

ERI SEE

EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE
OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE



ERI SEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011

Contents:

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| <i>Contents:</i> _____ | 2 |
| <i>ERI SEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011</i> _____ | 3 |
| INTRODUCTION _____ | 3 |
| BACKGROUND _____ | 4 |
| WORK PROGRAMME 2011 SUMMARY _____ | 6 |
| ERI SEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011 _____ | 7 |
| OUTLINE OF ERI SEE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES for 2011 _____ | 7 |
| ENVISAGED TIMELINE FOR THE ERI SEE ACTIVITIES IN 2011 _____ | 10 |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of Knowledge: Modernising VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET _____ | 11 |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of Knowledge: Development of National Qualifications Frameworks _____ | 15 |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of Knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education _____ | 17 |

ERI SEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011

INTRODUCTION

In June 2010, five ERI SEE member countries reaffirmed their commitment to cooperating within the ERI SEE initiative (Albania, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) through the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Role and Organization of ERI SEE (MoU), which also sets a new framework for the transformation of ERI SEE into an international organization. Republic of Moldova has also joined the MoU in January 2011, and most recently Bosnia and Herezgovina in March 2011 by way of protocol.

Following the closure of the ERI SEE Secretariat in Zagreb, Croatia in June 2010, the ERI SEE Chairmanship has received an official expression of interest from the Government of Serbia to become the next host country of the ERI SEE Secretariat, but also a proposal to designate the Belgrade NGO, Centre for Education Policy (CEP) as the institution that will carry out the remainder of the ERI SEE 2010, prior to the opening of the new ERI SEE Secretariat. The ERI SEE Governing Board has accepted both of these proposals, therefore paving the way towards the transfer of ERI SEE operations from Zagreb, Croatia to Belgrade, Serbia.

CEP accepted to host the ERI SEE Secretariat in the interim period until the end of 2010 under the following conditions:

- The work programme and activities of CEP are to remain independent.
- CEP will undertake only those activities for which the funds have been secured in advance and will not take part in any fundraising activities.
- External representation is primarily the responsibility of the Chairmanship of the Governing Board.
- The transformation process and the founding of the ERI SEE Agency in Serbia is not in any way CEP's responsibility.

The Governing Board prolonged the interim period to the end of 2011.

BACKGROUND

ERI SEE's mission statement states that:

Education and training are crucial in promoting knowledge based, competitive and socially cohesive societies in Europe, and play important role in responding to the chances and challenges of globalisation. They are therefore a key to sustainable development and prosperity, in particular in South Eastern Europe.

The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) supports sustainable education reforms through regional cooperation. It aims at fostering shared European standards in education and training for a rapid integration of its member countries into a wider European area of education, thus contributing to the success and sustainability of the EU integration process.

ERI SEE takes into account both country-specific needs and demands in education reforms, as well as present trends in the development of the envisaged European Area of Education, as outlined in the EU 'Detailed Work Programme on the Follow-up of the Objectives of Education and Training Systems in Europe', the 'Bologna Process' and the 'Copenhagen Process'.

ERI SEE seeks synergies between education and research through information exchange and cooperation in line with the priority 'Building Human Capital' of the Regional Cooperation Council.

As part of its mission statement ERI SEE defined its main objectives for the period between 2008 and 2010:

- To continue to support of national education reform efforts in SEE in the perspective of the process of EU integration and the more global developments in education and training.
- To actively promote regional cooperation at system expert and civil society level through capacity building and know-how transfer.
- To facilitate information exchange and cooperation between the education and the research sector in SEE.
- To support national activities of its members related to the priorities of the "Detailed Work Programme on the Follow-up of the Objectives of Education and Training Systems in Europe" (Education & Training 2010) and follow-ups, the Copenhagen Declaration and follow-up communiqués (Copenhagen process) and the Bologna Declaration and the follow-up communiqués (Bologna process).

