



Brussels, 8 June 2018

SUMMARY REPORT ACVT MEETING OF 4-5 JUNE 2018

The tripartite Advisory Committee on Vocational Training (ACVT) met on 4-5 June to discuss, inter alia, the future of VET and a possible ACVT Opinion for a vision on post 2020 VET, the implementation of the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways, and the Commission proposal made for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

1. and 2. WELCOME and LATEST NEWS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Participants were informed about the latest news, concerning the European Labour Authority, the European Pillar of Social Rights, mutual learning activities supporting implementation of the Upskilling Pathways Recommendation, EASI Call for Upskilling of Adults (deadline 13 July), Erasmus+ Key Action 3 call for proposals on Joint VET Qualifications and the new initiative on the Centres for Vocational Excellence, which was welcomed by the ACVT.

DG EAC provided an overview of the Commission Proposals made in the May package on the European Education Area (EEA) which include proposals for a Council Recommendation on the automatic mutual recognition of diplomas and learning periods abroad and for a Council Recommendation on improving the teaching and learning of languages. Participants requested clarifications on the impact of the initiative, links to existing instruments (EQF, EQAVET and ECVET) and the overall links between the EEA and ET2020.

Trade Unions representatives requested a better balance between youth and adults and underlined the role of Social partners in qualifications design.

The Commission explained that EEA and ET2020 are reinforcing one another and that the proposals for Recommendations will be discussed and negotiated in the Council, providing an opportunity to address the various issues raised.

3. Future of VET

The Chair thanked the ACVT Bureau for the preparatory work done so far. Finland provided the example of a major reform of their VET system which they carried out with a view to addressing the challenges spelled out also in the background paper on the vision for VET in the future etc. They highlighted in particular the strong focus on the individualisation of the learning pathways.

The workshops held in the morning had welcomed the overall content and structure of the document and underlined several elements to be added/strengthened in the draft documents related to the preparation of the ACVT opinion. In particular these were: balance between the labour market focus of VET and wider social needs and personal development, importance of increased image and attractiveness of VET, balance between excellence and inclusiveness, focus on basic skills, apprenticeships and the need to address most vulnerable groups. In terms of EU cooperation, an assessment of what has been achieved so far should be added and links to relevant existing instruments and Council Recommendations should be explained. European cooperation should focus more on exchanges and mutual learning rather than reporting. There was a general consensus on the vision while further work should be done in developing the chapter on the EU cooperation on VET and future actions at European level. Preliminary results from a study on ECVET and EQAVET were presented.

The work will continue in the ACVT Bureau in October 2018 based on inputs received in writing from the ACVT members. Also the conclusions of the Austrian VET Presidency conference (9-10 July) will feed into this process as well as events taking place during the 3rd European Vocational Skills Week (5-9 November). A written consultation of the ACVT was also planned, in order to arrive to a proposal for ACVT Opinion, to be possibly

endorsed at the ACVT meeting of 3-4 December.

Follow up:

- **ACVT members to provide comments in writing on the background document sent on 18/5 by 19/6**
- **Further discussions in the Bureau meeting of 11 October after the AT Presidency Conference of 9-10 July**
- **Written consultation of ACVT on draft Opinion to be launched in mid-October**
- **Detailed summary of the discussions in the workshops and plenary to be included in the minutes of the Meeting**

4. Update on Apprenticeships

The Commission updated the Committee on the EAfA recent meetings and pledges. The Call for Tender regarding the Apprenticeships Support Services has been launched (deadline 9 July 2018). As of 2019, an Apprenticeships Support Services Steering Committee will be set up in which it is proposed that ACVT Bureau representatives would have an active role.

Implementation of the Council Recommendation for a European Framework for Quality and Effective apprenticeships will be discussed in future ACVT meetings, as foreseen in the Recommendation. The Commission also clarified that a potential list of indicators had been identified in the Staff Working Document accompanying the Council Recommendation, which could help to monitor the process in measuring progress regarding the criteria addressed in the Framework .

Trade unions welcomed the cooperation with national trade unions in the organisation of EAfA meetings and the recent achievements of the EAfA.

Follow up:

- **Discuss implementation of Quality framework in next meetings / possibly via ACVT Bureau**

5. Multi-annual financial framework proposals

The Commission (DG EAC and DG EMPL) provided an overview of the Commission proposals for ESF+ and Erasmus for the period 2021-2027.

Employers welcomed the new elements such as the strong link to the Semester, in particular for supporting countries' reforms, the labour market relevance and the increased funding for both Erasmus and ESF+.

It was also explained that the DiscoverEU (NL Q) initiative for train tickets for youngsters would be tested via a pilot project managed by youth organisations.

6. Upskilling Pathways – wrap up workshops

The rapporteurs from the four mutual learning workshops on Upskilling Pathways Recommendation, held on 5 June morning, presented the main conclusions:

- main obstacles: outreach to the right target groups; engaging with those who need upskilling and who are sometimes lacking motivation or face practical barriers;
- it is important to have local networks to implement the Recommendation and to ensure outreach;
- appropriate quality and sustainable funding is also an issue;
- validation arrangements are being developed.

The Recommendation helps fostering cooperation among all the stakeholders and creating trust and understanding for a shared vision for adult learning.

Participants welcomed the possibility of discussing in-depth examples of tools and solutions that could help implementation of the Recommendation.

Follow up:

- ***Detailed summary of the discussions to be included in the minutes of the Meeting***

7. EU Social partners' project on employees' training

The project by EU Social partners was presented, based on 12 countries analysis. It highlighted the key role by social partners in raising awareness for employee training, identifying skills needs, mobilizing resources and in the provision of learning. Employers suggested that the conclusions, which will be presented at a final conference in June, could inform the further development of the ACVT opinion.

8. EU Semester

The Commission explained the increased importance of education, training, lifelong learning and skills attributed in the draft 2018 country specific recommendations. Employers would welcome more information on the implementation of past CSRs.

Follow up:

- ***Provide information on implementation of CSRs in E&T***

9. EU Vocational Skills week

The Commission provided an overview of the next Vocational Skills week to be held in November in Austria.

26 potential Ambassadors so far have been identified and will be contacted in due course. Detailed information was provided concerning the new Awards process. ACVT members were invited to organise events/activities, in particular Employers' days from September to December 2018. The registration site and on-line map would be available beginning of July.

Participants were informed that Finland had agreed to host the 2019 European Vocational Skills Week during their presidency.

Clarifications were asked about any possible change of the initiative to spring instead of autumn. The Commission reminded that an on-line survey had pointed to a preference for the autumn period. An external evaluation intended to be launched in 2019 could address the issue again. Another question was related to the role of EU Presidencies in relation to the EVSW and the Commission answered that it would welcome commitments by other upcoming EU presidencies to be actively involved and host European level events.

Follow up:

- ***Keep ACVT informed on the results of the third week and planning for the next editions***

10. AT presidency events

The Austrian Presidency VET conference will take place on 9-10 July 2018 in Vienna. It will focus on the future of VET and the future EU VET policy framework and also build on draft findings of Cedefop's project on the changing role of VET. The DGVT (focused on the future of VET) will take place on 5-7 November 2018 as part of the 2018 European Vocational Skills Week in Vienna.

Closing of the meeting

Presentations and background documentation concerning the meeting are available in circabc <https://circabc.europa.eu>

NEXT ACVT MEETING : 3-4 December 2018