

Report of 2011 and the first half of 2012 work of National Vocational Education and Training Council

Working of the Vocational Education and Training Council in 2011 and in the first half of 2012 was conducted on the basis of the amendments implemented in the Law of Georgia on “Vocational Education” and according to the priorities of the reform of Vocational Education and Training.

There were conducted 11 meetings of Vocational Educational Council.

8 meetings of National Vocational Education and Training Council were held in 2011. 5 of them were extended National VET Council meeting participated with the international organizations and social partners and other stakeholders.

Other 3 meetings of National Vocational and Training Council were held in the first half of 2012, two of them were extended meeting with different stakeholders.

On the 30th of May, 2011 National Vocational Council meeting was held and there were discussed following issues:

- At the meeting the teacher Professional Development thematic group introduced the corrected version of teacher’s professional standard for vocational education institutions teachers. Also, the council members were provided with detailed information about the visiting colleges located in regions and public hearings on the standard. The National Vocational Council recommended the project of teachers’ professional standard to be approved.
- Social Partnership thematic group presented a working version of the policy document. The council members positively evaluated the tendency of social partnership development and considered it necessary to publish the document on the web - site and started public discussions on the document, including conducting extended meetings of the council for the consideration the social partnership policy document.
- Quality development thematic group introduced the offer - demand analysis for vocational education programs.

On the 16th of June National Vocational Council meeting, participants continued hearing of the reports of thematic groups. In particular,

- ✓ The thematic Group of educational quality development presented information on how is the vocational education quality development policy after the legislative changes;
- ✓ The vocational education funding thematic group introduced the policy for vocational education funding;
- ✓ Career planning thematic group introduced report and recommendations how to develop the career planning and professional orientation services at vocational educational institutions;
- ✓ There were also considered informational and advertising campaigns for the vocational education at the council meeting;
- ✓ At the same meeting, once again there was introduced and considered amendments that should be implemented in the Vocational Education and Training Development Midterm (2009-2012) Strategy.

There were held the National Vocational Council meetings on the 28th of June and 29th of July, 2011. The Council meetings were entirely dedicated to the development and strengthening issues of social partnership in vocational education.

At the Council meeting that was held on the 28th of June at the Hotel “Sheraton Metekhi Palace” the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Georgian Trade Union and Georgian Employer Association presented their opinions about the social partnership role in vocational education development.

At the same meeting, employers and vocational colleges made reports on the cooperation practice. The vision of the social dialogue was presented by representative of German organization for International Cooperation (GIZ).

At the extended meeting the thematic group of the National Vocational Council introduced the policy document of Social partnership in vocational education. It was decided that all stakeholders must be actively involved in the discussions and corrections of the document. The thematic group must hold further meetings and consultations, must prepared social partners’ specific responsibilities and the document should be more effective.

The next extended meeting of the National Vocational Council was held at the Vocational College “Ikarosi” on the 29th of July, 2011.

The Council meeting was attended by the members of National Vocational Council, employers, representatives of trade unions and associations, representatives of international organizations and vocational colleges and other stakeholders.

The whole session was dedicated to define the role of the tripartite dialogue in the process of vocational education reform. The policy document which was prepared by the thematic group of Social Partnership was presented to the audience, once again. In the document, there are defined all the issues that are obliged for the involved parties – particularly, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Trade Unions and their associations, and Employers – for the further development of vocational education.

The meeting participants expressed their satisfactions on the fact, that the first time in the educational reform process, there was a precedent for the proposal that the three parts of the social partnership – state, trade unions and employers confirmed their will as the official document. By the document they determined their powers and their obligations to cooperate closely in the field of vocational education at all stages of development.

At the end of the National Vocational Education and Training Council meeting tripartite agreement was signed on determining the social partnership policy in vocational education. The above-mentioned document was signed by: Mr. Dimitri Shashkini - Minister of Education and Science of Georgia; Mr. Elgudja Meladze – President of Georgian Employers Association and Mr. Irakli Petriashvili – Chairman of Georgian Trade Unions.

In November 2, 2011, at the National VET Council meeting were discussed the following documents:

- ✓ Monitoring outcomes of trainings on basic pedagogical skills for vocational educational institutions teachers
- ✓ “Amendments and corrections in the EU SPSP document”

At the meeting, Mrs. Irine Kurdadze mentioned that the teachers’ professional development process is continuing and the Ministry with the National Center for teachers’ professional development are planning to conduct subjective trainings for vocational educational teachers. At the meeting, Mrs. Irine Kurdadze also said that the Ministry is working on a new model of Vocational Education Financing.

