

# BACKGROUND NOTE

## TITLE:

## VET Recommendation and Osnabrück Declaration peer learning event, 27-28 May 2024, Turin

**Thanks for accepting our invitation to participate in this event!**

The event has several **objectives**:

- Learn about digitalisation and VET from the experiences, successes and challenges of other countries.
- Showcase national good practices.
- Complement the findings of the 2023 monitoring of policy developments.
- Reflect on/self-assess national experience with participation in the Osnabrueck monitoring.
- Network with peers from other countries.
- Participate in a site visit in Turin.

**Participants** are Directors General for VET and members of the Advisory Council for VET of Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye.

### **Day 1: peer learning.**

**The topic of peer learning** is making VET agile, flexible, innovative and attractive, by mobilising various digitally oriented strategies and solutions. We will look at this broad topic from four angles, corresponding to four thematic priorities in the integrated monitoring framework:

- Integrating digital skills and competences in VET curricula and programmes
- Diversifying modes of learning through digital and/or blended learning
- Supporting teachers and trainers' professional development for and through digital solutions
- Modernising VET infrastructure of VET provision.

After a thematic introduction about digitalisation and VET by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of Seville and by ETF (10.00-10.30), participants will split in four **parallel working groups** (A, B, C, and D): one group per angle/thematic priority (10.30-12.30).

The **purpose** of the working groups is sharing and learning from country experiences of relevance to the topic of each working group.

We will have **two rounds** of two parallel groups (A and B; C and D). As a result, participants will have the opportunity to attend two working groups in total.

Based on information collected via the Osnabrueck declaration monitoring by our national experts, we allocated **countries' presentations** as follows:

- Working group A: Integrating digital skills and competences in VET curricula and programmes – Türkiye presenting
- Working group B: Diversifying modes of learning through digital and/or blended learning – Montenegro presenting
- Working group C: Supporting teachers and trainers' professional development for and through digital solutions – North Macedonia and Albania presenting
- Working group D: Modernising VET infrastructure of VET provision – Serbia presenting

*We wish to maximise opportunities to learn from other countries. Therefore, we recommend that participants split among groups evenly, not following their country's presentation.*

Each working group will be moderated by ETF staff and its **organisation** will be as follows:

- Quick tour de table: in one word, the relevance of the topic for the participants' country (5 minutes).
- Short presentation by one pre-identified country representative about relevant policy developments concerning the topic of the working group (10 minutes).
- Discussion among all working group participants about common challenges and practical ideas for solutions in the other countries (20 minutes).
- Wrap up about common challenges and ideas for solutions (10 minutes)

**Presenters** will be asked to prepare three slides with a common template, illustrating:

- The selected policy development(s): what it is/was about, when was it introduced/rolled out, which actors were involved, how was it implemented;

- The link to the Osnabrueck declaration and VET Recommendation: whether it was in the NIP, which thematic priorities (relevant for digitalisation) is it linked to, what was its impact (or what is its expected future impact);
- Conclusions – relevant for the topic of digitalisation and VET – about:
  - o Key challenges: what did not work.
  - o Lessons learned: what worked.

In the afternoon, participants will have the opportunity to learn and discuss about the **availability of evidence and the challenges of collecting it** in their countries for the purposes of policy monitoring, including in the Osnabrueck exercise. Participants will be asked to react and comment, based on their experiences. The main outcomes of ETF event ‘Human Capital Development – building evidence on skills and employment’ (Stockholm, 22-23 May 2024) will also be presented, concerning:

- How to make sense of multiple sources of information and data and build up comprehensive data systems covering education, training and employment policy areas.
- The impact of digitalisation on data creation, interpretation and policy use.
- Critical areas for developing capacities in the EU neighbouring countries, and cooperation opportunities.

The first day will conclude with a **site visit** to the VET centre [Piazza dei Mestieri](#) in Turin (literally “Crafts Square”). This is a foundation with educational purposes, whose main aim is to support training and youth labour insertion by improving and innovating educational services, with a strong social inclusion accent. Participants will learn about the multi-purpose and multi-stakeholder organisation of Piazza dei Mestieri, bringing together several services for youth: guidance, IVET and CVET, on-the-job training, dual training, cultural and recreational activities.

Feeding into the event peer learning objective, focus of the site visit will be digital solutions adopted in Piazza dei Mestieri, in different contexts: administration, teaching staff professional development, curricula design, infrastructure.

A reporting back about the site visit is envisaged at the start of the second day.

## Day 2: country work.

The country working groups are facilitated by ETF country liaisons/staff and by the national experts in charge of carrying out the monitoring. You will have one and a half hour to discuss in depth and share your views and opinions: come prepared!

The working groups are structured in two parts:

**The first part is dedicated to 2023 policy developments (30 minutes).** You will:

- Hear a presentation about the first **monitoring results of 2023 policy developments**, by national experts (15 minutes)
- Be asked to complement those preliminary results with missing information or amend what as need be (15 minutes).

Beware that the unit of analysis of the monitoring is 'policy developments', defined as actions or sets of actions that policy- and decision-makers in a country take to (re)define rules, (re)organise structures, (re)shape or implement practices in VET and lifelong learning (LLL), including those supported by EU funding. Ideally, you should discuss at this level, i.e., of policies. If in 2023, only concrete implementation of policies developed in 2021/2022 took place, you should report it (and discuss it in part 2).

