

FLASH REPORT

Event name

**MAPPING OF DIGITAL SKILLS & COMPETENCE AND DIGITAL & ONLINE LEARNING
IN VET IN AZERBAIJAN, 12 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. 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, is also a focus of the Action Plan. The European Commission launched several initiatives in Eastern Europe, including the EU4Digital network as part of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Platforms.

In February 2020 ETF started an initiative on mapping policies and practices in Digital Skills and Competences (DSC) and Digital and online learning (DOL) in VET in three countries of Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. This 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 Factsheet on Digital Skills and Competences (DSC) and Digital and online learning (DOL) in VET in Azerbaijan has been prepared and shared with the State Agency for VET for their information and comments. The ETF methodology included a desk research implemented by the national expert, and a series of interviews with relevant stakeholders in Azerbaijan. Under the guidance of the ETF and in consultation with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders in Azerbaijan, key messages and conclusions now feature the Factsheet..

Part of the ETF methodology is also a Webinar, which aims to present and discuss this Factsheet with relevant stakeholders to validate the findings of mapping of policies and initiatives in four interlinked areas: provision of digital skills and competence (DSC) for VET learners (section 1); for VET teachers (section 2), the use of digital and online learning (DOL) in IVET (section 3) and CVET (section 4).

Upon finalization, the Factsheet will be translated to Azerbaijani language, and will be available to wider audience through the ETF website and ETF OpenSpace.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The programme of the event included an opening session with short welcomes from the key stakeholders- State Agency for VET under the Ministry of Education, EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, ETF Country Coordinator for Azerbaijan. Followed by a presentation by the ETF Senior expert on digital skills and learning laying down the background of the initiative and presenting methodology of mapping. Then the presentation of the findings of mapping by national expert, followed by questions and answers session. Four break-out groups were held to discuss:

1. What are the priorities for the development of digital skills and competences of students in VET?
2. How can the system of continuing professional development be improved for the better quality of digital skills and competences for VET teachers?
3. What are the priorities for digital and online learning (DOL) in IVET?
4. What are the priorities for digital and online learning (DOL) in CVET?

Rapporteurs presented the results of the discussions. Finally, the event was closed with wrap-up sessions outlining main conclusions and next steps. Sixty-six participants attended the Webinar.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

The active and numerous participation at the event witnessed high interest in digital education policies, which is also subject of several on-going national initiatives.

The feedback provided from participations suggests that while great attention is paid in Azerbaijan to DOL in general education, it is equally important to address the challenges in IVET and CVET. Focusing also on the needs of adults for DOL is one of the key priorities.

The successful delivery of the event reinforces the ETF country's network, further connects with DG NEAR EU4Digital initiatives and paves the planned national pilot of SELFIE in the country in 2021.

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