

**Study visit by the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour (MOITAL)
21-22 September 2011**

On the 21st and 22nd September officials from the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour (MOITAL) visited Rome, as part of the project “Centre for Euromediterranean Cooperation. A network for the development of training and work systems” and the joint declaration signed 2 February, 2010 between the Ministry of Labour and Welfare and MOITAL.

Wednesday 21 September

The following people were present:

For MOITAL

Shalom Ben Moshe, Senior Director of Manpower Training & Development Bureau
Emile Melloul, Head of Pedagogy Sector, Manpower Training & Development Bureau
Zeev Dibask, Manager of Safety project, Department of Labour Inspection

For the Milan branch of the Israeli Embassy

Giovanna Bossi, Trade officer and business development Bureau

For the European Training Foundation (ETF)

Michael Graham
Sabina Nari

For the Ministry of Labour and Welfare

Pietro Orazio Ferlito, Directorate General of active and passive work policies
Anna Melinelli, Directorate General of active and passive work policies

For I'ISFOL

Domenico Sugamiele, Department of Training systems
Antonella Attanasio, Activity and international relations structure
Laura D'Alessandro, Activity and international relations structure
Gabriella Di Francesco, Systems and learning methodology area
Maria Di Saverio, Activity and international relations structure
Maria Laura Marini, Activity and international relations structure
Aurelia Tirelli, Web and multimedia communication structure
Anna Tito, Activity and international relations structure

In the course of the first day – which took place at ISFOL – Domenico Sugamiele explained, to the delegation, the institutional objectives and the area in which ISFOL works and gave a general outline of the Italian system of vocational education and training while Antonella Attanasio presented the project's activities and described the aims – to strengthen cooperation between the Ministry of Labour, the Italian regions and Mediterranean countries, in their training and work systems – as well as the principle initiatives that have so far been realised by the project, such as study visits, thematic laboratories *The territory's value and new opportunities for training and work in the Mediterranean*, the telematic bulletin “Med News”

Gabriella Di Francesco focused on the methodology and structure of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), illustrating the key concepts and perspectives, with particular attention on the Italian experience. The aim of the study visit was in fact to promote the knowledge and understanding of methodologies and the tools for defining an EQF, in view of the Israeli construction of a NQF. Michael Graham from ETF, an institution which Isfol is collaborating with for the Project "Centre for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation" specifically dedicated his speech to the construction of the NQF. Graham presented the work done and ETF's experience with regard to NQF in the Mediterranean countries where the Foundation operates. By way of an example, he focused on the qualifications framework in Scotland and Croatia and hinted at the possibility of "construction" of an Israeli NQF.

As highlighted by the Italian participants in response to the question of Shalom Ben Moshe on the time needed for the "construction" and the implementation of a NQF, some countries have initiated a national system of qualifications starting with the adoption of specific legislations.

Thursday 22 September

The following people were present:

For MOITAL

Shalom Ben Moshe, Senior Director of Manpower Training & Development Bureau
Emile Melloul, Head of Pedagogy Sector, Manpower Training & Development Bureau
Zeev Dibask, Manager of Safety project, Department of Labour Inspection

For the Milan branch of the Israeli Embassy

Giovanna Bossi, Trade officer and business development Bureau

For the European Training Foundation (ETF)

Michael Graham, Qualification Specialist (European Training Foundation)
Sabina Nari, Project Officer (European Training Foundation)

For the Region of Emilia Romagna

Fabrizia Monti, Professional Training service

For the Lombardy Region

Ada Fiore, Directorate General Training and Work
Operating Unit For The Implementation Of Reforms And Controls

For the Ministry of Labour and Welfare

Pietro Orazio Ferlito, Directorate General of active and passive work policies
Anna Melinelli, Directorate General of active and passive work policies
Keiri Bucherelli, Directorate General of active and passive work policies
Lucia Scarpitti, Directorate General of active and passive work policies
Valentina Curzi, Directorate General of active and passive work policies

For I'ISFOL

Domenico Sugamiele, Department of Training systems
Antonella Attanasio, Activity and international relations structure
Laura D'Alessandro, Activity and international relations structure
Maria Di Saverio, Activity and international relations structure
Maria Laura Marini, Activity and international relations structure
Aurelia Tirelli, Web and multimedia communication structure
Anna Tito, Activity and international relations structure

The second day, moderated by Pietro Orazio Ferlito, was held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Labour in Via Flavia.

Lucia Scarpitti presented training standards in education and training in Italy, followed, Ada Fiore who presented the experience of the Lombardy Region in this area, to the MOITAL delegation.

Valentina Curzi presented the National Plan for the quality of education and training while Fabrizio Monti focused on interventions in the Emilia Romagna region in relation to the quality of education and vocational training and work.

At the conclusion of the presentations, Shalom Ben Moshe shared some considerations of the Israeli delegation. In particular, the reported low percentage (30%) of students in Israeli schools, a factor that is causing a shortage in the availability of technical figures at various levels. Hence the importance attached by MOITAL to a targeted intervention to strengthen the attractiveness of vocational schools.

The Israeli delegation expressed particular appreciation for the work done by Isfol for the enhancement of education and training. He expressed, in particular, great interest in the presentation of criteria for accreditation as a guarantee of service quality; he asked if he could have the documentation for accreditation, considering it as fundamental to the process of building a national system of certification that corresponds to the EQF that MOITAL is currently working on.

Emile Melloul illustrated the characteristics of the Israeli system of vocational education and training with emphasis on the cultural change of recent years that has re-evaluated training as an investment for the country's economic development rather than mere involvement of social policy.

To conclude, Shalom Ben Moshe briefly summarised the areas for which it is possible to envisage a more intense collaboration between the two countries on VET issues:

- Studies and research
- Support for the creation of an NQF
- Support in finding Italian partners to define the professional sector and the construction of corresponding training courses in the field of extraction and distribution of natural gas, given the advanced experience of Italy in the field. This interest stems from the discovery of important natural gas fields along the Israeli coast.

At closure, the Israeli delegation committed itself to send, in as short a time as possible, an operational proposal to develop cooperation in the up and coming months.