



## Meeting of the South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net)

10-11 December 2009

Hotel Saraj, Nevjestina 5  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Background and Justification

By signing the Istanbul Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (May 2007), the Ministers responsible for education, science and research in South Eastern Europe (SEE) agreed that education, science and research are areas of key importance for the future of SEE and that the re-launched Lisbon agenda is the main driving force for reforms in these fields in all signatory countries. The Regional Cooperation Council (2008) identified fostering and building human capital as a priority area for economic and social development of SEE and for increased regional cooperation.

In the period of global economic crisis with serious implications on the region, SEE recognises the significant contribution of VET to jobs creation, economic growth and social development, as well as to personal development and social inclusion. It constitutes an important part of lifelong learning. VET plays a vital role in enabling young people involved in VET to acquire skills and competences relevant for labour market requirements and in promotion of labour force's skills, competence and mobility by improving training opportunities and better recognition of prior learning gained through training and work experience.

Having recognised the diversity of the VET systems in the region as an asset and a basis for mutual learning and support to future reforms, the VET agencies and institutions from the SEE countries and Turkey held the First networking conference in Tirana, Albania on 25-26 September 2008. They agreed to create a network of the VET institutions acting in the region of the South East European Cooperation Process (SEECPC) and to invite the interested parties to sign a cooperation agreement. Following the further discussions on the formalisation of the cooperation agreement during the special SEE session in the framework of the Ankara Conference "Implementation strategies for national qualifications frameworks in South Eastern Europe" (18 December 2008), a draft agreement on the establishment of the SEEVET-Net was prepared and the final form of the document was

agreed in the first half of 2009. In line with the ERI SEE commitment to support VET development and regional networking of the national institutions, the Governing Board agreed to support a meeting of the SEEVET-Net in 2009. In accordance with the stipulations of the Cooperation Agreement, the agenda of the meeting was prepared by the Chair of the SEEVET-Net and Director of the National VET Agency of Albania.

## Objectives of the meeting and expected outcomes

The main objective of the meeting is to contribute to sustained dialogue and communication of the VET institutions in the SEECP region, the members of the SEEVET-Net being part of it.

The meeting will focus on the aspects relevant for strengthening the work of the SEEVET-Net and will provide a platform for updates on the recent European and SEE developments relevant for the role of VET in the context of lifelong learning.

As a result of the two days work, the following outcomes are expected:

- Knowledge acquired on the lessons learned in the process of establishing of VET agencies and institutions in SEE, transfer of the experiences of some EU Member States and better understanding of the main aspects of the work of the VET agencies.
- Roadmap for development of the SEEVET-net as a sustainable platform for mutual cooperation between the VET agencies and institutions of the SEECP region;
- Updates on the current situation of VET in Europe and the recent developments important for VET in the SEECP region.

## Organizers of the meeting

The meeting will be jointly organized by the national VET Agency of Albania, the Director of which is Chair of SEEVET-Net, the ERI SEE Agency, the European Training Foundation and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina will host the meeting, which will take place in Sarajevo.

## Participants to the meeting

The meeting will bring together top or high level officials of the national VET agencies and institutions of SEE and Turkey. Experts from the ETF, Cedefop, ERI SEE donor countries and other European countries will provide input and will be involved in the discussions aiming to contribute to sustainable work of SEEVET-net.

In order to increase the visibility of the Conference, representatives of the media will be invited to the opening sessions.

## 10 December

- 08:30 - 09:00 Registration and welcome coffee
- Moderator: Ms. Aida Durić, Member of the ERI SEE Governing Board from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 09.00 - 09.30 *Welcome and opening addresses*
- Ms. Aida Durić on behalf of Ms. Esma Hadžagić, Assistant to the Minister for Education, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Mr. Ilija Paluka, Chair of the SEEVET-Net and Director of the National VET Agency of Albania
- Mr. Samuel Cavanagh, Project Coordinator, European Training Foundation
- Aspasija Hadžišće, Acting Director, Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)
- 09:30 - 10:00 *Sustainable networking in the region of the Southeast European Cooperation Process (SEECOP)*
- Mr. Samuel Cavanagh, Project Coordinator, European Training Foundation
- 10:00 – 11:00 *Recent European developments: The launch of the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQARF) and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET)*
- Ms. Gabriela Ciobanu, Director, Ministry of Education of Romania – National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development
- Discussion on the implications in the SEECOP region
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 13:00 *“One year of SEEVET-Net” Report from Mr. Ilija Paluka, Chair of SEEVET-Net*
- Commitment to signing the Cooperation Agreement between VET Institutions Acting in the SEECOP Region
  - On the way to reaching the SEEVET-Net objectives:
    - To be a platform for exchange of information and policy learning in the VET sector.
    - To support institutional building (capacity building activities developed by and within the SEE countries).
    - To enable mutual learning, including peer learning and sharing of best practice.
    - To enable collection of information on the development of the VET sector in SEE in a commonly agreed format and to support dissemination of the information.
- Discussion

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break

Moderator: Ms. Jelena Jakovljević, Advisor-coordinator, Institute for Improvement of Education, Centre for Vocational and Adult Education, Serbia

14:30 – 17:00 *The SEEVET-Net member countries to present the national activities in 2009, with accent to topics and actions relevant for regional networking*

Topics to be covered

- NQF development and contribution of VET institutions
- Implementation of Long Life Learning strategies
- Quality Assurance, evaluation and accreditation processes

Speakers: Representatives of all SEECP participating countries

Discussion focused on the potential on the current achievements for dissemination and networking

19: 00 - 22:00 Gala Dinner

## 11 December

09:00 - 09.15 *Welcome to the participants and introduction to the working day*  
Moderator: Mr. Nino Buic, Head of Section for Implementation of Projects, Agency for Vocational Education and Training, Croatia

09:15 - 10:45 *Trends and examples of best practice for the main aspects of work of the VET agencies in EU Members States, with focus on Slovenia as an example of good practice*

Ms. Mirjana Kovač, Head of Project management Department and International Cooperation, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training

- Contemporary challenges for the European VET agencies
- Transnational experience of cooperation and networking with sister institutions

Discussion

10:45 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 Presentation of the project “*Cities and Lifelong Learning*”  
Mr. Vincent McBride, Lead Expert, European Training Foundation

Discussion

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

Moderator: Mr. Ilija Paluka, Chair of the SEEVET-Net

13:30 – 15:00 Brainstorming session: *How to develop sustainable collaboration, mutual co-operation and sharing good practice between the SEEVET-Net members*

Mr. Manfred Polzin, Senior Adviser International Affairs, MBO Raad,  
The Netherlands

15:00 – 16:00

*Brainstorming session: How to share knowledge and how to learn  
from EU experience*

16:00 – 17:00

*Final Session*

*Discussion on the options and conditions for future networking  
among the SEECP VET agencies and institutions*

*Election of a new Chair of the SEEVET-Net (one year mandate)*

*Official signing of the SEEVET-Net Cooperation Agreement by the  
representatives of the countries which have confirmed the interest*

*Summary and conclusions*