

## FLASH REPORT

### Event name

**FINANCING OF VET SCHOOLS IN MONTENEGRO – PEER LEARNING WORKSHOP**, 23 October 2019, Podgorica, Montenegro

### Main objective/s

The objective of the workshop was twofold:

- (i) To present, discuss and validate a description of the current VET financing system prepared by the ETF consultants;
- (ii) To present alternative models from Estonia and Slovenia and to discuss whether these examples could inspire the development of the future VET financing reform in Montenegro;
- (iii) To discuss needs and identify possible next steps for reforming the financing of VET schools in Montenegro.

### Background

The review and report of VET school financing in Montenegro has been undertaken at the request of the Montenegrin Ministry of Education (MoE) to the European Training Foundation (ETF) in 2019 to reflect upon the financing modalities for Vocational Education and Training (VET) schools. This is the first stage of that process to present a description of the VET financing system with some short and longer-term recommendations and reflection of reforms.

### SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The participants in the event were representatives of the Ministry of Education in Montenegro, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Labour, VET Centre, Chamber of Economy, VET providers from Podgorica and other cities in Montenegro, such as Kotor, Nikšić, Cetinje, Berane and Bar, as well as VET providers from EU Member States, Estonia and Slovenia, and ETF national and international consultants.

The event was divided into 3 sessions:

- (i) Description of the current VET system with discussion;
- (ii) Presentation of the Estonian and Slovenian systems;
- (iii) Group analysis and recommendations for VET funding reform, recommendations and improvement.

The day opened with a presentation from the Head of the VET Directorate in the Ministry of Education and Science, followed by the ETF representative. The current VET funding system in Montenegro was presented by the ETF consultants, with a view to verify information collected and processed into the draft analysis, and to introduce some discussion topics.

The second session provided the presentations from the Estonian and Slovenian VET school directors. The follow-up discussion focused on the funding principles guiding the system : i.e. placing the learner at the centre of the funding system; collecting and monitoring data to assess VET costs and quality; an expectation that VET Directors are accountable for the management of their schools; and a financing system operating on the basis of transparency).

The final session was designed to generate focussed dicussions among participants in parallel workshops, aiming at establishing some VET financing recommendations for the development of the Montenegrin VET strategy (2020-2024). The framework of the discussion was: a) Reforms to the current VET funding system which could be achieved without legislation; and b) A longer-term strategy for funding reform.

### KEY OUTCOMES/CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the analyses of the expert team, and on suggestions provided by some stakeholders and the disussions at the event, a set of **short-term** and **long-term** recommendations were formulated and made available to decision makers for their national follow up.

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