

DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE ETF

The Governing Board of the European Training Foundation,

Having regards to the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1339/2008 establishing a European Training Foundation, and in particular article 9 thereof;

In its meeting on 24 November 2015,

Has adopted:

1. Minutes GB meeting of 05 June 2015 – GB15DEC012;
2. ETF Work Programme 2016 – GB15DEC013;
3. ETF Budget 2016 – GB15DEC014;
4. ETF Amending Budget 2015 – GB15DEC015;
5. Implementing rules on measures concerning unpaid leave for temporary and contract staff of the European Union – GB15DEC018;
6. Memorandum proposing to extend the validity of the cooperation agreement between the ETF and British Council by three years 2016-18– GB15DEC016;
7. Declaration of Intent between the ETF and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) – GB15DEC017;
8. Rules on the secondment of national experts and national experts in professional training to the European Training Foundation – GB15DEC019.



Michel Servoz
Chair of the Governing Board

MEMO

TO Michel Servoz, director general, DG EMPL

COPY Detlef Eckert, Director, Joao Santos, head of Unit C5, Maria Todorova, unit C5

FROM Madlen Serban, director ETF

REFERENCE GB/15/DEC/016

SUBJECT Extend the validity of the memorandum of understanding between ETF and British Council with two years (2016-17)



Purpose of the Memo

The purpose of this Memo is to propose the extension of the validity of the memorandum of understanding concluded in 2011 between the European Training Foundation (ETF) and the British Council with an additional two years (2016-17).

The Memo presents brief information about the memorandum of understanding in force (section A), a short description of the cooperation between the ETF and the British Council during 2012-2015 with examples of their cooperation presented (section B) and the proposal for the extension of the validity of the current cooperation document (section C).

A. Background information

Following the positive Opinion of the European Commission and the approval of the Governing Board on 22 November 2011, the memorandum of understanding between the ETF and the British Council entered into force on 1 December 2011. The document ensures the framework for cooperation between the two institutions and covers the period 2012-2015. The objectives of cooperation as listed in the document are the following:

- I. Knowledge sharing on specific thematic areas such as quality assurance in vocational education and training, employer engagement, national qualifications framework, social inclusion, career guidance, entrepreneurship, forecasting and matching skills;
- II. Coordination and cooperation on specific thematic areas in an agreed number of countries where both organisations are operating in the field of vocational education and training and where they have shared objectives;
- III. Participation to international seminars and conferences organised by the other Side.

In accordance with art.10.2, “*this cooperation agreement shall remain in effect for four years following which it may be extended.*” The cooperation agreement will expire on 30 November 2015. This is the reason why the ETF, after analysing and assessing the cooperation is proposing to extend the validity of the cooperation agreement by two years (2016-17).

B. Cooperation between the ETF and the British Council during 2012-2015

During the period of implementation of the memorandum of understanding, the ETF and British Council enhanced their cooperation through knowledge sharing activities in specific thematic areas such as quality assurance in vocational education and training, employer engagement, national qualifications framework, entrepreneurship, etc.

A series of joint events were organised aiming to:

- a) Share European best practice in enterprise education, qualification frameworks, skills development and employment including insights to upcoming policy developments;

Conference on quality assurance and institutions in qualifications system, 12 December 2014, Ukraine

In December 2014, the ETF, the European Commission and the British Council co-hosted a workshop on quality assurance and institutional arrangements in Ukraine. Around 60 people participated, from ministries, employers' bodies, higher education institutions, trade unions, VET institutions and donors. This conference provided participants with an insight into the EU's strategy and approach to developing qualification frameworks. Participants had access to the UK and other EU experiences through presentations and facilitated workshops, and had the opportunity to hear insights and experiences from Ukrainian universities and organisations that work on qualifications development.

- b) Meet successful education and training providers and other stakeholders who shared their experience of effective approaches;

“Enterprise and Entrepreneurship”, 18-22 November 2013, London

The ETF and the British Council organised a joint seminar during 2013 Global Entrepreneurship Week. In response to increasing concerns as to how policymakers and the education and training communities can more effectively respond to the challenges of growth and employment, this joint seminar looked at the UK's approach to developing entrepreneurship within the education system and the contribution enterprise makes to economic recovery, sustainable growth and jobs. Overall, the seminar provided an excellent, fast learning, cross-cultural knowledge sharing environment with quality exchange between all participants.

- c) Provide local and regional stakeholders with opportunities to network with leading UK and international experts in the fields;

Enterprise, Entrepreneurship and Employability, 19th November 2013, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The conference was organised as a partnership between the Centre for Specialised Secondary Education of Uzbekistan, the European Training Foundation and the British Council. This joint event provided participants with an insight to the EU's strategy and approach to developing and strengthening enterprise and entrepreneurship skills in young people and adults.

