

# **Cedefop workshop**

## **Attractive VET: what really matters?**

**Shawn Mendes**  
**Deputy Director**  
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## What is the ETF?

An EU agency with 125 staff in Turin. Mandate to help 31 partner countries harness the potential of their human capital through reform of education, training and labour market systems in the context of the EU's external relations policies.

### **Vision**

To make VET in the partner countries a driver for lifelong learning and sustainable development, with a focus on competitiveness and social cohesion.

The ETF has *both an analytical and a developmental role*.

# ETF PARTNER COUNTRIES



## EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNTRIES ENP EAST:

Armenia, Azerbaijan,  
Belarus, Georgia, Republic  
of Moldova, Ukraine and  
Russia

## OTHER COUNTRIES FROM CENTRAL ASIA:

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and  
Uzbekistan

## ENP SOUTH:

Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied  
Palestinian Territory, Syria and Tunisia  
+ (Libya)

## CANDIDATE COUNTRIES:

Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,  
[Iceland](#), Montenegro, and Turkey

## POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo  
(UNSCR 1244/1999), and Serbia



## MVMA in Europe is a challenge . . . but it is an even bigger challenge in ETF PCs

- Low status of VET in most ETF PCs due to history and culture.
- Often for those who can not take the academic path to HE and often problems with quality (quality VET costs).
- Higher rates of return on investment in higher education, or at least the perception of higher returns (e.g. Tunisia).
- Massive increases in HE enrolment in most ETF PCs, often at expense of VET.
- No or minimal engagement of employers and TUs in many PCs.



## So, what makes VET attractive for ETF PCs?

- Quality (schools, teachers & trainers, QA mechanisms, etc.).
- Open pathways, and progress is being made.
- Engagement of social partners.
- Entry points for adults, even to IVET but also post-secondary VET.
- WBL and apprenticeship (or apprenticeship-like) training.
- The events of, e.g. the Arab Spring, have led many ETF PCs to question the poor employability of HE graduates.
- The key for attractiveness is getting a job! And that is how VET will become more attractive in ETF PCs.
- Opportunity – demographic re-balancing. Many ETF PCs have huge youth cohorts and temporary-, circular- and regular migration will play a critical role to meet our mutual challenges.