Employment Promotion Project (EPP) and support for the Egyptian dual system. The EPP centres on policy advice



for the MoETE, private sector participation in TVET, management of the transition from school to employment, and labour market-oriented training. Negotiations are ongoing between the MoETE and the German government on interventions to support education and TVET reforms. They should be finalised in 2019.

Against the background of the various reform programmes, an increased effort of donor coordination has been demonstrated in the TVET subsector in 2019. This should ensure mutual cooperation between the various ongoing programmes and alignment of the new programmes to the governmental reform plans.

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

Specific objective 1: support the EU Delegation and Egyptian stakeholders in operationalisation and implementation of TVET Egypt through regular content monitoring and policy advice

The European Training Foundation (ETF) has advised on TVET Egypt content and methodology since 2016, with the latest content monitoring report submitted in June 2019. As the Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) faced challenges in delivering the expected results, ETF policy advice has been crucial to repositioning the programme. More effective dialogue has been established with the new PIU and most ETF recommendations have been considered. TVET Egypt has been extended until 2021 and the original deliverables are being revised. Negotiations are ongoing between PIU management and the MoETE to align TVET Egypt activities with the Ministry's reform initiatives.

The main TVET Egypt implementation risks concern sustainability and the capacity to address the system's strategic governance. Without an institutional home, a solid base for sustainability is lacking. Nevertheless, the programme has made significant progress by setting up key processes, such as a curriculum development framework. However, delays in programme implementation and a still fragmented TVET system run the risk of reforms remaining unfinished by the end of the programme. For example, a labour market information system has been established, but an institutional host for the system has not yet been selected. The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the PIU must find ways to cooperate with ongoing or planned initiatives to ensure reform implementation. The development of strategic TVET governance depends on the political and institutional framework and openness to a revised governance structure for the sector. New developments such as the anticipated ETQAAN, TVETA and the launch of the Technical Education 2.0 reform create a new policy environment and a potential landing place for the key processes instigated under TVET Egypt.



Specific objective 2: increase probability of TVET Egypt success with ad hoc short-term interventions in areas outside the programme

In 2018, the Deputy Minister of TVET requested ETF support in conceptualising the Quality Assurance entity (ETQAAN). In December 2018, the ETF hosted a high-level delegation of key stakeholders and donors to discuss this subject at the ETF offices in Turin. In 2019, the ETF has continued to support the TVET reform processes through, for example, facilitating the coordination between the MoETE and its main donors in Ain Sokhna in March 2019.

As the reform programmes also touch upon the areas of intervention targeted by TVET Egypt, the ETF takes the reform into account during the content monitoring of the programme and provides additional support to complement the programme.

In April 2019, the ETF launched the fifth edition of the Torino Process, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MoETE and the main public and private TVET stakeholders.

ACTIONS PLANNED FOR 2020

Specific objective 1: support the EU Delegation and Egyptian stakeholders in operationalisation and implementation of TVET Egypt through regular content monitoring and policy advice

The ETF will advise the EU Delegation and the PIU on content and methodology as part of the TVET Egypt content monitoring exercise. The methodological approach used in 2019 will be maintained for 2020 activities with an increased focus on sustainability, the programme's exit strategy and its contribution to the TVET reforms.

At the request of the European Commission or the EU Delegation, the ETF will support EU–Egypt policy dialogue with input for bilateral subcommittee meetings, monitoring of European Neighbourhood Policy action plans and delivery of annual country fiches to the Directorate-General for Employment.

Specific objective 2: increase probability of TVET Egypt success with ad hoc short-term interventions in areas outside the programme

At the request of the Deputy Minister of TVET, the ETF will continue providing policy advice and support for the framework on the ongoing TVET reforms, including setting up a quality assurance agency and a teacher training academy, as well as the five pillars of the Technical Education 2.0 reform strategy. The form and duration of the eventual ETF support will be discussed with all stakeholders in 2020 to ensure that its support complements the ongoing programmes and focuses on ETF's added value in terms of policy development and its regional vantage point.



In 2020, the fifth edition of the Egypt Torino Process report is expected to be completed. Content monitoring of TVET Egypt and the Torino Process analysis will contribute to identifying priorities for upcoming programming cycles of the EU and other donors.

Last but not least, the ETF intends to continue playing the role of broker, facilitating the coordination between the MoETE and its key donors and their alignment to the government of Egypt's VET reform programmes.

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

Other activities

Egypt is a member of the ETF Forum for Quality Assurance, and activities will continue in 2020.

Egypt 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.

