

Bridging the Gap Between The Worlds of Vocational Education and Work, VETLAM II Project Completed

The closing of the EU funded Technical Assistance Project, supporting the development of Life Long Learning, Vocational Education and Training and Active Labour Market Measures (VETLAM II Project) has been marked with an event on Tuesday, 6 November from 17:30 to 19:30 at Bedestan, Nicosia.

The VETLAM II Project, with a total value of 1.6 million Euro, aimed to provide technical assistance services to the Turkish Cypriot community in the field of VET strategy and qualification framework, apprenticeship training system, data collection and information management system, lifelong learning, employment services and active labour market measures through an active social dialogue leading to an efficient and effective VET education system able to provide adequately trained labour force that meets the needs of the economy.

As part of the VETLAM II Project, sector councils were established and 54 occupational standards were updated and a methodology for this process was prepared to be utilized for further revisions as necessary. Occupational standards have to be revised in line with the skills needs of the labour market. The Revision of Occupational Standards (ROS) was carried out with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, which ensured the alignment of the skill needs of businesses with vocational education and training.

The VETLAM II Project also contributed to the development of a Vocational Education and Training (VET) strategy. VETLAM II Project's close coordination with KTEZO resulted in bringing the practices of its apprenticeship school closer to EU standards in terms of career development, capacity building and work based assessment practices. The capacity of the employment services to deliver support to employers and job seekers was also improved and modernised as a result of the VETLAM II Project.

Background:

The European Union has been assisting the Turkish Cypriot community in reforming the education sector in order to enhance human resource development and to assist in the creation of more and better jobs by improving adaptability of workers and enterprises and increasing investment in human capital. Overall, 13.8 million euro has been allocation until 2017 to support this objective through grants, technical assistance and equipment. To develop and improve the labour market, an EU funded technical assistance project, the Vocational Education, Training and Labour Market (VETLAM I) Project ran from 2008 to 2012 with a value of 1.8 million euro. The purpose of this assistance was to establish a system for upgrading the skills of the labour force and to improve the quality of vocational education and training (VET) system. VETLAM II with a total value of 1.6 million euro has been operational since November 2015 for three years to improve the VET and Life Long Learning (LLL) systems as well as improving employability. In total 0.7 million euro worth of supplies were provided to improve the capacity of vocational education and training institutions.

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