Project Summary

Project Background
The European Training Foundation (ETF) is a specialised agency of the European Union based in Turin, Italy, which provides advice and assistance to the European Commission and partner countries for the reform of human capital development policies. It helps transition and developing countries to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems in the context of the EU’s external relations policy. Currently the ETF is working with 29 countries which can be grouped into the four regions i) Pre-Accession countries, ii) the European Partnership region, iii) Central Asia, and iv) Neighbourhood South.

Main Objective
The objective of this mid-term evaluation assesses the effectiveness of the ETF approach used for the planning and implementation of country projects
i) Providing a retrospective analysis of the planning and programme implementation tools used for the projects in partner countries in the implementation of ETF’s mandate.
ii) Based on the current strengths and weaknesses of the approach to make recommendations on the most appropriate approach for ETF.

Activities & Output
The evaluation examines the approach used in the planning and implementation of projects in partner countries for the period 2007 – 2009 in relation to ETF’s mandate including the tools and processes utilised at different stages of the ETF project cycle, their impact and the use and allocation of resources as a result of the planning processes used.

The basic approach of the evaluation consists of:
- Collection and analysis of data (both quantitative and qualitative);
- Definition of detailed evaluation questions, judgement criteria and indicators (for each evaluation criteria);
- (Semi-structured) interviews and observation supported by a checklist of detailed evaluation questions both at the ETF and for the in-depth studies which take place in the respective ETF partner countries;
- Field visits to Serbia, Ukraine and Jordan.

Outputs include an inception report, a presentation of key findings and recommendations and a final evaluation report.

Implementing Features
The five key DAC evaluation criteria - relevance, efficiency effectiveness, impact and sustainability – and a sixth criteria of added-value taking into consideration the specific mandate and role of the ETF are applied in the assessment.

Services Provided
- Assessment of the effectiveness of the ETF approach used for the planning and implementation of country projects
- Outputs include an inception report, a presentation of key findings and recommendations and a final evaluation report