



Activity Report on the implementation of the ERI SEE Work Programme 2012

SUMMARY

Key ERI SEE achievements in 2012 were:

Strengthened institutional cooperation in the area of vocational education and training through the implementation of the following activities described in the SEEVET-Net [Work Programme for 2012](#).

As part of the SEEVET-Net Work Programme, the Centre for Education Policy experts organised and delivered a training to enable the VET Agencies in the region to conduct policy monitoring and evaluation independently and reduce their dependency on external expertise and consultancy. The training focused in particular on graduate tracer studies as one of the tools for monitoring and evaluating policies from a perspective of employability of VET graduates as one of the key issues in the region. In addition, the Centre for Education Policy acting as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat in cooperation with the SEEVET-Net co-organised the 5th Meeting of the SEEVET-Net. The meeting focused on enhancing mutual policy learning on social partnership as means of conceptualising the VET reforms as an infrastructural factor in the possibilities for enterprises to remain competitive. CEP continued to support SEEVET-Net in raising visibility of VET reforms in the region and building sustainable and systemic information exchange in VET reforms in the region by building effective visibility tools and information databases.

The activities mentioned above resulted in: 1) strengthened capacities of the SEEVET-Net Institutions for assuming independently responsibility for policy evaluation and monitoring in order to contribute in their full capacity to effective policy formulation and adjusting VET reforms to the needs of the labour market; 2) facilitated mutual policy learning on social partnership between countries in South East Europe and from EU member states; 3) creation of a framework for collection of data on VET systems in SEE countries and the information system to facilitate access to, visibility and transparency of the data to be collected.

Mutual policy learning and cooperation initiated in the field of education in general and particularly in the field of teacher professional development policies as well as in the field of standards and assessment in pre-tertiary education.

Introduction and implementation of standards-based education is a multifaceted process, closely linked to changes in status and the role of education in society. Bearing in mind the implementation of standards based education in the region, CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat brought together policy makers, researchers, practitioners and key stakeholders to discuss the process of standardizations and assessments in education in a unique regional conference where the Agenda and the issues were region specific and where majority of speakers were from the region.

The event resulted in: 1) established policy dialogue between regional policy makers, researchers, practitioners and key stakeholders on the process of standardization and

assessments in education; 2) successful identification of a number of regional experts on the theme and established spin-off bilateral cooperation between countries in the region on the theme; 3) exchange of information and peer-learning on models of standards based education and introduction of state-Matura in particular.

The ERI SEE Interim Secretariat cooperated closely with the leading countries of the three established joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge to support their work which resulted in fully implementing all the activities described in the work programmes developed under each of the three joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge: in the area of Vocational Education and Training (lead by Romania), in the area of National Qualifications Frameworks (lead by Croatia), and in the area of Evidence-Based Policy Making (lead by Serbia).

The ERI SEE Interim Secretariat supported the work of the Chair of the Governing Board, the co-chairs and the member states as asked, in particular through facilitating communication, organisation of the Governing Board meetings and maintenance of the information tools. As requested by the Governing Board CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat prepared the ERI SEE Leaflet and developed promotional materials to assist the intention of raising the visibility of ERI SEE.

ERI SEE achievements were accomplished through the following **activities** in 2012:

1. 5th meeting of the SEEVET-Net focusing on social partnership issues, 4-5 June 2012, Milocer, Montenegro
2. Training of the SEEVET-Net Institutions representatives in Monitoring and Evaluation methodologies, 17-18 December 2012, Skopje, Macedonia and 18 December 2012, Belgrade, Serbia
3. Regional conference “Introduction and implementation of standards-based education in SEE – models and challenges” 11-12 December 2012, Belgrade, Serbia
4. 16th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body, 27 March 2012, Belgrade, Serbia
5. Activities under the work programmes of three Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge:
 - 5.1. Modernising VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET (Romania)
 - Regional Workshop, 21-22 June 2012, Bucharest, Romania
 - Regional Workshop “Quality Development in VET - from Check to Act”, 5-7 November 2012, Vienna, Austria
 - 5.2. Evidence-Based Policy Making in Education (Serbia)

- Regional Workshop "Regional Cooperation in Education Statistics", 6-7 December 2012, Belgrade, Serbia

5.3. Development of National Qualifications Frameworks (Croatia)

- International Seminar on the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), 6 December 2012, Zagreb, Croatia

ERI SEE ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO THE ERI SEE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2012

- 1. Strengthening of the established institutional cooperation in the area of vocational education and training through implementing the SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2012**

B.2. SEEVET-Net Work Programme 2012

The 5th meeting of the SEEVET-Net on social partnership - exchange of experience, presentation of social partnership models in SEE and presentation of the EU best practice examples

The 5th Meeting of the South East Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net)¹ was held on 4-5 June, 2012, in Milocer, Montenegro. The meeting gathered the representatives of the VET institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia, as well as the representatives of the European Training Foundation (ETF), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), and the Centre for Education Policy (CEP) as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat.

