OVERALL OBJECTIVE
The overall objective of the Project is to contribute to the reform of the educational system in accordance with European Lifelong Learning Policies.

PROJECT PURPOSE
Strengthening the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports capacity in effective implementation of the National Qualification Framework.

COMPONENTS AND MANDATORY RESULTS
1. Review of Ukrainian VET legislation and development of recommendations for its improvement based on EU policy and experiences in LLL:
   - MoESYS capacity improved through professional use and further development of the legislative regulatory framework of primary and secondary legislation within the VET area.
   - Provision of input for new sub-law proposals and improvement of existing laws and sub-laws based on best EU practices.

2. Support to NQF implementation strategy:
   - Recommendations for NQF implementation have been produced.

3. Development and implementation of schemes and criteria for VET quality assurance:
   - Recommendations for VET quality assurance developed.
   - MoESYS capacity to develop new standards improved though training and exchange of experiences. Materials covering 5 professions developed and analysed.

NEWS
The first working group meeting
February 6, 2013 at Kyiv professional-pedagogical Antona Makarenko College was organized the first working group meeting of Component 1 «Review of Ukrainian VET legislation and development of recommendations for its improvement based on EU policy and experiences in LLL» and Component 2 «Support to National Qualification Framework (NQF) implementation strategy». 
The meeting discussed the issue of coordination of short-term international experts, gathering information material for further work of experts and scheduled coordination meetings with experts.

**TWINNING PROJECT OPENING CONFERENCE**

February 19, 2013, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Borys Zhebrovskyi Twinning Project opening conference was held. The Conference was attended by: Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, members of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, representatives of the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany, Project international partners from the Consortium of EU member state countries, representatives of State Civil Service, Ministry of Economics and Trade of Ukraine, Joint Representative Body of Employer Side on the National Level, Institute of Innovative Technology and Educational Content of Ukraine, Institute of Vocational Education of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine, directors of VET Institutions and schools, and representatives of the NGOs and mass-media. During the conference, the head of the Twinning project from a consortium of EU member states Susanne Gottlieb said that the overall goal of the project is to promote the reform of the national education system according to EU policy on lifelong learning. She said that the project aim is to strengthen the capacity MoES in the effective application of the National Qualifications Framework and the overall improvement of the quality of VET through the introduction of the best practices.

In addition, according to Susanne Gottlieb, partnership between Ukraine and EU member state countries and their cooperation in VET have outstanding prospects. “We have a common understanding of the program and all its features. Our project - this is a great opportunity to improve and modernize education, which in the future will provide for citizen good and prestigious job” - she said.

Addressing the audience, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Borys Zhebrovskyi said: “To improve the quality of Ukrainian VET we need an experience of our colleagues from the countries of the Western Europe. First and foremost, you want to work with the legal framework - to analyze it and improve. European and Ukrainian legislation in the field of vocational education should be completely identical.”

Viacheslav Suprun, Deputy Head of VET Department of MoES, considers legislative modernization as a main condition of improving quality of VET. For him, analysis of current legislation is priority in the Project realization. Also Viacheslav Suprun informed that such work is being already underway - for example, during 2012 Ukraine adopted six laws, in particular to strengthen vocational education, the regulatory framework is also Modernizing - this year we are continuing to work on the creation and introduction of new state standards VET (in 2013 is planned to create 46 new standards).

Beside that, MoES makes an active rule-making work, which involves the introduction of a learning process leading technology and improvement of educational facilities. Also during the conference, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Ukraine Maria Jurikova said: “The project Twinning is the step towards sharing and a leading European experience. And I am sure that the Ministry of Education and Science will do everything for its successful realization. It is important to say, that the main changes in the VET fields
are already done, but there are so many changes to do in the future”.

In conclusion Deputy Minister of Education and Science stressed: “We can work together and move forward only in complete openness, honesty and mutual understanding.” According to the Deputy Minister, only with the hard and consistent work and providing a clear understanding and implementation of the tasks we can achieve real quality changes and raise the prestige of the Ukrainian vocational education to a new level. In conclusion Deputy Minister of Education and Science stressed: “We can work together and move forward only in complete openness, honesty and mutual understanding”.

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TWINNING PROJECT EXPERT MISSIONS

From 17 till 26 of February, 2013 during the Twinning Project “Modernisation of legislative standards and principles of Education and Training in line with the EU-Policy in Lifelong Learning” was held the first expert mission of Component 1 “Review of Ukrainian VET legislation and development of recommendations for its improvement based on EU policy and experiences in LLL” International expert of this Component was Søren Bo Poulsen – AARHUS TECH. During the meetings, members of the working group (representatives of the departments of the Ministry, the Institute of Innovative Technology and Educational Content, the Institute of Vocational Education of NAPS of Ukraine, directors of vocational schools) identified the main areas of work under Component 1 of the Project.

The meeting also learned with experience of implementation of European directives into national legislation of Denmark and Germany in the field of vocational education and aspects of cooperation with the EU and international cooperation, and also had the opportunity to compare Danish and Ukrainian legislation in the field of vocational education.

The second expert mission took place from 24 February to 1 March, 2013 in the framework of the project plan. Christiane Eberhardt and Georg Hanf were invited for the second component of the project “Support to National Qualification Framework (NQF) implementation strategy”. Main results of this mission were: data collection and analysis, reporting tasks and priorities to members of the working groups and interviews with team members and stakeholders. February, 25 the meeting of the Working Group Component 2 with 7 members of the working group (except experts) was held. In addition, experts conducted individual meetings, during which discussed the main activities under this component.

As a result of interviewing experts gave a positive evaluation of the mission and provided recommendations on the working group.

The third mission of the first quarter was the expert mission of Søren Kristensen and Ellen Jeppesen from 10 to 15 of March, 2013. The purpose of of the working group meeting of Component 3 and individual interviews was implementing of
Subcomponents 3.2 (methods of analysis of the Ukrainian national educational standards) and 3.3 (developing educational standards in five professional fields).

Experts presented the Danish educational standards and provided recommendations for further action of the working group to the next visit, namely from 15 to 21 of April, 2013.

During the aforementioned missions experts met with:
- Representatives of Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine;
- Olena Gorsheniova, Partnership and Project Manager, British Council;
- Timo Cuuselo – Project Manager, European Training Foundation;
- Rodion Kolyshko – Director of the Labor Potential Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Department of the Joint Representative Body of Employer on the National Level;
- Directors of the VET Institutions in Kyiv;
- Representatives of Institute of VET;
- Representatives of the Institute of Innovative Technology and Educational Content of NAPS of Ukraine.