The conference explored the work of technical colleges, universities and organisations focussed on enterprise development. It also reviewed some recent government initiatives. Delegates had access to leading UK and other European experts through presentations and facilitated workshops, and had the opportunity to hear insights and experiences from Uzbek colleges, universities and organisations that lead on enterprise.

- d) Explore how approaches showcased during the joint events could provide useful models for participants work.

Joint ETF- British Council “21st century skills in education” conference, 10 September 2014, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

The ETF presented its work on qualifications and on policy foresight under the ETF FRAME project. In the fragmented education and training system of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with weak business-education cooperation, there have been many initiatives to improve alignment with the needs of companies and individuals. The ETF is preparing a catalogue of local best practices to capture these examples and hopes to present and disseminate them in 2015 to support the implementation of the country’s qualifications framework.

At the same time, coordination and cooperation on specific thematic was promoted at regional or at country level, in the countries where both organisations are operating in the field of vocational education and training and where they have shared objectives.

Examples of their cooperation in Montenegro and Ukraine are presented below.

Montenegro

The ETF and British Council agreed to work together on two areas: employer engagement and quality assurance. These areas were seen as weak but crucial for the development of the VET system in the country.

With the joint and individual programme of activities, the ETF and British Council were able to bring about fundamental changes in the perception of decision makers and their approach to certain concepts such as the role employers should be playing at all levels of VET, employers understanding the context and difficulties in which most VET schools were operating, both sides accepting that they were sharing the same interests rather than opposing, understanding a new approach to the role of the school leadership for the quality of student performance, appreciating the new coherent way of benchmarking and measuring quality, expanding horizons with new experience and learning and being able to engage in a quality dialogue and new creative ways of collaborating with each other.

Ukraine

The two organisations have pulled their expertise and resources for shared purposes and priorities: the development of Ukraine’s qualifications system linked to the European Qualifications Framework; the establishment of sector skills organisations capable of making the employer’s voice heard by other stakeholders, including educators; the development of skills for growth strategies, etc.

British Council “Skills for Employability” project has supported the Torino Process in Ukraine by contributing to the national debate on what Ukraine needs to do to develop an efficient and effective TVET system. The project itself benefited from international consultancies organised by the ETF on the role of sector skills councils, recognition of prior learning, and professional advice from ETF experts.

The ETF and British Council have complemented and supported each other in areas such as: capacity building for key stakeholders in Ukraine, support to institutional reform which introduces new roles in a competence-based TVET system – sectoral bodies, awarding bodies, and the regulator a change of teaching and learning paradigms in a competence-based education and training system which works for industry-related and fit-for-purpose qualifications.

As stipulated in the cooperation document, the ETF and British Council invited each other to share their knowledge and expertise during international events organised in 2013-2014. Three examples are presented below.

1. “Youth Employment in North Africa”, 15 and 16 October 2013, Brussels

At the invitation of the British Council, the ETF has contributed to the workshop on “Youth Employment in North Africa”, which took place on 15 October and 16 October in Brussels. The purpose of this workshop was to allow EU institutions and other Brussels based organisations to engage with North African public authorities and civil society on the challenges for youth employment, including education reforms, skills development, and entrepreneurship. Concrete case studies from British Council programmes in the region were discussed, demonstrating best practices and lessons learned, in order to contribute to the development of innovative strategies for shaping the future for youth employment in the region. The ETF representative shared the ETF innovative thinking and approaches in the area of youth employment in the region.

2. British Council Skills for Employability approach in the Neighbourhood context, 25 May 2013, Brussels

The workshop was organised to inform stakeholders from the European Commission, on how youth unemployment is being addressed through the British Council Skills for Employability (SfE) approach in the Neighbourhood context. The SfE programme’s aim is to support countries to bring about higher quality skills development that meets industry needs and helps young people prosper. The workshop provided concrete case studies with tangible impact and measurable results from both Neighbourhood South and East countries in order to demonstrate the SfE methodology and the lessons learnt on how this approach caters for specific country needs; but also provided a regional dimension whereby common issues are dealt with collectively at Regional/sub-Regional level. The ETF presented the commonalities in approaches (participative, holistic, evidence) and the differences in the types of interventions.

3. British Council regional conference SEE into the future, 13-14 February 2014, Istanbul, Turkey

British Council invited the ETF to their regional conference focusing on skills, entrepreneurship and employment. The ETF representative provided a keynote intervention on the ETF policy metrics on entrepreneurship education, chaired a panel and was part of the closing panel.

C. Proposal

Based on the analysis of the cooperation as well as the objectives set in the ETF Mid Term Perspective 2014-17, the ETF proposes to extend the validity of the memorandum of understanding between the ETF and the British Council with an additional two years (2016-17) through an exchange of letters, as stipulated in the current document.