In its [Work Programme for 2012](#) SEEVET-Net identified the Enhancement of mutual policy learning in VET through the exchange of experience on social partnership among the EU member states and countries in SEE as one of its objectives. Development of vocational education and training and related social partnership forms in VET take place in all countries in the SEE region and social partnership mechanisms are almost always part of national development programmes for VET. At the same time, vocational education and training plays an increasing role as an infrastructural factor in the possibilities for enterprises to remain successfully competitive on the market. Having in mind the importance of the topic, the 5th meeting of the SEEVET-Net was focused on the social partnership models and best practice examples presentation and exchange of experiences regarding social partnership issues. This event was organised as a two-day meeting the first day focusing on the presentation of the state of play regarding the social partnership in SEE as well as on the good functioning of the social partnership models including an overview of the situation and initiatives regarding social partnerships in other countries. The second day was dedicated to the SEEVET-Net annual meeting and the enhancement of institutional cooperation through discussion on the future regional priorities.

The new Chair of the network was elected from the VET Center of Macedonia for the period of 2012-2013. As regards the proposition on future cooperation and activities for 2013, the

¹ Meeting materials are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/248>

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participants proposed that the next SEEVET-Net meeting be held in Belgrade with the topic – recognition of prior learning (validation of informal and non-formal learning). The SEEVET-Net members stressed the importance of joint project proposals and creating project teams for this purposes. Although the SEEVET-Net is not a legal entity, applying for projects will be possible with the establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia.

The meeting was jointly organized by the National VET Centre of Montenegro and CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat.

The Agenda of the meeting is provided in the Annex 1.

Training of the SEEVET-Net Institutions representatives in graduate tracer studies in order to increase their capacities to conduct such studies and to fully contribute in the evidence-based policy evaluation and advising processes

VET systems reform processes are still ongoing in all of the SEE countries. In order to support these processes it is important to identify main challenges, constraints, as well as good practices and opportunities, to support countries' evidence-based policy making, and to provide valuable opportunities for SEE countries to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the current VET policies. In the same time, policy makers and decision makers involved in the reform of the VET in SEE countries need to know if the various adjustments and reforms programmes/projects are realistic, achievable and sustainable over time, which necessitates some type of monitoring and evaluation as means of informing VET policy. From the other hand, regular duties of VET Institutions in SEE countries do not include implementing empirical surveys, but their representatives have professional background in the VET field and most of them are familiar with general principles and procedures of such surveys. Also, VET institutions in SEE countries have no adequately trained human resources to follow activities which would lead to evidence-based evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of VET policies, and later, evidence-based policy advising.

Having in mind the above mentioned, one of the main objectives of the SEEVET-Net [Work Programme for 2012](#) was Capacity building of the SEEVET-Net Institutions representatives for effective roles and responsibilities in order to contribute in their full capacity to policy evaluation and policy advising. **Training of the SEEVET-Net Institutions representatives in Monitoring and Evaluation methodologies²** which was held from 17-18 December 2012 in Skopje, Macedonia, was identified as the initial step in the capacity building process.

The event gathered VET Institutions' representatives who would be, in the future, in charge of monitoring and evaluation processes as well as of the development and implementation of

² Training materials are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/261>

graduate tracer studies in Albania, Kosovo*, Macedonia and Moldova. The representatives of VET Institutions from Montenegro and Serbia were not able to reach Skopje as the airport was closed down due to bad weather conditions. Owing to the special efforts of the Centre for Education Policy, a parallel training was organised in Belgrade on December 18 for the participants from Montenegro and Serbia.

This training provided the participants with basic skills and knowledge that will enable them to perform monitoring and evaluation processes independently (without an external consultant or agency) or, at least, to design framework for the mentioned processes. Furthermore, by conducting this training, national authorities are encouraged to take a leading role in the assessment process of implemented policy measures in VET.

The event was jointly organised by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Vocational Education and Training Centre of the Republic of Macedonia as well as CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat.

The outline of the training programme is provided in the Annex 2.

Creation of the outline for a mutual database on the VET systems in SEE countries including the creation of the SEEVET –Net subpage on the official ERISSEE web page in order to make the database visible

The outline of the mutual database on the VET systems in SEE countries is designed in such a way to provide a comprehensive insight in all relevant data related to the VET systems in SEE countries. The database will contain documents-texts, statistical or multimedia objects and will allow the database to be viewed in its entirety so that an interaction between elements can be evaluated. The database will be organised by subject matter and will process high volumes of updates. Data will be provided by national institutions in charge of VET and will include overview of VET systems, main strategic documents, list of completed and ongoing projects in the VET area, main reform achievements, description of the financial policy toward VET and allocated resources, system of professional development of VET teachers, and relevant statistical data (number of schools, sectors and profiles by sector, students, teachers, student/teacher ratio etc.).

