

FLASH REPORT

Event name

MAPPING OF DIGITAL SKILLS & COMPETENCE AND DIGITAL & ONLINE LEARNING IN VET IN ARMENIA, 19 NOVEMBER, ONLINE

Main objective/s

The European Commission's Digital Education Action Plan 2018-20 highlights the need for education and training systems to address the digital skills and competence (DSC) gap and to adopt digital learning (DOL) options to enrich the learning experience and help students to learn how to use technology in creative, collaborative and proactive ways.

In February 2020 ETF has launched an initiative on mapping policies and practices in Digital Skills and Competences (DSC) and Digital and on-line learning (DOL) in VET in three countries of Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. The initiative aims to inform post-2020 national digital education policies, identify and scale-up existing good practices based on the use of digital technologies in VET in the country.

The ETF methodology included a desk research implemented by the national expert under the guidance of the ETF and a series of interviews with relevant stakeholders in Armenia. This resulted in the development of the factsheet which has been shared with the the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports and with the Ministry of High Tech Industry for their information and comments.

The aim of the present webinar was

- Inform DSC-DOL policies and practices in VET in Armenia;
- Receive feedback on preliminary findings;
- Kick-off a stakeholders' discussion on priorities for DSC-DOL in VET in Armenia.

Upon finalisation the factsheet will be translated to national language and published at the ETF website.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The programme included opening session with short welcomes from the key stakeholders; followed by presentation by the ETF Senior expert on digital skills and learning on the background of the initiative and methodology of mapping. Then presentation of the findings of mapping by national expert, followed by questions and answers session. After that four break-out groups were held to discuss: 1) Priorities for development of digital skills and competences of students in VET? 2) How can the system of continuing professional development be improved for better quality of digital skills and competences for VET teachers? 3) Priorities for digital and online learning (DOL) in IVET and CVET? Results of the discussions were presented by rapporteurs. Closing wrap-up session outlined main conclusions and next steps. The webinar was attended by 40 participants.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

Wide participation of the relevant stakeholders and lively discussions during break-out groups confirmed importance and relevance of the topic. The presented report outlined challenges and recommendations to move forward the agenda of further development of digital skills and digital and online learning. In addition other key issues have been identified during break-out groups. Among others: strengthening of the continuing professional development of teachers of VET to provide better digital skills; raise awareness and attractiveness of DOL among VET teachers and students; legal framework to deliver online training, involving social partners is crucial; ethics should be included when implementing digital tools / strategies; Importance of toolkits to support practitioners.

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