These objectives are to be achieved through a set of instruments, namely through:

- Information exchange between member countries, member countries and EU and where applicable global institutions and provision of information on European and global trends, policies and practice in education;
- Building regional institutional networks;
- Development of knowledge clusters under the initiative and leadership of country members.

In line with the mission statement and the main objectives, ERI SEE defined the following priority themes for the period 2008-2010:

- **Lifelong learning**, with the following topics: VET development and links with the labour market, post-secondary VET, entrepreneurial learning, adult education.
- **Qualifications Frameworks**, with the following topics: NQF development with attention to non-formal and informal learning, NQF development and references to the EQF, recognition of diplomas and cooperation among the ENIC/NARIC centres, Europass, links between higher education and VET.
- **Quality and equity in education**, with the following topics: quality assurance at all levels of education, equity in education, governance and efficiency in education, the role of teachers in ensuring quality and equity in education.

- **The knowledge triangle: education, research and innovation**, with the following topics: change management; higher education development, the Bologna process and the role of the universities in the process of forward thinking; learning regions and evidence-based policy making.

The Ministers responsible for Education and Higher Education have in the MoU signed in June 2010 reiterated that human capital development is the key priority for the South Eastern Europe region for finding innovative ways to back the economic growth, sustainable development, competitiveness and for safeguarding equitable and inclusive societies. Furthermore, the Ministers have affirmed their commitment to strengthen and broaden cooperation in the framework of ERI SEE that is will:

- Support sustainable education reforms on national levels through regional and international cooperation;
- Act as an interface to developments in relevant EU, European and international initiatives in education and to adjust ERI SEE's current thematic areas to the changed cooperation context both in South Eastern Europe and the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ("ET 2020");
- Support capacity building for increased use of the European cooperation instruments.

WORK PROGRAMME 2011 SUMMARY

ERI SEE specific objectives for 2011 are:

- Development of mutual policy learning practices through enhanced institutional cooperation in Vocational Education and Training in South East Europe.
- Development of institutional cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education for enhanced performance of the South East Europe in the European Higher Education Area.
- Establishing institutional cooperation in monitoring statistics in the field of education in order to meet EU standards and stocktaking commitments within the European Higher Education Area.
- Institutionalising support mechanisms for the Bologna Follow-up Group representatives as a vital measure to foster contribution of SEE countries to European level discussions and decisions.
- Further support to country initiatives in the domain of mutual policy learning and cooperation in the field of education in general.
- Initiating regional exchange of policies and practices in the area of equity and access to education, a measure of particularly relevance for reducing the percentage of early school leavers and increase the number of higher education graduates, as suggested by EU2020 education benchmarks.

The envisaged specific objectives will result in the following **outputs**:

- Established institutional network of VET centres with a developed Work Programme.
- Initiated institutional network of Quality Assurance Agencies in post-secondary education.
- Initiated institutional network of Bureaus of Statistics.
- Initiated non-formal regional network of Bologna Follow Up Group representatives.
- Established 3 joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge initiated and coordinated by countries: VET (Romania), NQF (Croatia) and Evidence-Based Policy Making (Serbia).
- Initiated regional policy and practice exchange in the area of ensuring equitable, quality education.

The specific objectives and outputs are to be achieved through the following **activities**:

- 4th meeting of SEEVET-Net in Moldova.
- Study visit to the Quality Assurance Agency in Romania back to back with the 1st regional networking meeting of Quality Assurance Agencies.
- The 1st Meeting of National Bureaus of Statistics back to back with the Meeting of regional network of BFUG representatives.
- Regional Conference on Quality and Equity in Education in South East Europe.
- Activities under work programmes of 3 joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge organized by the leading countries: VET (Romania), NQF (Croatia) and Evidence-Based Policy Making (Serbia).

ERI SEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011

The Work Programme for 2011 is set within the wider ERI SEE mission statement and the relevant Memorandum of Understanding as outlined above.