Creation of the SEEVET –Net subpage on the official ERISSEE web page is still in the process, bearing in mind that opinion of part of the SEEVET –Net members is that this network should

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have created separate and independent web page with link to the ERISSEE web page. During the last meeting it was agreed that this topic will be subject of further discussion.

Creation and development of the newsletter dedicated to the presentation of the progress of the VET reform processes in SEE countries

Regardless of various attempts VET reforms are still not high on the political agenda in many SEE countries. This indicates the necessity to conduct activities designed to generate public recognition and support by actively securing broad consensus and social commitment for VET reform among civil society as one of the key factors for economy development. The **SEEVET-Net newsletter** which is under development by CEP in cooperation with the SEEVET-Net Institutions is aimed to support raising awareness among relevant stakeholders as well as general public regarding the VET reform process in SEE countries. In order to provide updated information on the VET reform processes regularly, the newsletter contains developments achieved in 2012 including the projects which started in 2012, the outcomes achieved in 2012 as the result of some previous projects, events held in 2012, new regulations adopted in 2012 as well as the trainings held in 2012. At the moment, contribution by member countries sent requested materials and information are collected and newsletter design is agreed, and after reception of the remaining two countries contributions newsletter finalisation is going to take place.

2. Enhance the support to three joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge lead by Romania in the area of Vocational Education and Training, Croatia in the area of National Qualifications Frameworks and Serbia in the area of Evidence-Based Policy Making

B.6. Activities under work programmes of three knowledge clusters organised by the leading countries: VET (Romania), NQF (Croatia) and Evidence-based policy making (Serbia)

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

The workshop³ was held on 21-22 June 2012 in Bucharest, Romania, as a further step in the already initiated peer learning process within the VET Cluster of knowledge established in 2011.

The workshop gathered the representatives of the VET institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia as well as the representatives of ETF and CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat.

In order to move towards the finalisation of the *Compendium of Good Practices in Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET* as the envisaged Cluster output, the objectives of the workshop were to collect and agree on the good practice examples identified by each

³ Workshop materials are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/245>

country (which were implemented through projects or other initiatives already showing good results thus deserving to be introduced to other countries).

The workshop was organised by the Romanian National Centre for the Vocational Education Training Development – NCTVETD with the support of the ERI SEE.

The next workshop entitled “**Quality Development in VET - from Check to Act**” was held on 5-7 November 2012 in Vienna with the support of the KulturKontakt Austria.

The event provided the opportunity for the experience exchange between the Austrian education policy makers and practitioners and the representatives of the SEE VET institutions regarding the Quality Development which is identified as one of the priorities for cooperation within the Cluster.

While the first half of the workshop was focused on the use of data gathered in the self-evaluation processes, the second half of the workshop was focused on the role of the research in the step from “check to act” – for policy makers, as well as the practitioners. In this context the workshop provided the opportunity to look at possible synergies/common areas of interest with the Cluster of Evidence-Based Policy Making coordinated by Serbia.

Compendium of Good Practices in Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET as the envisaged Cluster output will be finalised during the first half of 2013 and is going to contain relevant examples of good practice from all the SEE countries in order to support visibility and experience sharing. The Compendium of good practices contains eight chapters and present the main output of two years of common work and cooperation. The good practice examples were integrated in one of the chapters reflecting the areas of interventions to make VET more attractive and develop the VET quality approach. Relevant examples were selected at national level by each participating country while Romania representatives collected the examples and the information needed. During the selection of good practice examples the starting point was that a good practice is simply a process or a methodology that represents the most effective way of achieving a specific objective. The essence of identifying and sharing good practices in the Compendium is to learn from others and to re-use knowledge and that the biggest benefit consists of well-developed processes based on accumulated experience.

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

Based on the [Mapping exercise](#) findings and recommendations, the Republic of Serbia as the leading country of the Cluster commenced with the preparation of the regional project in the area of Evidence-Based Policy Making which should contribute to more effective education reforms by creating education polices based on relevant information, thus setting targets of national and EU reform agendas. The draft concept note for MB IPA was presented during the IPA Multi-Beneficiary Programme Coordination Meeting in Brussels at the end of April 2012. This paper is to serve as aide-mémoire for ERI SEE member countries (ministries for education)

and their National IPA coordinators to get full understanding of the scope and content of the project idea. The Republic of Serbia will initiate further developing of the project idea together with the countries in the region and partner organisations.

