

Mediterranean Week of Economic Leaders

Shaping the Mediterranean Future

Matching higher education & skills with labour market needs


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My presentation this morning

- ✓ European Training Foundation
- ✓ Mind the gap: big issues for skills agenda
- ✓ Policy support solutions
- ✓ What next?

ETF's partner regions following EU enterprise skills agenda



Eastern Partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

Pre-accession: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Turkey

Mediterranean Neighbourhood: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Occupied Palestinian Territory

A skilled workforce: whose agenda is it anyway?

- ✓ Business dissatisfaction with workforce skills
- ✓ Public-private sector partnership
- ✓ HSE: high skills' equilibrium (Finegold, 1991)
- ✓ A shared agenda

Policy making in a data vacuum

- ✓ Who tracks skills gaps, weaknesses, future requirements?
- ✓ Enterprise first!
- ✓ Only skills or wider issues like key competencies, knowledge?
- ✓ Trade skills, management skills, higher level technical skills, links to innovation?
- ✓ Resource allocation: what cost to public purse of supply-driven training?
- ✓ 50% of the workforce: what price women's skills?

The education-economy nexus

- Paradigm change: the three Es
 - a) education, b) economy and c) employment*
- Education establishment: slow to change
- Business providing a 'leading' hand
- On the job training: business responsibility for skills
- Public and private training providers

The policy support process

Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Small Enterprise

- Indicators to support skills development process – emphasis on system-building
- Comparative assessment, good practice exchange
- Indicators as a domestic tool

Charter Policy Dimensions

1. **Simple procedures for firms**
2. **Entrepreneurial learning**
3. **Small business skills**
4. **Access to finance, taxation**
5. **Better market access**
6. **Innovation**
7. **Business associations**
8. **Business support schemes**
9. **Networks and partnerships**
10. **Information for businesses**

Indicators

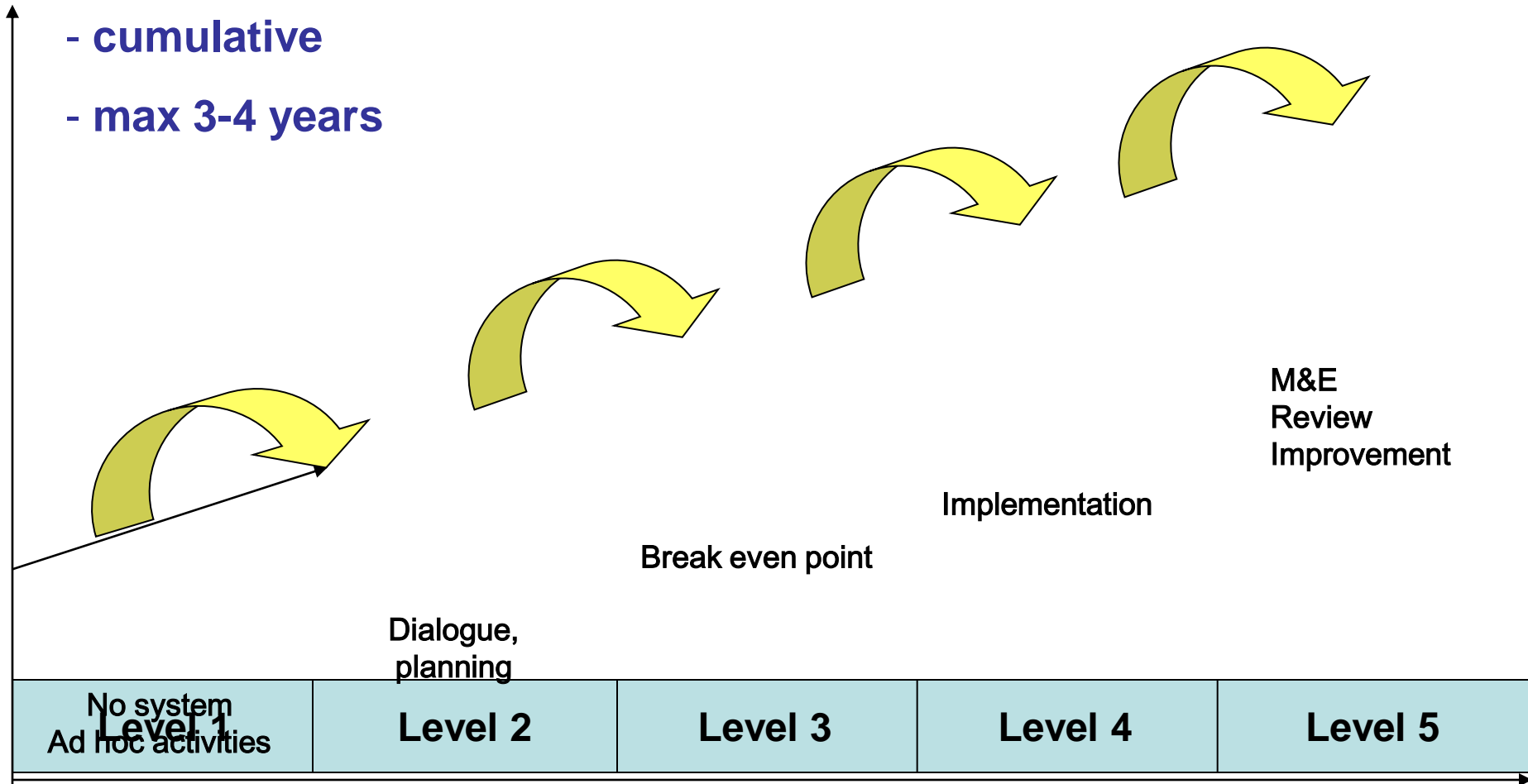
- Lifelong entrepreneurial learning policy
- Secondary, vocational (& tertiary 2012?)
- Good practice, Non-formal learning
- Skills for sustainable businesses (2012?)