Having in mind the commitment of the countries signatories to the MoU to ongoing EU, European and international initiatives, while recognising the importance of the regional cooperation in education as a valuable instrument in addressing common challenges and the need to adjust the specific objectives in 2011 to the changed educational cooperation landscape in South Eastern Europe, the **ERI SEE specific objectives for 2011 are to:**

1. Development of mutual policy learning practices through enhanced institutional cooperation in Vocational Education and Training in South East Europe.
2. Development of institutional cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education for enhanced performance of the South East Europe in the European Higher Education Area.
3. Establishing institutional cooperation in monitoring statistics in the field of education in order to meet EU standards and stocktaking commitments within the European Higher Education Area.
4. Institutionalisation of support mechanisms for the Bologna Follow-up Group representatives as a vital measure to foster contribution of SEE countries to European level discussions and decisions.
5. Further support to country initiatives in the domain of mutual policy learning and cooperation in the field of education in general.
6. Initiation of regional exchange of policies and practices in the area of equity and access to education, a measure of particular relevance for reducing the percentage of early school leavers and increase the number of higher education graduates, as suggested by EU2020 education benchmarks.

OUTLINE OF ERI SEE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES for 2011

1. Development of mutual policy learning practices through enhanced institutional cooperation in Vocational Education and Training in South East Europe.

The specific objective 1. Development of mutual policy learning practices through enhanced institutional cooperation in Vocational Education and Training in South East Europe will result in Established institutional network of VET centres with a developed Work Programme. The envisaged objective and the output will be reached through the organisation of the 4th meeting of SEEVET-Net in Moldova.

ERI SEE has supported the development of the SEEVET-NET in the past 2 years. SEEVET-NET is currently in the process of institutionalisation of its work through signing of a cooperation agreement between VET Centres in South East Europe. In 2011 a mid term programme focusing on capacity building and mutual policy learning is to be developed at the 4th Meeting of the SEEVET-Net to be held in Moldova.

2. Development of institutional cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education for enhanced performance of the South East Europe in the European Higher Education Area.

The specific objective 2. Development of institutional cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education for enhanced performance of the South East Europe in the European Higher Education Area will result in an initiated institutional network of Quality Assurance Agencies in post-secondary education. The envisaged objective and the output will be reached through a Study visit

to the Quality Assurance Agency in Romania back to back with the 1st regional networking meeting of Quality Assurance Agencies.

Peer to peer learning visits between Quality Assurance Agencies have been taking place under the ERI SEE umbrella and with ERI SEE support. The next study visit to the Quality Assurance Agency in Romania will also provide an opportunity for a meeting between Quality Assurance Agencies to discuss opportunities for institutional cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education for enhanced performance of the South East Europe in the European Higher Education Area in potential partnership with UNESCO and ENQA.

3. Establishing institutional cooperation in monitoring statistics in the field of education in order to meet EU standards and stocktaking commitments within the European Higher Education Area.

The specific objective 3. Establishing institutional cooperation in monitoring statistics in the field of education in order to meet EU standards and stocktaking commitments within the European Higher Education Area will result in an initiated institutional network of Bureaus of Statistics.

4. Institutionalising support mechanisms for the Bologna Follow-up Group representatives as a vital measure to foster contribution of SEE countries to European level discussions and decisions.

The specific objective 4. Institutionalising support mechanisms for the Bologna Follow-up Group representatives as a vital measure to foster contribution of SEE countries to European level discussions and decisions will result in an initiated non-formal regional network of Bologna Follow Up Group representatives.

The objectives 3 and 4 will be achieved through the 1st Meeting of National Bureaus of Statistics back to back with the Meeting of regional network of BFUG representatives. The meeting will provide an opportunity for institutional cooperation in monitoring statistics in the field of education in order to meet EU standards and stocktaking commitments within the European Higher Education Area. It will provide opportunities for capacity building of both National Bureaus of Statistics and Bologna Follow Up representatives as a vital measure to foster contribution of SEE countries to European level discussions and decisions, as well as development of the basis for evidence based policy making.

