

# AGENDA

*Support to Georgia on Financing of Work-based learning*

*Skills connexion project: Work-Based Learning in Eastern Europe and Kazakhstan*

**Policy Learning Workshop: Financing mechanisms and tools for work-based learning (WBL) in Georgia. Ways and means for engaging stakeholders**

Wednesday 29 November 2017, hotel IOTA, 10 Lermontov str., Tbilisi



## BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The ETF regional project on work-based learning in VET ('Skills Connexion') aims to promote policy development and implementation of work-based learning in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. During the project implementation in 2015-2017, the following has been achieved:

- Mapping of the work-based learning (WBL) landscape in 7 partner countries;
- Analysis of the feasibility of WBL schemes based on the readiness tool developed by the ETF and on the priorities identified by national stakeholders;
- Identification of ways to enhance employers engagement in WBL through focus groups;
- Supporting policy development in WBL by organisation of Peer-learning Activities (PLA) to Cardiff, UK (January 2016), Astana, Kazakhstan, Barcelona, Spain (October 2016) and Stockholm, Sweden (August 2017);
- Sharing existing good practices in the partner and EU countries during PLA visits and the previous Regional Meetings (Minsk June 2015, Turin 2016 and Chisinau 2017);
- Improvement of stakeholders' co-operation at various levels through focus groups;
- Supporting the capacity development of VET stakeholders.

In 2016 an analysis and "feasibility check" of the WBL schemes in the partner countries was carried out, using a special 'readiness tool'. This tool has been designed to help ETF partner countries work through the key issues that need to be thought about when introducing or improving work-based learning arrangements as part of vocational education and training. The intention is that, in working through issues and thinking of solutions, it can act as a learning tool to deepen stakeholders' understanding of work-based learning.

A focus group<sup>1</sup> discussion was held in November 2016 in Georgia in the framework of the ETF Skills Connexion Project. The discussion topic suggested the Georgian country team<sup>2</sup> was **financing of WBL**, in particular financing of apprenticeships or dual VET. The outcome of the focus group was to carry an in-depth feasibility check of some aspects of WBL financing or exploring options for financing of WBL in Georgia.

In 2017 the ETF support to Georgia focused on VET financing and particularly on incentives. **A feasibility analysis of financial incentives for companies to boost WBL in Georgia has been carried out** by the ETF. The report describes also the state of play with VET financing in Georgia as a basis for dialogue on future policy reforms of the financing system.

As agreed with Georgian partners, this Policy Learning Workshop will build on the findings of this study and on a number of European cases to explore financing mechanisms for work-based learning that could foster further implementation and scaling-up of WBL, with particular attention to incentives for private sector engagement.

This workshop also builds on the expertise developed by the ETF in the field of governance and financing of VET and work based learning.

## OBJECTIVES

This workshop pursues four main objectives:

1. *Work-based Learning*: Based on the lessons learned from Skills Connexion project and other donor projects promoting WBL, to identify main challenges and key success factors for the development of WBL;
2. *Financing*: Raise awareness and reach a common understanding, across key Georgian public and private stakeholders, on the financing mechanisms and tools available to support WBL;
3. *Exposure to policy choices and sharing relevant experiences of incentives in the EU member states*;
4. *Identifying possible next steps and stakeholders' respective commitments for progress in WBL*.

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<sup>1</sup> Gathering stakeholders from “education world” as well as industry

<sup>2</sup> Consisted in one representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science and Employers' Association, a VET expert and National Expert for Georgia. The choice made was taking into consideration of the status of WBL in Georgia, namely existence of a stakeholder- approved *WBL concept paper*<sup>2</sup> and action plan, concluded that the feasibility check in Georgia should focus on the issues identified by the concept paper as still needing discussion and negotiation among the policy makers and social partners.

## Wednesday, 29 November 2017

8.45-9.15	<i>Registration of participants</i>
9.15-9.30	<p><b>Opening session</b>  <i>Ms. Irina Tserodze, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (tbc)</i>  <i>Mr Misha Kordzakhia Georgian Employers' Association, (tbc)</i>  <i>Mr. Timo Kuusela, Country Desk Georgia, ETF</i>            Presentation of the workshop's objectives, expected outcomes and programme</p>
	<p><b>SESSION 1: WORK-BASED LEARNING IN GEORGIA: MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD</b>  <b>Chair: Ms. Marika Zakareishvili, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia</b></p>
9.30-10.30	<p>Skills Connexion project achievements  <i>Mr. Didier Gélibert, Specialist in Private Sector Engagement in VET, ETF</i></p> <p>State of the art in work-based learning in Georgia  <i>Ms. Irina Tserodze, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia</i>  <i>Ms. Tamar Kitiashvili, UNDP Georgia, Project Modernization of Vocational Education and Extension services in Agriculture in Georgia</i>  <i>Ms. Maia Mikava, LTD Agrohous</i>  <i>Malkhaz Aslamazishvili, Communicty College Aisi</i></p>
	<p><b>SESSION 2 : FINANCING MECHANISMS AND TOOLS: CONCEPTUAL AND CONTEXTUAL GUIDANCE TO THE REFLECTION</b></p>
10.30 - 11.10	<p>Framing the policy dialogue: the "financing prism". Policy issues related to WBL financing including incentives  <i>Ms. Marie Dorléans, Specialist in VET Governance and Financing, ETF</i></p>
11.10-11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30-12.00	<p>State of the art of VET financing in Georgia. Sharing results of the study  <i>Ms. Thea Siprashvili, National Expert</i></p>
12.00-13.00	<p>Debate with the audience:            Main challenges and bottlenecks to move ahead on WBL: the financing issue</p>
13.00 -14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
	<p><b>SESSION 3: INSPIRING INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES OF FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR WORKBASED LEARNING &amp; DRAWING LESSONS AND POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS FOR GEORGIA</b>  <b>Chair: Nino Chikovani, President of Chamber of Commerce of Georgia</b></p>

14.00 -15.00	<p>Presentations and discussion around the main features of different European (e.g. UK, France) and international mechanisms (levy, incentives, etc.) for WBL apprenticeship.</p> <p><i>Mr. Didier Gélibert, Specialist in Private Sector Engagement in VET, ETF</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Marie Dorléans, Specialist in VET Governance and Financing, ETF Representative of the GIZ project (tbc)</i></p>
15.00 – 16.00	<p>Drawing lessons learnt and discussing relevance and applicability of presented EU country experiences to Georgia's context.</p> <p>Identifying next steps to move forward</p>
	<p><i>Coffee break (served in the meeting room)</i></p>
16.00 - 16.30	<p><b>Concluding remarks and next steps</b></p>



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