

## WHAT IS PRIME?

The ETF's PRIME (Projecting Reform Impact in Vocational Education and Training) methodology was developed to help countries choose policy actions which have a reasonable guarantee of success in reaching strategic goals. PRIME builds on the Torino Process and follows its four principles (ownership, participation, holistic and evidence-based work) to outline how to move from diagnosis to action. It does so by gathering and presenting evidence on the expected impact of policy action.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, please see the ETF website:

[www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu)

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PROJECTING REFORM IMPACT IN  
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING



## WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

PRIME delivers an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of options for policy action with evidence that can be used to take decisions; communicate and justify them vis-à-vis beneficiaries, stakeholders, funders etc. and implement them; as well as to set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Decisions taken as a result of the PRIME methodology are likely to be more predictable, better planned, have a stronger buy-in from stakeholders and have better chances to achieve the desired results. The output from PRIME can be implemented through national reform initiatives or can be used in negotiation with the donor community.

The application of PRIME also builds long-term capacity in the participating institutions for carrying out ex-ante impact assessments as a systematic methodology to improve public management and predictability of results.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

PRIME combines analysis, consultations and capacity building in a systematic and transparent ex-ante impact assessment procedure. The aim is to identify which policy alternative comes closest to meeting the desired strategic goal, while minimising undesired 'side-effects' such as disproportionate administrative, financial, political, or social burden.

PRIME is implemented in three phases. During the first, analytical phase, the criteria and options for action to be assessed are agreed. The second, assessment phase envisages the collection of evidence and checks the options against the criteria. Finally, the third, validation phase facilitates a discussion on the PRIME outcomes between all the stakeholders concerned.

The implementation of PRIME is led by a national coordinating institution with the ETF's methodological support.

## WHAT DO THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES DO?

PRIME is prepared and carried out jointly with the ETF in close cooperation with a national lead institution nominated by the participating country. Partner countries are expected to take a leading role in PRIME, with support from the ETF.

The national lead institution is the ETF's principal counterpart. It is responsible for sourcing relevant evidence for the analysis, and for organising and leading the consultation and validation of PRIME deliverables. The pace and intensity of implementation can be adjusted to the country-specific context and needs.

## WHAT DOES THE ETF DO?

The ETF provides methodological support throughout the PRIME implementation. This includes policy analysis and advice, as well as capacity building actions to help countries strengthen policy formulation within their public management.