The workshop "Regional Cooperation in Education Statistics"⁴ as a further step within the Evidence-Based Policy Making in Education Cluster was held on 6–7 December 2012 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The event was organised by the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, supported by the European Commission – TAIEX Programme and ERI SEE.

The goal of the workshop was to contribute to the integration of the Western Balkans' statistical systems into the common European statistical system through the development, production and dissemination of education statistics on the basis of uniform standards and harmonised methodology. The workshop was actively attended by delegations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey and Serbia, where they presented the current statuses of education statistics in their respective countries, the plans for the future, as well as the challenges and good practices in this area. The presentations and active participation of the representatives of EUROSTAT, Centre for Education Research and Innovation (CERI/OECD), ETF, Finnish National Board for Education, International Network of Education Policy Centres, KulturKontakt Austria, UNICEF, CEP and the University of Belgrade contributed to better understanding the trends in the development of research and creation of education policies, as well as the standards and strategic framework at the level of the EU Member States.

The workshop participants concluded that there was considerable and important space for joint action of the Western Balkans countries in the field of development and improvement of education statistics and creation of education policies. They also concluded that it was vital to focus, in the upcoming period, on establishing a functional and efficient mechanism of cooperation and exchange of experiences.

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

The International Seminar on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)⁵ was held on December 6, 2012, in Zagreb, Croatia, as a further step within the NQF Cluster of knowledge.

⁴ Workshop materials are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/268>

⁵ Seminar materials are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/263>

The aim of the event, organised jointly by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and the Institute for the Development of Education, with the support of ERI SEE, was to bring together some of the findings from the RPL related Project '[University Recognition of Prior Learning Centres - Bridging Higher Education with Vocational Education and Training](#)', and to provide the opportunity to learn about the RPL practice in some leading European countries as well as to discuss some critical implementation issues. For that purpose, an expert faculty of speakers from France, Scotland, Poland and Croatia presented their expert views on the implementation of RPL.

Moreover, some of these findings provided an input for further discussions amongst national representatives in the NQF Cluster which has been labeled as an initiative supporting the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). One of the objectives of the Cluster is to create an environment where participants can exchange ideas, issues and questions on how the RPL policy builds on the development of National Qualifications Frameworks.

In addition to the local participants from Croatia, the Seminar gathered the representatives of education and labour market sector from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Moldova, as well as the experts from ETF.

3. Further support to country initiatives in the domain of mutual policy learning and cooperation in the field of education in general and particularly in the field of teacher professional development policies as well as in the field of standards and assessment in pre-tertiary education

B.1. Governing Board Meetings

The 16th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body was held in Belgrade on March 27, 2012, with 29 participants in total, including the members of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body or their (nominated by relevant institution) replacements, representatives of international organisations and CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat.

The aim of the meeting was to summarise achievements in 2011 as well as to discuss future perspectives of cooperation within the ERI SEE. The meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss the role of the ERI SEE in view of the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training and other regional initiatives.

More precisely, the meeting addressed the following: update on the Establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia and discussion about further steps; update on the

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Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training; update on RCC activities; update on Task Force activities; update on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region; discussion on the “road map” towards the development of ERI SEE priority themes for the period 2013-2015; adoption of the Statute of the ERI SEE and preparation of the Call for the ERI SEE Director; adoption of the ERI SEE progress reports for 2011; presentation and adoption of the ERI SEE Budget and Work Programme for 2012; update on activities in 2011 and plans for 2012 under the work programmes of the three joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge.

Conclusions and recommendations of the meeting and regarding the ERI SEE strategic development were as follows:

- ERI SEE should profile itself on both implementation and coordination level i.e. as the project-implementing institution but simultaneously to continue the policy dialogue and promote mutual learning and exchange of experiences. In the future, ERI SEE should move towards the implementation of the projects which support horizontal learning with policy relevance.
- ERI SEE visibility should be increased. ERI SEE should be presented at forthcoming conferences as an important regional initiative and driving force of the educational reforms in SEE.
- ERI SEE should use already existing tools, such as the *Lifelong Learning Programme* (LLP) and the *TAIEX assistance instrument*.
- European Commission should be better involved into the strategic thinking of ERI SEE that could be possible within the Western Balkan Platform.
- ERI SEE should be used as a platform for mutual learning from the experiences from national IPA projects already prepared to have an impact on the policy.
- ERI SEE materials aimed to enhance the ERI SEE visibility should be updated.
- ERI SEE priority themes (lifelong learning, qualifications frameworks, quality and equity in education, the knowledge triangle: education, research and innovation) should be described in a more detailed manner providing more guidance for the activity planning.

