

June 06, 2017

Ms. Madlen Serban,
Director of the European Training Foundation

Dear Ms. Serban,

On behalf of the International Coordinating Council of Employers' Unions (ICCEU) and myself, I would like to express my respect and gratitude to the ETF for the continuous support to the educational system improvements in our countries. The ICCEU members kindly request ETF to support the initiative to create a specialized information platform of ICCEU member countries in the field of lifelong learning (LLL) and development of professional qualifications.

ICCEU was created in 2010 as a consultative body of employers' associations and entrepreneurs in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the CIS. Currently ICCEU unites 18 national associations of employers and entrepreneurs of 15 countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Romania, Ukraine, Estonia. The rotating presidency of ICCEU for the year of 2017 in accordance with the general decision of the Board members was transferred to the Republican Union of Employers of Armenia (RUEA). The annual ICCEU board meeting and discussions took place from 24 to 27 May in Armenia, Yerevan, which were combined with RUEA 10-year anniversary celebration ceremony.

ICCEU is actively developing in terms of its members. During the last Board meeting one new organization joined ICCEU. Moreover, it is planned to involve 2 new member organizations while Iran and Moldova have also shown high interest in joining ICCEU. Despite the differences in economic interests of ICCEU member countries the sphere of formation, development and preservation of human capital in modern conditions of globalization and migration processes unites employers of our countries.

Nowadays, educational reform processes, including vocational education and training in the ICCEU member countries, as well as in other countries and the world community have intensified. The intensity of these processes is determined by a number of factors, among which the main ones, in our opinion, are the following:

- the need to preserve the competitiveness of the economies of countries in the context of economic globalization, which requires the development of human capital;
- freedom of movement of people and labour force;
- ensuring the possibility of rapid concentration of labor resources at a certain point in space.

In our opinion, these and other factors make it necessary to coordinate the efforts of countries and employers' associations in the field of labour capital development and lifelong learning.

At its annual meeting on May 25, 2017 ICCEU members supported the initiative of the Confederation of Employers of Ukraine to create a specialized information platform that should provide:

- placing available information on the activities of the ICCEU member countries in the area of LLL development and professional qualifications (for the working professions at the first stage);
- publication of the main national and international documents for the development of LLL and professional qualifications;
- exchange of experience and information between the ICCEU member organizations in the field of development of professional qualifications.

In connection with the above we ask you to support the initiative to create such an information platform for ICCEU member countries for expanding possible cooperation opportunities in the field of education among ICCEU member countries with ETF support.

Dear Ms. Serban, I would highly appreciate the opportunity to once again briefly introduce to you the project and to discuss it with you during the Torino conference from 07 to 08 June.

Sincerely,

President of the Republican Union of
Employers of Armenia,
ICCEU President



Gagik Makaryan