

Burkina Faso Fact-finding in West Africa

At this moment DECP is not active in West Africa. The need to invest in the economic development of this part of Africa however is identified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This made DECP decide to undertake a fact-finding mission to several West African countries, among which Burkina Faso.

Employers' Organisations accelerate economic growth. That is why DECP approached the CNPB (Conseil National du Patronat Burkinabe) in Ouagadougou. CNPB prepared a complete two days programme which allowed the DECP delegation not only to meet the CNPB staff, but to discuss with member organisations, the trade-unions and several political decision makers as well.

It became clear that all discussion partners recognize the need of improving the social dialogue and especially the impact of it on social stability. The gap between vocational education and labour market needs should be bridged because economic growth is restricted by the lack of competencies. A well-defined strategy on these issues should be worked out by the CNPB staff to move them into the right direction.

This summer strategic decisions will be made by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by DECP on future programmes in West Africa. DECP's support might accelerate the process of social dialogue and skills development in Burkina Faso and, probably, in other surrounding French speaking countries.