

Linking skill needs to E&T provision in transition and developing countries

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Adaptation of the education and training provision to economic and demographic changes is a long standing challenge in the transition and developing countries of the EU neighbourhood

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The issue has gained momentum in view of persistent high unemployment rates among youth and the political developments in the South Mediterranean region

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Countries express considerations on how to anticipate skill demand and improve skills matching in the short, medium and long term

Accounting for the context

The skills demand

*Low aggregate labour market demand
biased towards lower levels of skills*

Uncertainty about future skill demand

- Slow enterprise restructuring
- SMEs, agriculture, informal economy
- Large territorial imbalances

The institutional setting

- low degree of cooperation among education and economic actors
- relatively weak intermediary institutions (PES, vocational guidance systems)

The skills supply

- Emigration
- Trend towards a polarisation in relation to skill levels (not all countries)
- Low capacity of the E&T system for innovation and change

Labour market intelligence

- Poor information basis on changes in the labour demand
- Under-utilisation of existing information
- Ad hoc surveys insufficiently embedded in the E&T decision making process

Implications and future steps

- Linking skill development strategies to broader developmental needs: a vision
- Supporting the innovation capacity of the E&T system
- Identify drivers of change to bring actors together : eg
 - Development of Qualification Frameworks (process)
 - Sectoral approaches
 - Reinforced cooperation at regional/local level: as an outcome of policies or as a spontaneous action by local actors (in developing regions)
- Generation of new information for better monitoring of trends in the supply and demand for skills
- Working more closely with policy makers to use existing information
- Drawing upon the experience of EU MSs on tools/instruments as an inspiration for actions