5. Further support to country initiatives in the domain of mutual policy learning and cooperation in the field of education in general.

The specific objective 5. Further support to country initiatives in the domain of mutual policy learning and cooperation in the field of education in general will result in the establishment of 3 joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge initiated and coordinated by individual leading countries – namely in the fields of Vocational Education and Training (Leading country: Romania), National Qualification Framework (Leading country: Croatia) and Evidence-Based Policy Making (Leading country: Serbia). The envisaged objective and output will be achieved through activities under work programmes of 3 joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge organized by the leading countries: VET (Romania), NQF (Croatia) and Evidence-Based Policy Making (Serbia).

The plan of work of each joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge are attached in Annexe 1 (VET, Croatia), Annexe 2 (NQF, Croatia) and Annexe 3 (Evidence Based Policy Making, Serbia).

Further support to country initiatives in the domain of mutual policy learning and cooperation in the field of education in general is provided through support to countries to initiate cooperation and activities in themes deemed as relevant to countries themselves.

6. Initiating regional exchange of policies and practices in the area of equity and access to education, a measure of particularly relevance for reducing the percentage of early school leavers and increase the number of higher education graduates, as suggested by EU2020 education benchmarks.

The objective 6. Initiating regional exchange of policies and practices in the area of equity and access to education, a measure of particularly relevance for reducing the percentage of early school leavers and increase the number of higher education graduates, as suggested by EU2020 education benchmarks will result in an initiated regional policy and practice exchange in the area of ensuring equitable, quality education. The envisaged objective and output will be achieved through a Regional Conference on Quality and Equity in Education in South East Europe.

The Regional Conference on Quality and Equity in Education in South East Europe will provide an opportunity for regional exchange of policies and practices, as well as international trends, in the area of equity and access to education, a measure of particularly relevance for reducing the percentage of early school leavers and increase the number of higher education graduates, as suggested by EU2020 education benchmarks.

Additionally, to reach its widely set objectives of supporting the education related reforms in South East Europe the facilitation of information exchange through regular updates of the ERI SEE website will be resumed in 2011. Regular updates on ERI SEE activities through the network of national contact points and with the members of the Governing Board will be continued.

Furthermore, the institutional support to ERI SEE activities will be provided through organisation of two regular meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board in March and October 2011, assistance with the development of the ERI SEE Work Programme and Budget for 2012, as well as the financial and operational management in 2011.

With respect to the institutional transformation process under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia and the Governing Board members, CEP will handover the relevant ERI SEE documentation by 20th of December 2011 to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia.

ENVISAGED TIMELINE FOR THE ERI SEE ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Nota Bene: The execution of the planned activities is subject to timely payments in line with the envisaged budgeted amounts. Belated payments and reduction in payments on behalf of one or more donor or countries will result in cancellation of planned activities.

| ACTIVITIES | MONTH AND PLACE |
|---|-------------------------------|
| ERI SEE Governing Board Meeting | March, Belgrade, Serbia |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Modernising VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET Kickoff meeting | 30-31 May, Bucharest, Romania |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education First meeting: Turning research into practice – learning from PISA | 6 – 7 June, Belgrade, Serbia |
| 4th meeting of SEEVET-Net. | June, Chisinau, Moldova |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Development of National Qualifications Frameworks International Conference on Croatian referencing and self-certification process | July, Split, Croatia |
| Study visit to the Quality Assurance Agency in Romania back to back with the 1st regional networking meeting of Quality Assurance Agencies. | September, Bucharest, Romania |
| ERI SEE Governing Board Meeting | Early October, TBC |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education Second meeting: Monitoring education – data, indicators and challenges in education statistics | October, Serbia |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Modernising VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET meeting on increasing quality in VET | October/November, Romania |
| The 1st Meeting of National Bureaus of Statistics back to back with the Meeting of regional network of BFUG representatives. | November, TBC |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education Third Meeting | November/December, Serbia |
| Regional Conference on Quality and Equity in Education in South East Europe. | December, Belgrade, Serbia |
| Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Development of National Qualifications Frameworks Seminar/workshop on comparability of qualifications | TBC, Croatia |

**Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of Knowledge: Modernising
VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness
of VET**

Leading country: Romania

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| <p>Rationale</p> <p>Vocational education and training has a crucial role in promoting a knowledge based and competitive society and in responding to the chances and challenges of globalisation. The platform developed under the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) has a major contribution in fostering regional cooperation and in supporting policy developments in specific VET areas and has lead to an increased ownership of relevant VET actors in the region. Current developments underline ERISSEE commitment to the European strategic objectives laid down in the Bruges Communiqué on enhanced European Cooperation in VET, in the strategic framework "Education and Training 2020" and in the key flagship initiatives that embrace education and training (Youth on the Move and The Agenda New Skills and Jobs).</p> <p>The Senior Official and Expert Workshop on Clusters of Knowledge, organised on the 14 – 15th of December in Sarajevo, confirmed the necessity of enhanced dialogue among EU Member States and South East European partner countries in the field of education and training. Participants agreed that introduction of clusters of knowledge on topics of common interest will support the exchange of information on different policy options and will help the advancement of the reforms of the national VET systems.</p> <p>The cluster Modernizing VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET is envisaging to organize a number of expert meetings to foster mutual learning on topics of common interest (e.g. quality assurance and matching VET supply with labour market demand) and to develop specific tools to support the development of a quality culture at school level and the improvement of VET attractiveness and relevance (e.g. Compendia of good practices on the topics).</p> |
| <p>Overall objective</p> <p>The cluster Modernizing the VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET aims to support the regional cooperation in VET in accordance with the diversified needs of the countries for mutual learning, regional exchange of experience and good practice and for encompassing the specific phases of national reforms in VET.</p> |

The overall objective is consistent with the 2008-2010 mission statement and objectives, and specific objectives and ERISEE work programme for 2011:

"Development of mutual policy learning practices through enhanced institutional cooperation in Vocational Education and Training in South East Europe",

"Further support to country initiatives in the domain of mutual policy learning and cooperation in the field of education in general", and

"Initiating regional exchange of policies and practices in the area of equity and access to education, a measure of particular relevance for reducing the percentage of early school leavers ..., as suggested by EU2020 education benchmarks".

The establishment of the knowledge cluster **"Modernizing the VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET"** is one of the envisaged specific outputs of the ERI SEE work programme for 2011 "To establish 3 knowledge clusters initiated and coordinated by countries: VET (Romania), NQF (Croatia) and Evidence-Based Policy Making (Serbia).

The cluster intends to base its activities on the established institutional network of VET Centres in SE Europe and to develop regional policy and practice exchange in the area of ensuring equitable and quality VET.

Specific objectives

- knowledge transfer on the national policies on:
 - quality assurance
 - social partnership in VET
 - matching VET supply with labour market demand
- developing mutual policy learning practices and strengthening the exchange of information and good practice among the countries represented at the cluster
- supporting intra-country and inter-country co-operation on VET at regional level
- formulation of recommendations for future ERI SEE support to regional cooperation in VET

Key outputs

The key outputs of the Cluster include:

- a Compendium of Good Practices in developing quality assurance mechanisms at VET providers' level
- a Compendium of Good Practices in social partnership in VET
- thematic reports, with key policy conclusions summaries on themes identified as of particular interest:
 - quality assurance
 - matching VET supply with labour market demand.

Obs.: all results will be made publicly available to all interested actors through publication on NCDTVET's site.

Participants

The cluster is organized by the Romanian Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports (MoERY) and the Romanian National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development (NCTVETD).

