

# FLASH REPORT

## Event name

**MAPPING OF DIGITAL SKILLS & COMPETENCE AND DIGITAL & ONLINE LEARNING IN VET IN BELARUS, 15 OCTOBER 2020, 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. 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 aimed to inform post-2020 national digital education policies and 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 Belarus has been prepared by national expert under the guidance of the ETF and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Republican Institute of Vocational Education (RIPO). Part of the ETF methodology is also a webinar, which aimed 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 Russian 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 welcome from the ETF Country Coordinator for Belarus. 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. The programme also included three break-out groups 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 and CVET?

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

## KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

The active and numerous participation in the event witnessed high interest and relevance of the topic of digital skills and digital and online learning. Lively discussions have been held during break-out groups. The participants outlined priorities and suggestions for development of DSC of learners and teachers and of DOL in IVET and CVET. Among others the following were mentioned:

Creation of modern technical infrastructure; Define minimum list of DOL tools which students should master; Development of introductory course for all the students to learn how to use platforms for distance education; Defining structure and content of digital competence of teachers. Systematic approach to CPD of teachers taking into account their workload. Creation of digital platform for accumulation and sharing experiences of teachers in digital and online learning. Support to initiatives of teachers. Improving mechanisms of interaction with private providers of educational services. Monitoring of the progress, self-assessment, assessment of needs in development of DSC; To simplify procedures for contractual agreements between a learner and a provider of training, to make them paper-free.

**ETF contact person/s**

*Alessandro Brogioni, Senior expert in Digital skills and digital and online learning*

*Inna Dergunova, Project Officer*

**ETF Country Coordinator**

*Margareta Nikolovska, Country Coordinator for Azerbaijan*