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## DECLARATION OF INTENT BETWEEN ETF AND UNESCO DIVISION OF POLICY AND LIFELONG LEARNING SYSTEMS 2016-2018<sup>1</sup>

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### 1. Background

By this Declaration of Intent,  
The UNESCO Division for Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems; and,  
The European Training Foundation (ETF);  
Hereinafter referred to as "the organizations", express their intention to cooperate to enhance the contribution of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)<sup>2</sup> to addressing short term social and economic challenges and contribute to long term sustainable development in their respective member states/partner countries.

UNESCO work in the field of TVET is aligned to the Education 2030 Agenda. The Organization's Strategy for TVET (2016-2021)<sup>3</sup> aims to support the efforts of Member States to enhance the relevance of TVET systems and to equip all youth and adults with the skills required for employment in decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning, and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>4</sup>. The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre, based in Bonn, is resource centre for research and innovation, knowledge sharing and capacity development. It is also the hub of the UNEVOC network, a worldwide network comprising TVET institutions (UNEVOC Centres) serving as focal points in the provision of services and platforms for international and regional cooperation in TVET.

The European Training Foundation (ETF) is a specialised European Union agency with the mandate of improving human capital development in the context of EU external relations policies. The ETF supports the EU as a global actor by leveraging EU approaches to human capital development to support economic competitiveness and social cohesion in 29 partner countries in the EU neighbourhood<sup>5</sup>. Under its Strategy 2014-2020, ETF has adopted 2 goals to support partner country capacities at all stages of the VET policy cycle to bring innovation and sustainable development; and secondly to support the external dimension of EU policies in human capital development. ETF achieves these goals through a cycle of annual work programmes as well as through its

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<sup>1</sup> ETF ref.number GB/16/DEC/009

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this document, when using to technical and vocational education and training (TVET), it is referred to the respective scope of each organisation's mandate and work in the area. In the context of the European Union and ETF's work, this is understood as Vocational Education and Training (VET).

<sup>3</sup> <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002438/243804e.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

<sup>5</sup> ETF's geographical scope is driven by priorities and instruments for EU external assistance. The partner countries are drawn from the regions of Southern and Eastern Europe, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, participating countries in the EU Eastern Partnership, Central Asia and Russia.

commitment to exchange of information and experience with members of the international community and bilateral actors engaged in human capital development.

The UNESCO Division for Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems and the ETF already have a strong and solid cooperation in the context of the UNESCO TVET strategy 2016-2021 and ETF's 2014-2020 strategy and resulting multiannual perspectives and annual work programmes. This current cooperation has been established in particular through joint participation in the Inter-agency group on TVET (IAG-TVET) set up by UNESCO in 2010.

## **2. Objectives for cooperation 2016-2018**

Without prejudice to the institutional mandates, functions and the geographical scope of each organization;

Fully consistent with the strategic goals, priorities and operational objectives set in each organization's respective work programmes;

With regard to the two organizations' shared focus on technical and vocational education and training and the spirit of global cooperation on TVET;

Fully respecting the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the EU signed on 8 December 2012;

The objectives for cooperation between the two organisations 2016-2018 are to strengthen synergy through more structured knowledge sharing and exchange of expertise in areas of common strategic interest. This is intended to enhance the complementarity and effectiveness of the conceptual approaches, methodologies and tools adopted and deployed by the two organizations in support of TVET reforms in their respective member states/partner countries.

## **3. Areas of action between ETF and UNESCO 2016 -2018**

Based on the ongoing strategic priorities, the two organizations express their willingness to cooperate in the following functional and thematic areas:

- **Policy analysis**, in particular in the knowledge sharing on analytical frameworks and relevant indicators/statistics which can inform evidence based analysis of TVET policy progress in UNESCO member states/ETF partner countries;
- **Qualifications and learning outcomes**, the collaboration will focus on knowledge sharing on reforms of qualification systems, recognition of qualification including recognition of skills and qualifications for refugees and migrants and producing the global inventory of qualifications frameworks;
- **Work based and work place learning**, sharing knowledge on conceptual approaches to work-based learning (WBL) as well as on lessons learned from WBL policies and practices in relevant UNESCO member states/ETF partner countries and regions taking into account the diversity of national contexts;



- **Skills anticipation, forecast and mismatches**, both organizations will share knowledge on methodologies for skills anticipation, forecasting and addressing mismatches in the labour market.

The principle vehicle for structured knowledge sharing and exchange of expertise would be through the joint participation of the two organizations in the **IAG-TVET**. Both organizations will continue to cooperate in the framework of IAG-TVET and will support new initiative and actively contribute to the working groups and platforms established in this context including the working group on TVET statistics and indicators and the working group on work-based learning.

In addition, the cooperation may take place through the **involvement of ETF and UNESCO experts** in actions, events and projects of mutual interest organised by both organizations, and other opportunities for operational exchange of information and knowledge between both organizations.

The cooperation will also consider joint actions in common partner countries.

#### 4. Implementing the Declaration of Intent

The UNESCO Division for Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems and the ETF may operationalise their cooperation through an annual exchange of letters, including the potential continuation of the cooperation beyond 2018.

The UNESCO Division for Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems and the ETF will use one of the knowledge sharing initiatives to monitor overall progress of the framework.

This Declaration reflects the intentions of the two organisations to cooperate on a non-exclusive basis, expressed in good faith but without creation of any legal and financial obligation or the incurrence of any liability or conflict of interest on the part of either of them.

The Declaration is signed by the duly authorised representative of the Organizations on  
**20/10/2016**

The Declaration of Intent will enter into force on the same day and last until 31/12/2018.

#### For the ETF



Madlen Serban  
Director

#### For UNESCO Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems




David Atchoarena  
Director