After the Senior Official and Expert Workshop on Clusters of Knowledge, organised on the 14 –

15th of December in Sarajevo the following countries expressed their intention to participate in the "Modernizing VET system" cluster:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Republic of Moldova
- Montenegro

Obs.: in order to ensure synergies with the South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net) of the ERI SEE, the cluster is open to representatives of SEE VET centres. Furthermore, the cluster is open to participation of other interested countries and organizations supporting the development of VET in the region (e.g. ETF).

Specific activities

The specific objectives and key outputs are to be achieved through the following activities:

- Kickoff meeting to share national experiences, to agree upon the cluster's objectives, outputs and timeline and to decide on further national activities contents and on cluster's outputs (e.g. compendia of good practices on quality assurance and social partnership in VET)
- 2 Workshops for mutual learning and exchange of good practices in:
 - improving quality in VET and developing a quality culture at VET providers' level
 - social partnership in VET
 - matching VET supply with labour market demand

Development of a Compendium of Good Practices in developing quality assurance mechanisms at VET providers' level in participating countries and a Compendium of Good Practices in social partnership in VET.

Relevant examples will be selected at national level by each participating country; Romania will collect the examples and will collate the information.

- Meeting to identify priorities for further development of VET policy in region, adapted to national needs and to draw recommendations for future cooperation

Between the common meetings, specific outputs development activities will be organised in each participating country.

ENVISAGED TIMELINE

| ACTIVITY | DATE AND PLACE |
|---|--|
| Kickoff meeting to agree upon the cluster's objectives and timeline and to decide on cluster's outputs (e.g. compendia of good practices on quality assurance and social partnership in VET) | 9-10 (or 30-31) May 2011, Bucharest, ROMANIA |
| Workshop on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving quality in VET and developing a quality culture at VET providers' level • social partnership in VET • matching VET supply with labour market demand Starting the development of compendium of good practices | October-November 2011, Bucharest, ROMANIA |

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| <p>Workshop on development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Compendium of Good Practices in developing quality assurance mechanisms at VET providers' level in participating countries • A Compendium of Good Practices in social partnership in VET <p>Meeting for concluding on good practices included in the compendium</p> | <p>April 2012, ROMANIA</p> |
| <p>Meeting for concluding on cluster's outputs and for identifying priorities for further development of VET policy in region, adapted to national needs - recommendations for further cooperation</p> | <p>September – October 2012, ROMANIA</p> |

Nota bene: 1. For the first, second and last meetings the cluster leader (Romania) will make the necessary demarche to cover the participants costs for accommodation and meals during their stay in Romania

2. For the meeting planned in April 2012 the cluster leader (Romania) will make the necessary demarche to cover participants costs for international travel, accommodation and meals during their stay in Romania

Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of Knowledge: Development of National Qualifications Frameworks

Leading country: Croatia

Note: Original ToR has been updated after the TFBHC' Regional Workshop on Cooperation around Clusters of Knowledge, 14-15 December 2010. Further adjustments are envisaged in terms of defining precise dates for the joint activities and increase in participating countries and organizations.

