

The protocol of the Meeting concerning the Financial Agreement signed between the Government of Georgia and the EU "Employment and Vocational Education and Training" established under the "Employment and Vocational Education and Training Sector Coordinating Council" #1

17 March, 2014

Meeting location: the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia

Meeting participants:

	Name, surname	Position
Council Members:		
	Ketevan Natriashvili	First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, Chairman of the "Employment and Vocational Education and Training Sector Coordinating Council
	Mariam Jashi	Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Chairman of the "Employment and Vocational Education and Training Sector Coordinating Council "
	Mikheil Janelidze	Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
	Elene Jibladze	Director of the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
	Noe Kinkladze	Director of Social Services Agency
	Tea Gulua	Representative of the "National Vocational Education and Training Council" (NVET Council)
	Irakli Petriashvili	Chairman of the Georgian Trade Unions Confederation
	Mikheil Chelidze	Chairman of the Georgian Small and Medium Enterprises Association
	Irina Kvakhadze	Deputy CEO of Business Association of Georgia
	Kakhaber Daushvili	Project Coordinator at the Association of Young Economists of Georgia
Council Representatives:		
	Tea Kvintradze	Deputy Director of National Center for Teacher Professional Development

	Stephan Storg	EU Representative Delegation in Georgia
	Nino Kochishvili	EU Representative Delegation in Georgia
Council observers:		
	Sophio Kemkhadze	The United Nations Development Program in Georgia
	Nodar Surguladze	Millenium Challenge Corporation (MCA Georgia)
	Irakli Shurghulaia	(GIZ)
Council observer representative:		
	Tsiuri Antadze	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Participants		
	Tamar Kitiashvili	Deputy Head of Vocational Education Development Department
	Nikoloz Meskhishvili	Head of the Social Partnership Promotion Division of the Vocational Education Development Department
	Paata Zhorzholiani	Head of the department of Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs in Georgia

The Chairman of the "Employment and Vocational Education and Training Sector Coordinating Council" (hereinafter referred to as the Coordination Council) Mrs. Katevan Natriashvili welcomed the audience and introduced the agenda of the issues to be discussed:

1. The financial agreement signed between the Government of Georgia and the European Union - "Employment and Vocational Education";
2. The definition of the "Employment and Vocational Education and Training Sector Coordinating Council working mandate";
3. The issue of establishment of the Council Secretariat and of a working groups.

The Head of the Social Partnership Promotion Division of the Vocational Education Development Department Mr. Nikoloz Meskhishvili forwarded the presentation to the participants about the financial agreement signed between the Government of Georgia and the EU concerning the "Employment and Vocational Education".

At the end of the presentation the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development - Mr. Mihkeil Janelidze asked if it was possible for the Council to provide the budget agreement and complete information about the indicators by which the program will be evaluated.

Mrs. Ketevan Natriashvili explained that the indicators are presented as a policy matrix format based on which the selected parties are aware of their obligations and therefore the envisaged activities provided by the matrix are carried out in coordination with the interagency. Secretariat was delegated to share the required information to the members of the Council.

Ms. Natriashvili has also pointed out that the information and documentation of each Coordinating Council meeting will be provided in advance by the Secretariat of the Council which will make the Council meetings more productive.

The representative of the EU delegation - Mr. Stefan Shtork welcomed the Coordinating Council participants and stressed the importance of budget support program.

The Chairman of the Georgian Trade Unions Confederation - Mr. Irakli Petrashvili expressed the opinion that the Council regulation and the Council members' contact information should be available to council representatives.

During the meeting, the representative of the EU delegation - Mrs. Nino Kochishvili raised the question of the fact that the Georgian Employers' Association was not represented in the Coordinating Council. Regarding the above mentioned question Ms. Natriashvili explained that the Georgian Employers' Association as a " professional education and training of the National Professional Council " (hereinafter referred to as the National Professional Council) member had the opportunity to vote and on the basis of sufficient number of votes could be presented as the Coordinating Council of the National Professional Council representative. However, the results of voting held on March 14th and by a majority of the votes it was decided that the Coordinating Council of National Council will be presented by the Executive Director of the Vocational Adult Education Association - Ms. Tea Gulua.

Mr. Mihkeil Janelidze and Mr. Irakli Petriashvili expressed their opinion that the existence of Georgian Employers 'Association in the Coordinating Council is very important as it is the most representative association on a national level and is internationally recognized organization.

Mrs. Natriashvili noted that the Ministry of Education and Science has received a written request of the association, therefore, he suggested to the members that the next meeting of the Council have been discussing this issue, according to the agenda.

The attending audience expressed the opinion that the definition of the functions of a full member and an observer status should be made. The head of the National Center for Education Development Mrs. Elene Jibladze has responded to the issue who pointed out that it is necessary to determine the functions of Council members as well as the observer personnel functions.

The question of the determination of Secretariat of the Council was also raised at the meeting. From the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia the chief Specialist of the Labour Relations and Social Partnership Division of the Labour and Employment Department Victoria Zamtaradze was named and Chief Specialist Anna Mchedlishvili from the Social Partnership

Promotion Division of the Vocational Education Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia.

Mr. Janelidze expressed the opinion that the creation of Portal where all members or persons with the observer status will have access to the matrix policy program and the implementation of its envisaged activities.

Mr. Meskhishvili noted that the issue of platform establishment is being considered where coordination council representatives will have the opportunity to have individual access to the various types of information that may not be public at this stage.

Ms. Maram Jashi explained the implications of budget support program, since in many cases the perception is ambiguous and there are concerns that the Ministries are involved in the administration of financial matters. Ms. Jashi has stressed out that the main activities envisaged in the policy matrix have to be performed correctly and in coordination with all departments.

Mr. Stefan Shtork raised the issue of the functioning of the working groups to which Ms. Natriashvili noted that this issue will be discussed at the next Coordinating Council meeting.

Ms. Natriashvili has summed up the session and noted that the first report on the implementation of the program will be provided at the next meeting according to the needs revealed within the agenda and the first report of programme implementation.

Chairman of the "Employment and Vocational Education and Training Sector Coordinating Council
Ketevan Natriashvili

Chairman of the "Employment and Vocational Education and Training Sector Coordinating Council
Mariam Jashi

The Secretary of the Employment and Vocational Education and Training Sector Coordinating Council

Anna Mchedlishvili

Victoria Zamtaradze