The meeting was organised by CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat.

The Agenda of the meeting is provided in the Annex 3.

The 17th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body, initially planned for the end of 2012, was not held due to the Serbian presidential and parliamentary elections which consequently provoked changes and restructuring of the roles and responsibilities within the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. Bearing in mind that Serbia is a chairing country and in charge of the preparation of the content part of the meeting, it was not possible to do so within the planned timeframe.

B.4. Seminar on challenges for teaching development in relation to the introduction of the educational standards and standardised assessment in pre-tertiary education

In the ongoing process of reforms of their education and training systems, all ERI SEE member countries have identified quality, equity and transparency as strategic objectives. Achieving these objectives require establishment of a national assessment and examination system. Standards and the process of defining them make an important aspect of national assessment. In this context, the majority of the ERI SEE member countries initiated the reform process with the aim at introducing transparent outcome standards for different educational levels. These standards-driven approaches to education reform led to the reorganisation of the structure and content of final exams marking the end of the primary and secondary education (introduction of standardised exams in the form of state matura). On the other hand, the standards-based education represent a challenge for teaching practices and work of schools and require fundamental changes in instructional practices, capacity building and teacher professional development as key ingredients in support of reforms.

Introduction and implementation of standards-based education is a continuous process, closely linked to changes in the status and the role of education in society. One of the purposes of standards-based education is to equalise the quality of functioning of decentralised education systems, both at the national and international levels. Good national standards can: create a coherent system; promote purposeful and constructive change; establish clear goals for learning; and raise the overall quality of education. On the other hand, some argue that establishing national standards will detract from many positive local reforms and inhibit the development of initiatives at the national and local levels. Others worry about the effects of such standards, fearing that they will result in minimum standards that will drag down the entire system and ignore the most capable students.

Bearing in mind the importance of the issues to be addressed, CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat organised from 11 – 12 December 2012, a **regional conference “Introduction and implementation of standards – based education in SEE – models and challenges”**⁶.

The conference was attended by approx. 80 participants from all ERI SEE countries. A particular feature of the conference was the diverse background of participants, since it included policy makers, research community, teachers and school principals, representatives from the state institutions dealing with standards in education as well as the representatives from universities. The conference was also attended by the representatives of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, KulturKontakt Austria, GIZ and Tempus offices in Serbia.

The main objectives of the conference were:

- to exchange the information on models of standards-based education in pre-tertiary education in SEE;
- to facilitate peer-learning in SEE on good practices in the implementation of standards-based education and introduction of the state matura;

⁶ Materials from the regional conference are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/266>

- to discuss the policy approaches for addressing effects of standards-based education to higher education policy and teacher training policies.

The Agenda of the conference is provided in the Annex 4.

B.7. Networking with ERI SEE institutional partners

Representatives of CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat took part in the following events:

- Joint ETF, RCC, TFBHC and ERI SEE meeting, 7th of February 2012, in Turin, Italy, organised by ETF.

The meeting held discussions about cooperation in 2011, activities of TFBHC and ERI SEE, proposal for activities in 2012, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the ETF and RCC Secretariat.

- First Stakeholder Conference⁷ of Priority Area 9 "To Invest in People and Skills" of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, 13 - 14 June 2012, Vienna, Austria.

The Conference entitled "Empowerment through Co-operation and Networking in the Danube Region" convened a large number of actors and stakeholders in the fields of education and labour market policy from all 14 Danube Region countries, the European Commission and International Organisations. At the conference, the first step was taken to promote networking and cooperation among the stakeholders, especially regarding the upcoming budget period. The conference facilitated discussions relevant to the actions of Priority Area 9, which are defined in the [Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region](#). The conference was organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, as Priority Area Coordinators within the framework of the EUSDR. The conference was funded by the European Union.

- Informal ERI SEE and TFBHC side event within the Ministerial Conference and the 3rd Bologna Policy Forum, 26-27 April 2012, Bucharest, Romania, organised by the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports.

The side event provided the opportunity for presenting recent developments within these two regional initiatives in the field of education and training, as well as to discuss certain matters on the strategic level such as the potential role of ERI SEE within the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training. This event also addressed the question of the leadership of the TFBHC for the period 2012-2014. The event was attended by 11 high-level representatives from ERI SEE member and observer countries as well as the representatives of the TFBHC.

- Regional conference "Lifelong Learning and Non-formal Adult Education in South East Europe", 3-5 October 2012, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, co-organised by the RCC

⁷ The conference materials are available at <http://www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu/item/278779>

Secretariat and the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education (dvv international) – Head Office for SEE.