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| <p>Composition: Countries: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania (5); Int'l org's/institutions: support offered either through eligible funding sources or available expertise by EC (DG ENL), ETF, OECD.</p> |
| <p>Purpose and/or outcome International cooperation focused at several specific segments of national qualifications frameworks development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cooperation on self-certification process (quality assurance assessment) - comparability of qualifications: reaching agreement on mutual recognition of old qualifications/diplomas in the region - recognition of prior learning - RPL (validation of informal and nonformal learning). <p>The outcome is heightened understanding, enhanced expertise and identified partnerships that will contribute to better design and implementation of several segments of the above outlined EQF-NQF process.</p> |
| <p>Reference to Task Force Action Plan (2009-2010) and Task Force related documents <u>Zagreb Plan of Action 2009-2010: Action line 35</u> – Regional Cooperation and Common Areas of Interest – Assisting in the organisation of clusters of knowledge (CoKs) fostering the creation of mechanisms for sustainable cooperation and dialogue. These clusters should sustain cooperation based on shared common topics of interest. <u>Minutes and Conclusions of the Meeting of Senior Officials from the Istanbul MoU Region:</u> it has been announced that the meeting “The Western Balkans: Overcoming the Economic Crisis” (Brussels, December 2009) will stress importance of regional cooperation in building human capital, noting that “lifelong learning strategies need to be put into practice” and that “an important aspect of lifelong learning is the development of qualification frameworks”. <u>Conclusions, International Conference on Fostering and Building Human Capital for Sustainable Knowledge Societies in SEE:</u> It has been concluded that the “TF should consider organizing knowledge clusters to sustain cooperation based on shared common topics of interest” and the Bucharest Conference stressed the importance of and provided an overview “regarding efforts on creating possibilities for future oriented knowledge management, supporting lifelong learning, the development of competencies and qualifications frameworks.”</p> |
| <p>Specific tasks To enhance expertise and quality in the implementation of specific segments of EQF-NQF activities through a set of regional meetings and workshops, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expanding understanding and expertise related to the requirements and implementation of self-certification process - removing obstacles regional mobility through reaching an agreement on mutual recognition of old qualifications in the Western Balkans (this strand of activity is focused mostly on WB countries with the same legacy of old diplomas, whereas other strands are envisaged for other interested SEE countries). - expanding expertise and forging partnerships in the process of developing national RPL models. |
| <p>Reporting <u>Minutes</u> of cluster activities shall be made available by the lead country and forwarded to the Task Force</p> |

Secretariat. The Task Force Secretariat should also receive regular reports and updates.

Meeting schedule

The date for the first cluster activity has been set up. The dates for posterior activities will be determined in consultation with CoK participants. It is envisaged that by the 1st cluster activity the number of participating countries will increase and a relatively definite configuration of cluster will be determined. On the occasion of the 1st event the schedule of other events will be discussed and the activity list expanded, if needed.

1. International Conference on Croatian referencing and self-certification process

July 2011, Split, Croatia (precise date will be circulated by the end of March)

The conference will gather over 100 participants and will serve as a platform for presentation and discussion about the Croatian referencing process; as well as a peer learning event for participants coming from countries where the process will still be underway at that point. Eminent experts from CoE, ETF, Austria, Poland and Slovenia, who form the international expert group aiding Croatia in the referencing process, will be participating.

Back to back with the conference the CoK meeting will take place in order to determine more precisely the content and schedule of CoK activities.

2. Seminar/workshop on comparability of qualifications: reaching agreement on mutual recognition of old qualifications/diplomas in the region

(in cooperation with CoE SEE QF network) – date TBC (in 2011)

3. Workshop on Recognition on prior learning – RPL – date TBC (in 2012)

It is envisaged that the cluster activities will span over 2 years. Desired outcome is a joint NQF project.

Liaison with other action lines

RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013: Building Human Capital – ERI SEE: “Thematic areas of ERI SEE’s work currently focus on areas of relevance for the increased role of education and training in the development of SEE countries, objectives of the Work Programme *Education and Training 2010* and education objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, such as Lifelong learning; European Qualification Framework and national qualification frameworks in SEE.

Annex 1 of RCC WP: (Support to education reform, with emphasis on higher education): “Improved cooperation within the region in creation of National Qualification Frameworks).

ERI SEE 2010 Work Programme 2010: Establishment of Clusters of Knowledge in two thematic areas relevant for SEE cooperation in education and training, *point b*): *Qualifications Frameworks*, with the following topics: NQF development with attention to non-formal and informal learning, NQF development and references to the EQF, recognition of diplomas and cooperation among the ENIC/NARIC centres, Europass, links between higher education and VET.

Additional remarks

The interest and need for strengthened regional cooperation dealing with specific segments of the EQF and NQF processes has been reaffirmed at the 3rd meeting of the CoE Regional Network on Qualifications Frameworks for SEE (September 9th&10th 2010, Zagreb).

