MINISTERU
TA' L-EDUKAZZJONI
ŻGĦAŻAGĦ U XOGĦOL

MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION,
YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT

MALTA

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Kupless Modern għat-Taħriġ mill-ETC

L-estensjoni l-ġdida tal-Kumpless tat-taħriġ li l-ETC għandha f'Ħal Far kienet inawgurata llum mill-Ministru ta' l-Edukazzjoni, Żgħażagħ u Xogħol Louis Galea. L-estenzjoni saret bil-fondi tal-Gvern u tal-Fond Reġjonali għall-Iżvilupp Ewropew (ERDF). Għal dan il-proġett l-ETC kisbet €597, 894 (Lm 256,675). L-ETC diġa' bbenefikat minn madwar € 6 m (Lm 2.57m) mill-Fond Soċjali Ewropew (ESF) u madwar €600,000 (Lm 257,580) mill-ERDF.

Il-proġett kien jinvolvi estenzjoni tal-kumpless li kellha l-ETC f'Ħal Far li minn kemm ilu jopera diġa' pprovda taħriġ għal aktar minn 70,000 persuna f'diversi korsijiet li toffri l-korporazzjoni. Fl-aħħar sena finanzjarja ta' l-ETC (Ott 2006 - Sett 2007), aktar minn 8,200 persuna ġew imħarrġa. It-taħriġ ivarja minn ħiliet bażiċi għal suġġetti ta' l-IT, minn taħriġ fil-litteriżmu għal korsijiet ta' managers, minn snajja għal korsijiet fil-kummerċ. Bħalissa l-ETC toffri mal-130 kors differenti li huma mmirati biex itejjbu il-ħiliet ta' l-individwi biex b'hekk ikunu jistgħu isibu x-xogħol. Fl-aħħar 17-il sena l-ETC mexxiet ukoll numru sostanzjali ta' Apprentistati u Traineeships u skemi oħrajn immirati lejn gruppi partikolari ta' ħaddiema.

Permezz tal-Kumpless il-ġdid li issa tkabbar u ġie mmodernizzat, l-ETC se tkun tista tilqa aktar persuni fl-iskemi ta' taħriġ li toffri kif ukoll iżżid il-firxa tal-korsijiet li toffri kemm għal dawk li qed iffitxu x-xogħol kif ukoll dawk li diġa' jinsabu f'impjieg imma li jridu jtejjbu l-ħiliet tagħhom kif ukoll għal min iħaddem. Il-bini issa jinkludi workshops ġodda li ġew mgħammra kemm għat-taħriġ prattiku kif ukoll għat teorija. F'dawn il-workshops jista' jsir taħriġ fis-snajja, stallazjonijiet elettriċi, inġinerija u ICT. Hemm ukoll numru ta' klassijiet oħrajn għat-taħriġ. Il-kmamar kollha għandhom l-aħħar apparat teknoloġiku għat-taħriġ.

Wara li saret din l-estensjoni l-ETC applikat għal proġett ieħor li permezz tiegħu l-ETC tkun tista tibni block ġdid għat-taħriġ li se jkompli jżid il-kapaċità tat-taħriġ ta' l-ETC. Dan il-

proġett se jkun iffinanzjat mill-Gvern Malti bl-għajnuna tal-fondi ta' l-UE mill-perjodu ta' finanzjament li jmiss (2007 – 2013) u hu mistenni li jkun lest sa l-2009 b'investiment ta' € 627,000. (Lm 269,170)