The aim of the conference was to strengthen the social partnership for further development of the adult education sector in SEE. The conference gathered the representatives of institutions responsible for the sector of adult education from SEE, as well as the representatives of relevant international organisations, civil society networks, independent experts and other stakeholders.

- Third regional conference New Skills for New Jobs in the Western Balkans, 23rd of November 2012, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, co-organised by the RCC and Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

The conference brought together representatives of governments, social partners, researchers from the Western Balkan countries, regional organisations (SEECEL) and international institutions (EC, WB, ETF) to discuss and exchange views on the issue of skills and jobs in the region based on the proceedings of the previous two conferences held in October 2011 and July 2012. As an output of the three conferences a regional position paper on skills and jobs has been prepared that will serve as a platform for guiding future actions in this field.

B.8. Facilitation of information exchange

Following the conclusions of the 16th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body held in March 2012 and regarding the update of the ERI SEE materials aimed to enhance the ERI SEE visibility, CEP has prepared the [ERI SEE Leaflet](#). The leaflet contains a short background note on ERI SEE as well as its list of activities from its founding up to now.

In addition, in order to reach its widely set objectives of supporting education-related reforms in South East Europe, ERI SEE facilitated information exchange through regular updates of the ERI SEE website. The library of documents of ERI SEE thematic areas (Lifelong learning; Qualifications Frameworks; Quality and equity in education; Knowledge triangle: education, research and innovation) as well as the information about ERI SEE and partners activities were regularly updated in 2012. Furthermore, the library per ERI SEE member country was updated with the most relevant documents on education and training.

B.9. Handing over activities

Following the conclusions of the 15th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body held in November 2011, the mandate of CEP as the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat has been prolonged until the end of 2012 or until the fully functional Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia has been established.

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Serbia and other members of the ERI SEE on the seat of the Secretariat of the ERI SEE (Host Country Agreement) as the crucial document for the establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat was adopted by the Government of

Serbia in March 2012. With the adoption of this Agreement, an important move has been made toward establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia as well as the transformation of ERI SEE into an international organisation. The Agreement was signed by the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia and for its entry into force three more notifications (signatures) are necessary.

As stated in the ERI SEE Work Programme for 2012 and the condition under which CEP will host the ERI SEE Secretariat, the transformation process and the founding of the ERI SEE Secretariat in Serbia is not in any way CEP's responsibility.

Nevertheless, CEP conducts all the ERI SEE planned work and continues to support all the activities, which are in CEP's scope of work, regarding the establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat.

The 5th Meeting of the South East Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net)

4-5 June, 2012

Milocer, Montenegro

Venue: HEC Hotel Residence, Jadranski put bb.

Day I

4 June, 2012

- 10:00 - 10:30 Meeting opening and welcomes by:**
- Srđan Raičević, Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Sports, Montenegro
 - Duško Rajković, Chair of the SEEVET-Net
 - Jasminka Čekić Marković, Deputy Director, Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency
- 10:30 - 11:30 State of play regarding the social partnership in South East Europe.**
- Highlights from the national VET institutions:**
- Ilija Paluka, Director, VET Agency, Albania
 - Slavica Ivošević, Head of VET Department, Agency for Pre-School, Primary and Secondary Education, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Nino Buić, Head of Project Implementation Section, Agency for VET and Adult Education, Croatia
 - Ryve Prekorogja, Official for VET, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Kosovo*
- 11:30 - 11:45 Coffee break**
- 11:45 - 12:45 State of play regarding the social partnership in South East Europe.**
- Highlights from the national VET institutions:**
- Zekjir Zekjiri, Director, VET Center and Vera Kondikj Mitkovska, Senior Program Manager, Civic Education Centre, Macedonia
 - Olga Morozan, Center for Developing VE, Institute of Education Sciences and Alina Gheletschi, Sector Council for Agriculture and Food Industry, Moldova
 - Duško Rajković, Director, VET Centre, Montenegro
 - Jelena Jakovljević, Advisor, Institute for Improvement of Education, Serbia
- 12:45 - 13:15 Discussion focusing on social partnership models' differences, similarities and common challenges in SEE countries**
- 13:15 - 14:30 Lunch**

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

- 14:30 - 15:00** **Social partners in vocational education and training in the Southern Mediterranean**
Presentation of the study findings and recommendations
- Gerard Mayen, Senior expert, European Training Foundation (ETF)
- 15:00 - 16:00** **Social Partners' Role and Capacities for More Effective Education, Training and Employment - experiences and best practice examples**
- Elido Bandelj, Director, Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Slovenia
➤ Ildiko Pataki, Regional coordinator, National Centre for TVET Development, Romania
- 16:00 - 16:15** Coffee break
- 16:15 - 17:00** Discussion on common characteristics of the successful social partnership models and possibilities to be applied or adapted in SEE countries
- Defining areas of common regional interest for further cooperation
- 20:00** Official Dinner

