



Sustainable networking in the SEE region

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



What is the ETF?

- Agency of the European Union
- Expert advice and support to the Commission and partner countries
- Specific field: human capital development
- Mission: to help 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



ETF approach

- Facilitating reforms
- Mutual learning
- Working together
- Evidence-based policy making
- Dissemination and networking



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Networks

Networks key to ETF activities

- Valuable exchange of experience
- Networks build on networks
- Building communities of practice
- Common issues
- Variation of tools
- Membership:
 - peers
 - continuity institutions and individuals
- Learning through action



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ETF regional networking initiatives

Some examples:

- VET TT Network 2003-09
- Teaching and Learning Project (LEARN) 2007-09
- Mutual Learning Project 2009-11
- Social Inclusion Project 2009-11



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LEARN project “Learning and teaching”

- Built on the SEE VET TT network 2002-
- Network across Western Balkans and Turkey
- Focus on VET Centres/Agencies: implement reforms
- Network actions: developed projects and strategies



LEARN project: VET Institutions Strategic planning exercise

- Challenges and opportunities for VET Institutions in the dynamic environment of VET reform and possibilities for international activities and networking
- Dialogue with Slovenia CPI
- Papers from Albania, BiH, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia
- Input to chapter of final project publication



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ETF Mutual learning project in 2009-2011

- Based on Peer learning experience, 3 years Mutual Learning project for capacity building and dissemination EU policies
- For all South Eastern European countries
- Focus on Quality and Quality Assurance, Adult Learning and Post-secondary VET
- Three Communities of Practice
- Three participants from each country for each CoP, involving representatives from VET institutions across the region
- Mutual learning activities in 3 years perspective (peer learning, comparative analyses, benchmarking, etc)



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Why the 3 topics: Adult learning, Quality and Quality Assurance, Post-Secondary VET?

- Rising topics on the political agendas in SEE
- Investment areas for the future (and the present)
- Similar problems, but different policy approaches
- Different EU approaches



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MLP Objectives and Results

- To encourage mutual learning with a view to support the quality of decision making in South Eastern Europe
 - Communities of practice have identified key challenges and promoted actions for policy change in their countries;
 - Increased capacities of key stakeholders for evidence-based policy making through regional networking and for reflecting on other countries' and EU experience and practice for national policy making;
 - Policy documents, briefs and statements;
 - Three regional analyses of the policy discussions and recommendations for national or donor investments;
 - Key stakeholders updated on EU developments and documents on education and training
 - A source of knowledge and expertise about the topics in SEE



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Communities of Practice

- 3 Communities of Practice or Networks of Stakeholders
- Each CoP as a whole meets at least once a year
- Each CoP: mutual learning action plans for a three year period



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Mutual learning actions

- Stocktaking reports
- **Regional seminars**
- Inviting CoP members to national seminars
- Indicators/Benchmarks
- Comparative cross-country analyses
- Study visits
- **Peer learning**
- Peer review
- Twinning/detachments



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Co-operation

- Budgets are limited, and therefore also the mutual learning actions. Co-financing or co-operation with other existing initiatives will increase project impact.
- Co-operation at national level
- Co-operation at Regional level with ERI SEE, SEEVET-Net



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