



Co-operation between the European Training Foundation and Cedefop

Progress Report 2013

Cedefop's mission is to support the development of European vocational education and training policies and contribute to their implementation. Cedefop works with the European Commission, the Member States and social partners and responds to their distinct needs as they develop and implement different aspects of European VET policy.

ETF operates under the framework of the EU's external relations policies and provides support to the European Commission and countries and territories outside the EU that receive assistance through the EU's Enlargement, Neighbourhood and Development and Co-operation policies.

Both Cedefop and ETF support the European commission in the field of vocational education and training in a lifelong learning context. The respective operations of Cedefop and ETF are distinguished by distinct mandates established by their Founding Regulations.

The differences in the operational focuses of Cedefop and the ETF are also delineated in the functions that they conduct under their mandates. The ETF carries out activities involving the following key actions: thematic and technical advice in human capital development to EU services (European Commission: DG Education and Culture, DG Enlargement, DG Development and Cooperation, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, DG Enterprise and Industry, DG Home Affairs; and the European External Action Service) and in support of the external relation programmes (IPA, ENPI, DCI) in programming and project cycle; policy advice to partner country governments and stakeholders on policy solutions appropriate to the problems they face and capacity building of key actors, including governments, in the field of education and training and employment. The ETF also disseminates information on approaches and trends in vocational education reform being followed in the EU. Cedefop aims to generate new insights and fill knowledge gaps undertaking strategic research and comparative analyses to support EU objectives in VET, providing policy advice to and raising awareness among stakeholders and the wider public. Cedefop's work aims to: (a) promoting European VET and lifelong

learning policy by providing evidence and analysis; and (b) strengthen European cooperation, by supporting Member States to implement common European tools and principles, share policy priorities, and exchange experience.

Without prejudicing the distinctive mandates and functions of either Cedefop or ETF, the shared focus on vocational education and training offers potential synergies through co-operation. Cedefop offers information and reports on EU experiences that can be useful to guide Candidate and neighbouring Countries on how they may be able to follow EU trends in education and training during the Enlargement process. Likewise, ETF's work supports Candidate Countries during reporting of progress being made under the Copenhagen process. More generally, Cedefop's work provides a pool of European research on vocational education and training policies that can be partially shared with partner countries and territories.

The potential for the synergies and complementarities is recognised in the Founding Regulations of both agencies. In particular, ETF's Council Regulation requires ETF and Cedefop to systematise their co-operation in the framework of a joint annual work programme annexed to their annual work programmes. This report is subsequently provided to the European Parliament as part of their annual reporting processes.

Report of ETF – Cedefop Co-operation 2013

During 2013, ETF and Cedefop further systematised their co-operation to maximise the benefits for their respective mandates. This resulted in co-operating for the 2013 reporting progress of Candidate Countries as part of the follow up of the Bruges communiqué on reinforcement of cooperation in VET, in organising a knowledge sharing seminar, collaboration in the area of qualifications development and implementation of the common EU instruments, in skill matching and anticipation.

Progress in the implementation of the Bruges communiqué in Candidate countries

Cedefop and the ETF cooperated in 2013 to update country fiches and deliverable fiches for all participating countries in the implementation of the Bruges communiqué and provide further analysis for the European Commission.

In addition, Candidate Countries that are involved in the Lifelong Learning programme (Croatia for the first semester of 2013 and Turkey) participated in the study visit programme of Cedefop on the same basis as Member States.

Knowledge Sharing

In 2013, the ETF and Cedefop conducted one knowledge sharing seminar. The event took place in Thessaloniki on 25 April 2013 and focused on the ETF's work on: a)

Croatia and b) work-based learning. The second knowledge sharing seminar was postponed to 2014.

In cooperation with ETF work started to integrate Croatia in ReferNet and in Cedefop's reporting exercise. In June 2013, Cedefop made a presentation at the 'hand-over' conference in Zagreb. Based on a request by the European Commission, Cedefop and ETF jointly prepared the draft for a Spotlight on VET in Croatia on the occasion of its accession to the EU which was disseminated at the DGVT meeting in autumn. ETF participated to the annual Refernet plenary meeting that took place in Thessaloniki on 5 and 6 November 2013. The plenary meeting was preceded by an induction meeting for the new Croatian and Danish partners.

ETF also participated to Cedefop's workshop 'Apprenticeship: governance modes and financing approaches' that took place in Thessaloniki on 20-21 May 2013.

Cedefop organised with ETF (also with Eurofound and EU-OSHA) as joint event on 'The European social model, a key driver for competitiveness. The four agencies' contribution', that took place on 25 September 2013 at the European Parliament.

Qualifications Development

As confirmed in the Bruges Communiqué, Cedefop and ETF have also cooperated to integrate and align their analyses of NQF developments into the world-wide overview of developments prepared in cooperation with UNESCO. Cedefop covered the EU2020 countries, ETF the partner countries and UNESCO the third countries developments. The three institutions jointly presented the finding of the report to senior officials preparing the Asia-Europe ministerial meeting (Kuala Lumpur, 12-14 May 2013).

ETF also contributed to the Cedefop monitoring of National qualifications frameworks development in Europe (covering 36 countries) by providing information on Croatia, Turkey, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia.

ETF made a presentation in the Cedefop conference on the "The shift to learning outcomes and its impacts". ETF participated in the seminar on the validation of non-formal and informal learning organised by Cedefop and the European Commission under the Irish presidency.


Skills matching and anticipation

Since 2012 the European Training Foundation (ETF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Cedefop have decided to pool together their expertise and knowledge to prepare a series of guides on methods to anticipate skill needs in the labour market. The guides are intended to provide a comprehensive toolbox to support countries which aim to develop a sound evidence base on skill supply and demand in the labour market. Guides cover methods and topics such as: forecasting

and foresight, the sectoral anticipation of skill needs, analysing skills mismatch, employers and enterprise surveys as well as tracer studies of entrants in the labour market. On 4 and 5 July 2013, a seminar with worldwide experts took place in Thessaloniki to discuss the validity and usefulness of the guides which will be published in 2014.

Administrative Co-operation

In line with the joint work programme for 2013, co-operation also took place at the administrative level, when applicable.


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