Indicators

- Training provision
- Training take-up by firms
- Start-ups
- Enterprise growth
- Access to international markets
- Women's entrepreneurship (2012?)

Each indicator

- 5 level scale
- cumulative
- max 3-4 years



University-Business Cooperation

Rationale	<i>Cooperation between higher education and business contributes to competitiveness and promotes graduate employability.</i>
Objective	<i>Enhanced entrepreneurship, employment and commercial value of knowledge and expertise from the higher education system for local, regional and national development.</i>
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪There is no discussion amongst key stakeholders* on promotion of higher education cooperation with the business world.
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪A policy concept paper on cooperation between the higher education establishment and business has been elaborated and discussed by stakeholders (e.g. workshop, conference, seminar). The paper includes the contribution of business to curricula, governance structures and university financing. The paper forms part of a wider national effort to promote life-long entrepreneurial learning defined within a national lifelong learning strategy. **
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪A national policy on cooperation between higher education and business world has been approved by key stakeholders. The policy defines the contribution of business to curricula, governance structures and university financing and includes a national monitoring and evaluation framework. *** ▪Set against national policy, at least 50% of higher education institutions have developed strategies for cooperation with business.
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪At least 50% of higher education institutions have developed action plans for implementation of national policy for higher education – business cooperation. ▪In the reporting period, an annual meeting involving the higher education establishment and world of business has been held a) to review progress on national policy with b) recommendations for improvements to be addressed in the 12 months following the national annual meeting.
Level 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪At least 75% of higher education institutions have developed action plans for implementation of national policy for higher education – business cooperation. ▪In the reporting period, an annual meeting involving the higher education establishment and world of business has been held a) to review progress on national policy with b) recommendations for improvements to be addressed in the 12 months following the national annual meeting.
Justification	
Key sources	
Next steps	

- System solution: building intelligence on enterprise skills
- All on board: cooperation, coordination, consensus on skills development policy (HSE)
- Sharing knowledge, know-how and good practice
- ETF 2012 good practice peer reviews: youth start-ups, skills for enterprise growth, women's entrepreneurship

ETF Enterprising People!



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