Day II

5 June, 2012

- 10:00 - 10:30** Report from Duško Rajković, Chair of SEEVET-Net
- 10:30 - 10:45** Election of a new Chair of the SEEVET-Net (one year mandate)
- 10:45 - 11:15** **SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2012**
- Concretisation of future actions and deadlines for implementation
- 11:15 - 11:30** Coffee break
- 11:30 - 11:45** **Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Modernizing VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET**
Update on activities and plans for 2012 - Steps towards the finalisation of the Compendium of Good Practices in Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET
- Ildiko Pataki, Regional coordinator, National Centre for TVET Development, Romania
- 11:45 - 12:00** **SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2013**
Proposition on future cooperation and activities
- 12:00 - 13:30** Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:00** Travel of the participants to Maritime School in Kotor
- 14:00 - 15:30** **Visit to Maritime School in Kotor**
- Mr. Veljko Botica, Director of Maritime School

 <h1 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Monitoring and Evaluation</h1>					
Day 1					
Session	Topic	Description	Method	Outcomes	Duration
0	Introduction of the participants and facilitators and topics covered by the training.	Introducing participants and facilitators to each other. Introduction of the training topics. Articulations of expectations.	Individual presentations	Participants are familiar with group structure and topics to be covered by the training. Expectations regarding to the training are articulated.	30'
1a	Key elements of the policy cycle	What is the Policy Cycle; Key stages of the policy cycle (decision-making and policy formulation stage, implementation stage, and a monitoring and evaluation stage). Importance the M&E in policy cycle.	Facilitators presentation	Participants understand the policy cycle and roll and importance of M&E in policy cycle.	30'
1b	Monitoring & Evaluation - the main dimensions	Definitions of M&E. Purpose and main phases in the M&E process. Types of M&E. The difference between monitoring and evaluation and their interconnection.	Facilitators presentation	Participants understand core meaning, purpose and stages in development of M&E system. Participants understand differences and interconnection between M&E.	30'
coffee brake					
1.1 b	Monitoring system	Setting up a monitoring system (choosing the team, identifying goals, choosing adequate methodology, defining the outcomes). Methodology development - defining the framework; selection of adequate tools Implementation	Facilitators presentation	Participants are familiar with phases in setting up monitoring systems and able to decide on and to develop adequate monitoring tools. Participants are equipped with knowledge and skills regarding to monitoring system implementation and reporting on monitoring findings.	60'
1.2b	Evaluation system	Evaluation principles and processes. Algorithm of evaluation. Methodologies, implementation and reporting.	Facilitators presentation	Participants are familiar with phases in evaluation system and able to decide on and to develop adequate evaluation strategies and methodologies. Participants are equipped with knowledge and skills regarding to evaluation system implementation and reporting on evaluation findings.	60'
lunch brake					
1c	M&E in the context of VET in SEE countries	Contextualisation of the M&E - mapping of main institutions and stakeholders groups in VET to be included in M&E. Decision on what is important to be monitored and evaluated in VET.	Brainstorming; Mind mapping - group work	Providing an analysis of particular VET systems and making a link with M&E principles demonstrated in the previous sessions.	60'
1.1c	Presentation of results of group work	Summary of the results provided by participants and plenary discussion.	Presentation of group findings and circle discussion	Participants are introduced in mapping results and have a clear picture about priority areas for monitoring and evaluation in VET in SEE countries.	45'
1e	Looking back at the first training day	Summarisation of the topics presented. Group discussion and reflections on first day of the training.	Overview of the activities and topics covered by facilitators and plenary discussion.	Main messages on M&E repeated. Possible learning situations for future work identified. The first day training programme evaluated through group discussion.	15'
Day 2					
Session	Topic	Description	Method	Outcomes	Duration
2a	Different methodologies in M&E	Description of quantitative and qualitative monitoring and evaluation methods - difference, types, development	Facilitators presentation	Participants can differentiate quantitative and qualitative methods in M&E, and understand context of their application.	30'
2b	Practical work on development of M&E tools	Group work on development of - 1. questionnaires 2. school visit protocol	Work in groups	Participants gained practical experience in M&E tools development.	60'
coffee brake					
2.1b	Presentation of results of group work	Each group presents its approach in M&E tools development and models created. Provision of feed backs by facilitators.	Plenary presentation and discussion	Experiences on M&E tools development shared. Features of good M&E tools discussed.	30'
3b	Introduction in tracer studies methodology	Description of VET tracer studies as a tool of M&E: methodology, sampling, analysis, reporting	Facilitators presentation	Participants are familiar with the basic concept of tracer studies in VET.	60'
lunch brake					
4a	Presenting M&E results and advocacy	Description of - how to present and use data in advocacy process (data selection, data presentation, short/long term benefits, plans for further development)	Facilitators presentation	Examples of good data presentation methods presented. Participants introduced in advocacy roles and purposes	30'
4b	Practical work - Advocacy for modernisation of VET	Case study: presenting a M&E results to the different stakeholders (ministry, teachers, parents)	Work in groups	Participants gained practical experience in advocacy strategies by using data collected though M&E.	60'
4c	Presentation of results of group work	Each group presents its approach in addressing the problem.	Presentation of group findings and circle discussion	Participant understand importance of advocacy process and know how to use data collected during M&E in advocacy process.	30'
5a	Summary of the main topics covered during the training. Training evaluation.	Summarisation of the topics presented. Group discussion and reflections on training.	Overview of the activities and topics covered by facilitators and plenary discussion.	Main messages on M&E repeated. Possible learning situations for future work identified. The whole training programme evaluated through group discussion and written evaluation.	15'

