



European Training Foundation

## **European Training Foundation – Background**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The European Training Foundation supports the development of human resources and related labour market systems in third countries in the framework of the European Union's external policies.

As a centre of expertise in the field of vocational education and training, the ETF offers:

In-depth knowledge of the political, social and economic context and human resource development reform in third countries; and

Modern concepts of human resource development and related labour market systems, with particular reference to European Union good practice and relevant acquis and;

Experience and competence in the transfer of this expertise to third countries in the context of EU external relation programmes.

The ETF promotes access to European expertise and practices in human resources development in general and European Employment Strategy in particular.

The ETF works with over 40 countries which can be divided into four main groups across the continents, including the non EU Mediterranean countries and territories, the countries of the Western Balkans, the New Independent States and Mongolia and the 13 candidate countries



## **New Independent States and Mongolia <sup>2</sup>**

For several years the Foundation has had responsibility for a number of large-scale vocational training projects within the EU Tacis programme. These have ranged from the implementation of system reforms in Uzbekistan to support for the Commission's Management Training Programme in Russia, also known as the Presidential Programme (formerly the Yeltsin Initiative).

An increasing amount of work is also being undertaken across Russia and Central Asia with support from other donors, for example Member States and international organisations such as the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation. Much of this work has also focused on the reform of government policy and training systems, but in parallel some groundbreaking work has involved introducing entrepreneurship in education; building alliances between training institutions and companies; and increasing the capacity of institutions to respond to the needs of the demand side.

## **Mediterranean partners <sup>3</sup>**

ETF support to the Euro-Mediterranean policy started in 1999 and has produced a great deal of information on national training systems and challenges, which has been used by the Commission, other donors (e.g. World Bank) and partner countries themselves.

The initial pilot phase of ETF involvement is now finished. Work in 2002 included predominantly services to the European Commission in policy formulation, project identification and VET system reform, and impact monitoring which includes the development of a system of labour market information gathering.

In the medium term the Foundation will draw on lessons learned from the first generation of reform undertaken with other donors and continue to develop the role of 'technical reference agency' for training and labour market related analysis and evaluation for Europe.



## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE TEMPUS PROGRAMME**

Tempus is a EU higher education initiative for the non-associated countries of south-east Europe, the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia. The programme was launched in 1990 and is now in its third phase, Tempus III which covers the period 2000-2006 and currently includes a total of 18 partner countries.

The programme aims to promote co-operation between EU higher education institutions and their counterparts in the partner countries to assist in the reform of higher education which will lead to greater internationalisation and modernisation. The latest phase of Tempus places increased emphasis on regional co-operation (particularly in the area of South East Europe) and on civil society development through Institution Building Projects.

The Tempus Department in the Foundation provides technical assistance to the European Commission (Education and Culture DG) in the implementation of the Tempus programme. It works in close co-operation with colleagues in the Education and Culture DG, the Department coordinates and participates in selection, contract management, monitoring, publications and scheme development.

An extension of the Tempus programme to the MEDA countries is envisaged in 2002.