

MEMO

TO	Mr Silva Mendes, Director, DG Education and Culture (DG EAC)
COPY	Ms Bachmann, Head of Unit B2; Mr Santos, Dep. Head of Unit B2; Ms Mazingant, Unit B2; Ms Todorova, Unit B2; Ms Voordeckers, ETF
FROM	Madlen Serban, director ETF
REFERENCE	2014-2414
DATE	21 November 2014
SUBJECT	Extend the validity of the cooperation agreement between the ETF and the Institute of Administrative Science (IIAS) and the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA) by three years (2015-17)



Cooperation agreement between the ETF and the Institute of Administrative Science (IIAS) and the European Group for Public Administration (EGPA)

Background

Following the positive Opinion of the European Commission and the approval of the Governing Board in its meeting of 20 November 2012, the cooperation agreement between the ETF and the IIAS/EGPA was signed on 21 January 2013.

The Agreement establishes a framework for co-operation in the field of public policies management between the ETF and the IIAS/EGPA. Under this framework, IIAS/EGPA agreed to:

- Contribute to ETF debates, dialogues, platforms through its permanent study groups;
- Contribute to the ETF initiatives on policy leaders capacity building on public management, inter alia through conferences, training sessions, round tables, study visits

In accordance with the art.9.2 of this agreement, "this Cooperation Agreement will remain in effect until December 2014 and may be extended by agreement of both Sides". This is the reason the ETF, after analysing and assessing the cooperation is proposing to launch the procedure for extending the validity of the cooperation agreement with three years (2015-17).

Main aspects of cooperation

1. The ETF High level Forum for Policy Leaders (PLF) “New challenges for skills development in the Arab states of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean”, Amman, Jordan, 25 – 27 September 2012

The PLF benefited from the contribution of Robert Fouchet and Geert Bouckaert, representing the IIAS/EGPA who provided elements of public management, highlighting the key aspects of public policy the leaders should consider in the policy making process.

The event was organised in conjunction with the Fifth Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue on Public Management. In the agenda of this meeting, vocational education and training was introduced among the public policy areas and benefited for the very first time of public management analysis through case studies. In preparation for the meeting, the IIAS/EGPA and the ETF cooperated in a combined effort to collect and share cases studies in VET policy in the region from experts and bodies active in public policy making and research. These were presented and shared within the Fifth Mediterranean Dialogue.

2. ETF Policy Leaders' Forum (PLF) on Public Management of Education, Training and Employment Policies in the Arab States of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean - the culture of change, the change of cultures, Marseilles, France, 6 October 2013

The event was organised in conjunction with the sixth Euro-Mediterranean dialogue on public management 7-9 October 2013.

In 2013, the Marseilles Arab Mediterranean Policy Leaders' Forum continued to address the efficiency and effectiveness of public policies in education, training and employment for better results in terms of economic prosperity and living conditions for citizens in the region. It was attended by Ministers as well as policy leaders representing both Parliaments and Youth from the region. Following the high level debate on vision, youth employment and public policy principles in 2012, the 2013 PLF went into more detail regarding the features of effective policies to enhance youth employability. The participants shared experiences on policy measures to enhance the quality of VET both within schools as well as within active labour market policies. In addition, the Forum was an opportunity to discuss how to embed the principles of good public policy making within the field of VET at national and local levels. As in 2012, the PLF framework encouraged policy sharing among the Arab Mediterranean countries as well as high level representatives from EU institutions

The event benefited from the contribution of Rolet Loretan, Director General of International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), Geert Bouckaert, Professor, KU Leuven, President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences and Robert Fouchet, Professor, IMPGT, Aix Marseille Université, representatives of EGPA. Geert Bouckaert, President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences, argued for a reinforcement of policy processes through involvement of actors, improving policy performance management and developing policy frameworks which delivered results at national and local levels. In preparation for the 2013 event, EGPA and ETF again cooperated in a combined effort to collect and share cases studies in VET policy in the region from experts and bodies active in public policy making and research. These were presented and shared within the Sixth Mediterranean Dialogue.

Proposal

Based on the analysis of the cooperation as well as the objectives set in the ETF Mid Term Perspectives 2014-17, the ETF proposes to extend the validity of the cooperation agreement between the ETF and EGPA for a further three years (2015-17) through an exchange of letters, as stipulated in the current cooperation agreement.