Il-Ministru Louis Galea qal li l-mira tal-Gvern tibqa li f'pajjiżna jkun hawn 'full-employment', li jkun hawn aktar xogħol u xogħol aħjar u xogħol ta' kull tip biex kulħadd ikun jista jsib ix-xogħol. Il-Ministru semma kif il-Gvern għadu kemm approva s-somma ta' Lm 5m (€ 11.6 m) għall-ETC u waqt id-diskors tal-baġit tiegħu, il-Prim Ministru kien ħabbar diversi miżuri biex dawk li qed ifittxu x-xogħol jingħataw l-appoġġ biex jidħlu fid-dinja tax-xogħol. "Issa se nkunu qed inħallsu 60% tal-paga minima nazzjonali biex ngħinu lil dawk li jkunu żvantaġġjati biex dawn ukoll jiġu integrati fid-dinja tax-xogħol. Se nkomplu bl-inċentivi li noffru lin-nisa biex dawn ikunu mħajjra jibdew jaħdmu. Se nkunu qed niplimentaw programm għal dawk li jkunu ilhom jirreġistraw għax-xogħol li se jaħdmu għal 30 siegħa fil-ġimgħa u l-Gvern se jħallas 75% tal-paga minima nazzjonali. Dawn il-miżuri jiżdiedu mad-diversi programme u skemi li l-ETC u l-MCAST qed joffru biex iħarrġu l-poplu Malti."

Il-Ministru Galea qal li pajjiżna għaddej minn żvilupp ekonomiku sostanzjali u dan hu kkonfermat mill-economic survey li kien ippublikat dan l-aħħar. Hu qal li bi tkabbir ekonomiku ta' 4% tal-PGD il-pajjiż kien ukoll qed jirreġistra tkabbir sostanzjali fis-suq tax-xogħol. Hu qal li l-ammont ta' persuni li jaħdmu bi qlieħ kompla tiela għal 140,000 persuna u li 33% kienu nisa. Hu qal li fl-istess ħin in-numru ta' persuni jirreġistraw għax-xogħol kompla nieżel biex din is-sena kien hemm 900 persuna anqas jirreġistraw għax-xogħol u dan fisser li ir-rata niżlet għal 3.9 %.

Louis Galea qal li meta tanalizza l-etajiet differenti, issib li fl-etajiet kollha barra dawk li għandhom aktar minn 50 sena, kien hemm tnaqqis sostanzjali fl-ammont ta' nies ifittxu x-xogħol mill-2003. Hu qal li l-figuri juru wkoll li dawk li qed iffitxu x-xogħol qed idumu anqas biex isibu x-xogħol u dan grazzi għall-ħidma ta' l-ETC u t-taħriġ li din toffri. Il-Ministru Galea qal li kien għad fadal ħafna xogħol x'isir mill-korporazzjoni partikolarment biex jiġu mgħejjuna dawk li huma l-aktar vulnerabbli fid-dinja tax-xogħol partikolarment dawk li għandhom ħiliet limitati, dawk li għandhom aktar minn 40 sena, persuni li kienu l-ħabs jew li għandhom diżabilità, u anke biex aktar nisa jiġu mħeġġa jidħlu fid-dinja tax-xogħol. "F'dan kollu" qal il-Ministru Galea "l-UE qed tikkontribwixxi b'mod sostanzjali biex aktar Maltin jingħataw it-taħriġ meħtieġ partikolarment permezz ta' programme li jkunu mmirati lejn il-

gruppi li l-aktar għandhom bżonn l-għajnuna. L-ETC diġa' kienet strumentali biex il-fondi ta' l-UE jiġu użati b'mod li minnhom jibbenefikaw eluf ta' Maltin u Għawdxin u hu importanti li l-ETC tkompli tagħmel dan fis-snin li ġejjin biex permezz tal-Miljuni ta' liri li qed tpoġġi għad-dispożizzjoni tagħna l-UE inkomplu nħarrġu l-Maltin u l-Għawdxin biex kulħadd ikun jista' jgawdi mill-ġid li qed jinħoloq f'pajjiżna u mill-opportunitajiet ta' xogħol li qed jinħolqu". Il-Ministru temm jgħid li l-ETC diġa qed tipprepara biex tibda tuża fondi mill-pakkett finanzjarju 2007-2013. Fil-fatt s'issa l-ETC diġa' applikat għal diversi programme li bejniethom se jfissru investiment ta' € 10 m (Lm 4.29 m) fir-riżorsa umana ta' pajjiżna.