There was also presented amendments that had to be done in SPSP 3rd tranche conditions. The council members and attendees agreed that they would send their comments and notes to the council secretariat.

The next meeting of the National Vocational Education and Training Council was held on the 11th of November, 2011. The meeting was extended and was attended by international organizations dealing with vocational education and other stakeholders. At the meeting was discussed vocational education financing issue. Mr. Dimitri Shashkini (Minister of Education and Science of Georgia) was leading the meeting. Mr. Shashkini introduced the state view regarding to vocational education financing – voucher financing model that must be a fair financing model, when all the vocational educational institutions (both - public and private) would be in the same conditions. In this case there would be healthy competition among educational institutions dealing with vocational educational programmes. Vocational educational institutions will start getting closer to business and cooperation with private sectors, those factors will support to increase employment. He highlighted that the voucher will go only on the priority programmes that would be approved by the Ministry.

He talked about a budget for vouchers and he named the categories of people who would receive a voucher:

I – Pupils who have left schools after finishing the 9th class, and make a decision to get vocational education;

II – Pupils who have finished the all 12 classes and have not registered on the National Exams. (Those who will register on the National Exams, they would lose vouchers).

III – Social vulnerable people, who want getting vocational education;

IV – adults who have already had a profession, but they cannot find work places. So they want to get a new profession, they pass IQ tests and if they did correctly more than 40% of the test, they would get voucher.

After a long discussion, the council made a decision to conduct a financing thematic group meeting on the 16th of November, where discussion on the financing issue would continue.

On the 15th of December the third extended National Vocational Education and Training Council was conducted at the Ministry of Education and science of Georgia. At the same time Supervisory Board members were attending the meeting. At the meeting, the ministry presented amendments and corrections in the EU SPSP document (3rd tranche conditions) once again for the members of the council and advisory board. There was also presented a new model of VET financing.

National vocational education and training council extended meeting was held at the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia on the 14th of February, 2012. Vocational education and training reform strategy implementation report was presented by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. Also, at the meeting was presented Action Plans of the working Thematic working Groups. During the session, there was discussion regarding to the social partnership; that vocational educational institutions start close cooperation with business sector.

Georgian Employer Association (GEA) mentioned that they conducted a meeting with representatives of employers, vocational education institutions, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and others stakeholders. The meeting was held at Tbilisi Vocational College "Ikarosi".

The Ministry of Education and Science presented the State Policy of vocational education development and talked about the VET institutions and the programmes implemented by those institutions.

The last topic that was discussed on the 14th February meeting was amendments and additions in the 4th annex of Qualification Framework, which was presented by the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement. At the meeting, attendees expressed their different opinions regarding to the following qualifications: "hairdresser" and "Fruit-vegetable primary processing". After discussion, the attendees made a decision to invite sectoral committees once again and consider those two qualifications with sector experts and other stakeholders.

The Next meeting of National Vocational Education and Training Council was held on the 10th of April at the Ministry. There were presented the following documents:

- ✓ Resolution # 96 of the Government of Georgia (15 March 2012) – rule of vocational educational student financing for the first 3 levels of vocational educational programmes
- ✓ Action plan of financing working group

The Ministry mentioned that regarding to voucher distribution; the priority would be social vulnerable people who are under the line of poverty. The second category would be pupils, who have finished the 9th class. Also, pupils who have finished schools (12 classes) and they do not continue their education at Universities. People who does not belongs neither of above-mentioned categories, has two ways:

1. Co-financing – the state pays 70% of the voucher (700 GEL) and a person pays 30% (300 GEL) or
2. A person have an opportunity to get whole voucher (1000 GEL) if he/she pass the General Skill Test.

She added that voucher will be given only on the priority programmes that are approved by the Ministry of Education and Science. The ministry added that, at this stage, the voucher would be almost 2 million GEL, but in the case of increasing the willingness of getting vocational education the amount of money will rise proportionally.

On the 8th of June, 2012 NVETC meeting was held at the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. The council discussed the following issues:

- Results of students' registration and enrollment at Vocational education institutions.
- Results of trainings for professional orientation and career guidance managers.
- Results of trainings for the staff of Informational Centers of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
- Results of the trainings for the teachers of LEPL vocational educational institutions.