

FLASH REPORT

Event name

EDUCATION AND TRAINING DEVELOPMENTS IN AZERBAIJAN: SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME AND PRESENTATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE TORINO PROCESS 2018 - 2020 FINDINGS - Baku, Azerbaijan, 28 and 29 November 2019

Main objective(s)

The objectives of the event were the following:

- *Discuss the key issues and recommendations of the ETF assessment*
- *Identify specific actions to address the recommendations (both short quick-wins and long-term actions)*
- *Present and discuss the ETF findings of the content monitoring mission implemented in the regions of Ganja and Jalilabad*
- *Address common challenges and opportunities that the EC VET modernization grants have encountered in their implementation*
- *Draw recommendations for future actions*

The workshop is part of the European Vocational Skills Week, and the objective is to promote the value of VET.

Background

In 2018 2020 cycle, full ownership of the Torino process is with the national key stakeholders, and the process is led by State Agency for Vocational Education under the Ministry of Education. The focus is on wider Human Capital Development, covering Education, Training, skills and Life-Long Learning touches upon a number of policy domains. Improving human capital is vital, in the context of diversification of oil based economy in Azerbaijan. The foreseen diversification of the economy requires a modernised VET system, and full renewal of the system is high on the Government agenda.

EU is a crucial strategic partner to Azerbaijan and provides substantial support to education and training. The EU Education Support Programme 2014 contributes with a total budget of €19 MEUR to the sector. The European Training Foundation (ETF) is supporting the EU Delegation and partners in Azerbaijan with the content and methodological advice.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

This two days workshop gathered about 80 participants, representing all the key stakeholders in VET in the country, EU Delegation, and international donors. The role of VET, is becoming very important, as it has impact on the implementation of high level objectives for growth and sustainable development, through diversified economy. The Deputy Minister of Education, EU Ambassador, Director of the State Agency for Vocational Education of Azerbaijan addressed the audience in the opening of the meeting.

The programme was designed to boost interactivity and encourage active participation and sharing from all participants. Sharing lessons learned from the EU projects implementation in VET sector, was important part of the event. ETF presented its findings of monitoring mission implemented in Jalilabad and Ganja. The relevant discussion is about the future of Human Capital development policies in lifelong learning context, and which skills and knowledge should be acquired through it.

KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

Preliminary findings of the ETF assessment have been presented, with a focus on Human Capital Development trends. ETF assessment gives an external view to the country authorities on the situation with VET and Human Capital Development. The purpose is to provide a reliable source of information for planning and monitoring national education and training policies for human capital development, as well as for programming and policy dialogue in support of these policies by the European Union and other donors. In this context, human capital, is understood as knowledge, skills, talents and abilities that foster people's economic, social and personal development.

ETF assessment identified the following key human capital development issues in Azerbaijan: shortages of skills due to low participation in VET, waste of human capital due to youth unemployment, and limited human capital development opportunities for adults. As the primary goal of the government is to speed up economic diversification, maintain rapid growth in the non-oil sector, increase competitiveness, and expand export opportunities, the dialogue on human capital is very timely for Azerbaijan. The key policy recommendations identified to address the issues can be summarized as follows:

- Need to improve the attractiveness of VET by prioritising it in all investments in human capital development*
- Need to improve coordination of policies for human capital development through VET*
- Need to improve the relevance of VET for human capital development through external stakeholder involvement*
- Need to raise the quality of opportunities for human capital development by improving the conditions of professional staff working in VET*
- Need to reinforce the capacity of public authorities to work with evidence*
- Need to introduce services and training offers in support of labour market participation which are more youth-friendly*
- Need to strengthen the quality and relevance of early career guidance in secondary education and VET in particular*
- Need to prioritise the expansion of adult education opportunities and the collection of evidence on participation in adult education.*

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ETF Torino Process

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