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New ETC Training Complex

The new extension to the ETC Training Complex in Ħal Far was inaugurated this afternoon by the Hon. Minister of Education, Youth and Employment, Dr Louis Galea. This extension was made possible through funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). ETC has obtained €597, 894 (Lm 256,675) to complete this project. ETC has benefited from almost € 6 million (Lm 2.57 m) under the European Social Fund (ESF) and around €600,000 (Lm257,580) from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The project is an extension to the Corporation's Training Complex, from which over 70,000 people received a variety of training programmes in the past years. In the past financial year (Oct 2006 - Sept 2007), over 8,200 people were trained. Training varied from basic skills to IT related subjects, from literacy to managerial courses, and from trade to business courses. ETC currently provides over 130 different courses aimed at improving the employability of its clients. For the past 17 years, the ETC has also been managing Apprenticeships, Traineeships and other Schemes that targeted particular client groups.

The new complex will enable the Corporation to meet the demand for more training programmes from jobseekers, those in employment wishing to further their knowledge and skills, and from employers. The building includes workshops specifically equipped for both theoretical and practical trade training, electrical installations, engineering and ICT. There are also a number of other lecture rooms for other training purposes. Each room is equipped with the latest technological training equipment.

The extension inaugurated this afternoon is the first phase of this upgrading. The Corporation applied for another project which will include the construction of a new training block which

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will eventually enable the Corporation to offer more training facilities to its clients. This project falls under the new funding period (2007 – 2013) and should be completed by 2009 with an investment of € 627,000 (Lm 269,170).

Minister Louis Galea said that the Government's objective remains full employment, more and better jobs, and jobs for all types of workers. The Government has just approved a budget for ETC amounting to more than LM 5 million (€ 11.6 m) and in the Budget Speech the Prime Minister, Dr Lawrence Gonzi, announced various measures to assist jobseekers to access the labour market. "We shall now be paying 60% of the national minimum wage to assist disadvantaged jobseekers to integrate in the labour market. We shall continue with our incentives to encourage more women to work. We shall implement a programme for the lon term unemployed whereby they will work for 30 hours per week and we shall fork out 75% of the national minimum wage. All these measures in addition to the programmes of training that ETC and MCAST are offering."

Minister Galea spoke about the economic revival that our country was going through as confirmed by the recently published economic survey. He said that at with an economic growth of around 4% of GDP the country was also witnessing growth in the labour market with the number of gainfully employed rising to more than 140,000 persons of which 33% were now females. He said that at the same time the number of persons on the unemployment register continued to fall. This year there were 900 persons less on the register and the unemployment rate is down to 3.9 % of the labour force.

Minister Galea said that when analysing the different age brackets of the unemployed one found that all age brackets, except the 50+ age bracket, registered the most significant decreases since 2003. He said that it is also worth noting that there has been a significant decrease in the time-span that persons spend on the register thanks to the ETC's efforts to help its clients find employment. Minister Galea said that there was still a lot of work to be done by the Corporation particularly to help those who are most vulnerable in the labour market, namely over 40's, unskilled workers, ex-convicts and the disabled, apart from the need to encourage more female workers into the labour market. "In all this" said Dr. Galea "the EU is contributing substantially towards the training and retraining of individuals and particularly through the programmes that are specifically aimed at vulnerable target groups. The ETC has already been instrumental in using EU funds for the benefit of Maltese workers and it will

continue to do so in the next few years with the Millions of Euros that the EU is putting at its disposal". Minister Galea said that the ETC is already preparing to start making use of EU funds for the period 2007-2013. In fact, to date, ETC has already applied for another € 10 m (Lm 4.29 m) worth of projects.