Note on the implementation of activities: Cluster activities are to take place in any of the cluster countries. Croatia is open to organize and host most/all of them, but also welcomes the interest and initiative of other CoK members. The contents of any event are to reflect joint interests and proposals of all CoK members.

Note on financing: ERISSEE offered to co-finance cluster activities. Croatia proposes that co-financing encompasses primarily travel and accommodation costs, as well as the organization costs (costs of premises, catering, local transportation).

Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of Knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education

Leading country: Serbia

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| <p>Contact person (including contact details): TBC EU department Ministry of Education</p> <p>Tanja Rankovic Education and Human Capital Development Coordinator Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit/Government of Serbia, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for EU integration tanja.rankovic@gov.rs</p> |
| <p>Composition (participating countries and international organizations/institutions): SEE countries, ETF, Kultur Kontakt, ETF</p> |
| <p>Purpose and/or outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To intensify regional cooperation around clusters of knowledge, which shall sustain cooperation on shared common topics of interest, contribute to the creation of knowledge and support policy development in view of national needs |
| <p>Reference to Task Force Action Plan (2009-2010) and Task Force related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013: Building Human Capital – ERI SEE “There is an obvious need to modernize education systems in the region, with an emphasis on further involvement of democratization and reconciliation elements in teaching methodologies. Areas that are insufficiently developed and need to be approached in a coherent manner include life-long learning, evidence-based policy making, societal debate on education policy, stakeholder participation in decision-making, education institutions’ autonomy as well as professional administration.” (page 15) Source: http://www.taskforcehumancapital.info/fileadmin/documents/RCCStrategyandWorkProgramme2011-13- finalwith annexes.pdf • ERI SEE 2010 Work Programme 2010: Establishment of Clusters of Knowledge in two thematic areas relevant for SEE cooperation in education and training “ERI SEE developed activities under the three action lines: sustained the networking of the SEE VET agencies and institutions (Action line 1); in cooperation with KulturKontakt Austria and the OECD co-organised the regional workshop “Evidence Based Policy Making” (Action line 2); organised cooperation, peer-learning and exchange of good practice under the four ERI SEE thematic areas for regional cooperation, and was involved in the initiation of CKs for enabling sustained cooperation based on shared common topics of interest (Action line 3).” (page 18) Source: http://www.erisee.org/node/downloads/ERI_SEE_Work_Programme_2010_za_web.pdf • ERI SEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011 – The knowledge triangle: education, research and innovation, with the following topics: change management; higher education development, the Bologna process and the role of the universities in the process of forward thinking; learning regions and evidence-based policy making. (page 5) |

Specific tasks

- Promote evidence-based policy making in education within the region
- Identify priorities for further development of evidence based policy making in the region, adapted to national needs
- Develop regional projects/initiatives with the purpose to foster evidence-based policy making at regional level (develop mechanisms for regional cooperation in better use of evidence in policy and practice, build capacity for implementation of different techniques for progressive policy-making among policy makers, public servants and researchers in WBC, strengthening of the institutional capacities for monitoring of educational policies and other priorities)
- Use EU mechanisms for enhancement of evidence based policy making

Reporting

Minutes of cluster activities shall be made available by the lead country and forwarded to the ERI SEE and Task Force Secretariat and disseminate to the regional partner countries.

Meeting schedule – 2011

To be provided at a later stage, after consultation with interested countries/organizations.

Draft proposal of content/dates:

First meeting: April/May 2011 tbc

- Turning research into practice – learning from PISA (regional meeting)
 - Evidence as a policy tool
 - Identification of priorities for further development of evidence based policy making in the region

Second meeting: October 2011 tbd

- Monitoring education – data, indicators and challenges in education statistics – meeting with bodies responsible for data collection and monitoring of education systems (check possibility for regional TAEIX event)
 - Data, indicators and challenges in education statistics –
 - Eurydice
 - Weaknesses and difficulties in applying research and evidence-based knowledge in education within the region

Third Meeting: November/December 2011 tbd

- working on tools and mechanisms for sustainable network in region