

On track project

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 BULGARIA

Timeline

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

2020 Completed

ID number 28055

Objectives

The project aims to develop a tracking system for initial vocational education and training (IVET) graduates.

Description

In November 2018, the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET) launched the Erasmus+ project Tracking learning and career paths of VET graduates, to improve quality of VET provision (On track), in cooperation with seven countries. The project aims to develop a tracking system for IVET graduates. The tracking system will gather graduates' qualitative and quantitative data related to further education, employment, career paths, and skills and competences required by the labour market. On track is expected to:

- (a) provide feedback to the quality assurance system of the VET providers;
- (b) aid the design of VET qualifications and programmes;
- (c) inform the planning and implementation of learning processes and additional services (such as vocational guidance, support to VET learners, networking with labour market, provision of work-based learning).

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

Within the project, a context study of tracking systems and measures has been designed for conducting an in-depth analysis of the context and the specific needs of each country. The transnational partnership with seven different countries showed that each one of them has a different approach to VET. The study is based on reviewing national documents, policies, legislation and a survey among VET providers for their experience in tracking graduates. A case study for each country is also included in the survey.

Training was delivered on ways of creating a conversion tracking mechanism, including why, how and when to do it. Technical details were presented and approved. The minimum resources needed for launching and administering the process, the required skills, the role of management and the specificities in assessing individual progress

were identified. The importance of tracking training completion in an institution as an element of a qualitative self-assessment of the system was discussed. A mechanism for establishing follow-up steps, techniques for increasing the number of the respondents, and opportunities for modifying the questionnaires were presented, alongside with the factors that influence the level of interest in the survey. In addition to the time of sending the questionnaire and, the content of the text, there were other indirect factors that affected participants in the survey. For example, if the environment in the VET class was not friendly or if there were problems with the course, it was unlikely that graduates would respond. Also factors such as purely technical access and frequency of phone calls and emails were also affecting participation.

The structure and content of the graduate tracking questionnaires were reviewed. The questionnaires for different EQF levels were reviewed and discussed in groups and editing was proposed with a view to optimising survey results and avoiding ambiguity in the wording of questions.

2020 Completed

A model survey was developed and it was piloted among graduates from 18 VET providers. 782 graduates were reached and 245 questionnaires were received and analysed. The main obstacles to the pilot testing were the COVID-19 pandemic, closed VET centres, low level of interest among graduates, and low motivation of VET providers. The results from the ex-post evaluation, carried out in the final phase of the project, showed that VET providers benefited from the graduate tracking by receiving useful information about the quality of the VET programmes and by finding new perspectives for future training activities, such as updating VET curricula.

As a result of the project, a technical manual was developed in English and all partners' languages, including Bulgarian, which aims to provide technical guidance to VET providers that want to design and establish a VET graduate tracking system, based on On track methodology and using the model surveys. The technical manual deals only with the technical aspects of how to adapt the model surveys.

A guide for VET providers was developed in all partner languages. This is an autonomous product: a step-by-step methodological guidance, independent from the tracking system developed and piloted and can be used by any VET provider that wants to implement a VET graduate tracking system with their own resources, tools and technology.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET)

Target group

Learners

Adult learners

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Further developing national quality assurance systems

Establishing and developing skills intelligence systems

European and international dimensions of VET

Transnational VET initiatives, including joint VET programmes

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[A context study of tracking systems and measures](#)

[On track surveys technical manual \(EN\)](#)

[On track surveys technical manual \(BG\)](#)

[Guide: Implement tracking system for VET graduates and integrate it into organisation quality assurance system \(EN\)](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28055>