



European Training Foundation

COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER 2020 UPDATE: JORDAN



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

In March 2019, the parliament adopted a new Technical and Vocational Skills Development Law. This law introduces major changes in the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system in Jordan and its governance. It sets up a new financially autonomous body called the Commission for Technical and Vocational Skills Development. Among other mandates, the Commission will accredit and supervise all TVET providers and their programmes, as well as evaluate and control their performance. These programmes include vocational secondary education, vocational training in the apprenticeship system, vocational and technical training and continuous training.

A council shall be formed in the Commission, called the Technical and Vocational Skills Development Council, chaired by the Minister of Labour and composed of five representatives of ministries or public institutions and eight representatives of the private sector appointed by their organisations. It is worth noting that the General Federation of Trade Unions is not represented in this council.

The law establishes a fund – the Technical and Vocational and Skills Development Activities Support Fund – which aims to employ individuals, families, poor or low-income groups and those who are unemployed and enable them to engage in work and production. The fund shall finance TVET programmes and activities, training programmes linked with employment and production branches (satellite units). This new fund substitutes the current TVET fund.

The current E-TVET fund and Centre of Accreditation and Quality Assurance will operate under the supervision of the Commission.

Many donors are active in TVET. Mapping carried out by the Ministry of Labour with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ, a German development agency) found that there are 38 employment and skills development projects underway in Jordan, with funding of EUR 335 million contributed by a dozen agencies. Other vocational training and skills development activities are part of broader programmes, such as relief agency projects for Syrian refugees in Jordan.

The European Union (EU) is supporting the TVET system in Jordan through a EUR 54 million Sector Reform Performance Contract: Skills for Employment and Social Inclusion Programme. The programme is composed of a budget support component consisting of disbursements based on indicators and targets and two complementary measures comprising technical assistance (TA) and a grant scheme. With the release of the last tranche in 2019, only the complementary measures will remain until June 2020.

In terms of cooperation with donors and international agencies, the European Training Foundation (ETF) has signed a Letter of Intent with the GIZ to support the implementation of MOVE HET, a GIZ project. The cooperation will cover the following areas: public/private partnerships, work-based learning and permeability and qualifications framework.

Similarly, the ETF is finalising a Letter of Intent with DVV International (the Institute for International Cooperation of the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband, the German Adult Education Association, hereafter DVV) to cooperate in the development of the national Vision of Adult Education in Jordan.

Finally, the ETF is providing support to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in the design of a sector skills strategy for the tourism sector.

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

Specific objective 1: Support to the EU Delegation in monitoring and policy dialogue on the EU Sector Reform Performance Contract to increase its effectiveness and efficiency

In March 2019, the ETF carried out a pre-assessment of the disbursement indicators of the last year of the EU programme Skills for Employment and Social Inclusion. The report contains some recommendations on further support for the programme related TA in case an extension of this is approved.

The ETF provided support to the TA project in the organisation of a study visit for a group of Jordanian stakeholders to Morocco.

Specific objective 2: Advice Jordan in developing and using labour market intelligence, methodologies and tools to aid employment and TVET policymaking

The ETF is no longer working on this objective. The technical assistance component of the EU programme is currently covering this topic.

ACTIONS PLANNED FOR 2020

Specific objective 1: Support to the EU Delegation in monitoring and policy dialogue on the EU SRPC to increase its effectiveness and efficiency

On request, the ETF will advise the EU Delegation on implementation of complementary measures of the Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC). The ETF will support the technical assistance project in aspects related to social partnership and the labour market and potentially in the areas of continuous professional development, qualifications and grant schemes. It may assist in the design of a new EU intervention in the sector.

The ETF has been asked by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations to assess sector strategy progress, relevance and credibility in relation to budget support.

If requested by the European Commission or the EU Delegation, the ETF will support EU–Jordan policy dialogue with inputs to European Neighbourhood Policy action plan monitoring and bilateral subcommittee meetings, delivery of annual country fiches to the Director-General of Employment and follow-up on the Mobility Partnership.

Torino Process results will inform future EU interventions in the VET sector.

Specific objective 2: roll out the Torino Process 2019–20

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

Other activities

Jordan has been an active member of the ETF Forum for Quality Assurance; however, due to changes of focus and governance rearrangements, it has been difficult to involve Jordan at the same level as in the past. In 2020, the ETF will seek to encourage and strengthen engagement in the Forum or a decision should be made on the modalities and opportunities for their future participation.

Given the interest of Jordan in the VET Centres of Excellence, their participation in the ETF project activities may be envisaged.

Jordan 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.

In addition to the above and following the signature of the Letters of Intent with the GIZ, the ETF will provide thematic input and contributions to the implementation of specific actions jointly agreed, particularly in the areas of public/private partnerships, permeability and work-based learning. A possible Letter of Intent is under discussion to be signed with DVV to provide support in the field of adult education, in which DVV is working with the Ministry of Labour to set up a strategy for adult education.

Coordination with the EBRD to follow up on the cooperation action plan will continue in 2020, in particular through ETF involvement in the work done by EBRD on the sector skills council.

Enabel (a Belgian development agency) discussed the potential participation of the ETF with thematic input for a conference on work-based learning that Enabel will organise in February 2020 in Amman.