Outcomes of this part of the country working group will feed into the country brief and policy development fiches that ETF will publish by the end of 2024.

In the second part, you will be invited to engage in a **self-reflection exercise of the country's experience in the Osnabrück process (60 minutes)**. This part could take place in the national language. You will be invited to make a SWOT analysis:

- What were its benefits (strengths)?
- What do you think was missing (weaknesses)?
- Which opportunities did you see for your country?
- What were /may be the challenges?

We recommend dedicating some time to joint brainstorming (15 minutes), fill in the SWOT table (20 minutes) and prepare the reporting back, by identifying a rapporteur (10 minutes).

Please, consider that the outcomes of this session are the main source of information that ETF will use to draft a chapter of the country brief that ETF will publish by the end of 2024, about the country's experience in the Osnabrueck monitoring. We invite you to reflect ahead of the event, to be ready to discuss with your colleagues during the workshop.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### The Copenhagen process

The Osnabrueck Declaration is part of a more than 20 years old process, started with the Copenhagen Declaration of 29-30 November 2002 launching the ‘European strategy for enhanced cooperation in VET’, known as the ‘**Copenhagen Process**’. Cooperation within this process has become a catalyst for modernising VET in many EU Member States and candidate countries, supporting their work towards Europe’s strategic goals and targets. The Copenhagen process is a tripartite platform to work on European VET policies, but also to strengthen cooperation with social partners, chambers, VET providers and learners’ organisations at national and regional level.

Before Osnabrueck, the Communiqués of Maastricht (2004), Helsinki (2006), Bordeaux (2008), Bruges (2010) and the Riga conclusions (2015) were signed.

In Osnabrueck (Germany), on 30.11.2020, a declaration was signed, also by ministries of candidate countries sitting at the Ministerial meeting that approved the Declaration. The **Osnabrueck declaration** has **four objectives**:

1. Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive, and flexible VET
2. Establishing a new lifelong learning culture – relevance of CVET + digitalisation
3. Sustainability – a green link in VET
4. European education and training area and international dimension of VET.

With such declaration the institutions of the European Union relate their point of view on VET for 2020-2025.

This had already been object of the **VET recommendation** on [Vocational Education and Training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience](#). With this document, the EU defined key principles for ensuring that vocational education and training is agile, adapts swiftly to labour market needs and provides quality learning opportunities for all age groups. The VET recommendation presents **six clusters of reform**:

1. VET is agile in adapting to LMKT changes
2. Flexibility and progression opportunities are at the core of VET
3. VET is a driver for innovation and growth and prepares for the digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand
4. VET is an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training/skills
5. VET promotes equality of opportunities
6. VET is underpinned by a culture of quality assurance

As per the [Osnabrueck Declaration](#), ETF is requested to report to the ACVT and DGVT annually: “In support of successful implementation of the agreed actions, we ask Cedefop and the ETF to monitor the Osnabrück Declaration and report annually to the ACVT and DGVT accordingly” (page 8).

To monitor progress on both documents, an integrated monitoring framework was designed and approved by the ACVT in 2022<sup>1</sup>.

### Monitoring VET policies

For ETF, monitoring countries' commitments against the VET recommendation and Osnabrueck Declaration objectives, according to the National Implementation Plans, has a threefold purpose:

- To monitor the progress of the countries up to 2025, as per its mandate;
- To support close tripartite dialogue about EU policies objectives in the countries. The role of social partners at national level and their involvement in the monitoring process is of utmost importance;
- Provide evidence which, indirectly, is part of ETF contribution to the review mechanisms linked to the accession process. The OD monitoring outcomes may be part of the sources ETF uses when asked by the Commission to review the screening reports for chapters 19 and 26.

ETF attributes a bigger **value for countries to participate in the monitoring**:

- A commitment to work on further political alignment with the EU priorities;
- Value for national VET reforms and policy processes, which can be supported by this monitoring as an occasion for reflection on the state of play, what works, what does not work;
- Policy learning opportunity together with other countries sharing the same experience. It is a process that has many stakeholders on board, which increases its quality;
- A platform to give visibility to countries' good practices;
- NB. This is not an evaluation exercise.

### Where are we?

In 2023, the ETF carried out the first cycle of monitoring 2021 and 2022 policy developments. The monitoring results were presented at the ACVT meeting of 4 December.

National authorities were kept informed about the monitoring progress and outcomes on the occasion of two online meetings, on 25 May and 9 November, dedicated to candidate countries' DGVTs and ACVTs.

The monitoring findings are summarised in country briefs<sup>2</sup>, which were validated by the countries' DGVTs and published in December 2023. The evidence underpinning this document can be found in the countries' policy development fiches<sup>3</sup>.

In 2024, the ETF is repeating the **monitoring exercise** to collect data about 2023 developments. This was carried out between February and May. Consolidated results – validated by the DGVTs – will be published by the end of the year in the form of country briefs. These will include a chapter about the country's experience in the Osnabrueck policy cycle, based on information collected during the country working groups.

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<sup>1</sup> Türkiye expressed commitments for the Osnabrueck Declaration only, thus the integrated monitoring framework does not apply.

<sup>2</sup> 2023 Country briefs for [Albania](#), [Montenegro](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Serbia](#), [Türkiye](#).

<sup>3</sup> 2023 policy development fiches [Monitoring VET Recommendation and Osnabrück Declaration: 2023 policy development fiches | Open Space \(europa.eu\)](#) (log in needed to access ETF Open Space).