The 16th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body

27 March 2012, Belgrade, Serbia

Venue: Hotel Moskva, Conference Room "Terazije"

10:00 – 10:15	Welcome by the Host and Opening Remarks	
	Dr. Žarko Obradović, Chair of the ERI SEE Governing Board, Minister of Education and Science, Republic of Serbia	
10:15 – 10:20	Adoption of Agenda	
	Adoption of Minutes of the 15th Meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body	
	Chair of the ERI SEE Governing Board	
10:20 – 10:50	Update on the Establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia	<i>For Information</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host Country Agreement and next steps	
10:50 – 11:05	Update on the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training	<i>For Information</i>
	Tinde Kovač Cerović, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science, Republic of Serbia	
11:05 – 11:15	Update on the RCC novelties	<i>For Information</i>
	Jelica Minić, Deputy Secretary General and the Head of the Expert Pool, Regional Cooperation Council	
11:15 – 11:25	Update on the Task Force novelties	<i>For Information</i>
	Jürgen Schick, TFBHC Co-Chair of ERI SEE Governing Board	
11:25 – 11:35	Update on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region	<i>For Information</i>
	Jürgen Schick, TFBHC Co-Chair of ERI SEE Governing Board	
11:35 – 11:50	Coffee Break	
11:50 – 12:10	Discussion on the role of ERI SEE in view of the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training and other regional initiatives	
12:10 – 12:30	Discussion on the road map towards the development of ERI SEE priority themes for the period 2013-2015	

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 13:40	Adoption of the Statute of the ERI SEE	<i>For Adoption</i>
13:40 – 14:00	Call for ERI SEE Director	<i>For Adoption</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy Announcement • Selection Procedure • Appointment of the Working Group 	
14:00 – 14:40	Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Clusters of Knowledge	<i>For Information</i>
	Update on activities and plans for 2012	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Romania: Modernizing VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET Ildiko Pataki, Regional coordinator, National Centre for TVET Development, Romania ➤ Croatia: Development of National Qualifications Frameworks Daria Arlavi, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Republic of Croatia ➤ Serbia: Evidence-Based Policy Making in Education Jelena Marković, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Republic of Serbia 	
14:40 – 14:45	Adoption of Updated Procedure for Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Clusters of Knowledge funding by ERI SEE	<i>For Adoption</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee Break	
15:00 – 15:30	ERI SEE Activity Report, January – December 2011	<i>For Adoption</i>
	ERI SEE Financial Report, January – December 2011	
	Predrag Lažetić, Director, Centre for Education Policy (CEP)	
15:30 – 16:00	ERI SEE Work Programme and Budget 2012	<i>For Adoption</i>
	Predrag Lažetić, Director, Centre for Education Policy (CEP)	
16:00 – 16:15	Summary and Closing Remarks	
	Chair of the ERI SEE Governing Board	

Regional conference

Introduction and implementation of standards-based education in SEE – models and challenges

11-12 December 2012, Belgrade, Serbia

Venue: Best Western Hotel M, Conference Room "Atrijum", Blvd. Oslobođenja 56a

Tuesday, 11 December, 2012

09:45 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:30	Meeting opening and welcomes by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vesna Fila, Assistant Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia• Predrag Lažetić, Director, Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE interim Secretariat , Belgrade
10:30 – 11:30	Introductory speeches: Standards in Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Külli All, Adviser on lifelong learning, Estonian Ministry of Education and Research - Aligning national education standards with EQF• Jelena Najdanović Tomić, Head of Centre for Standards, Institute for Education Quality and Evaluation, Serbia - Rationales for standards in pre-tertiary education
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 – 13:30	Expert panel – Models of standardisation in pre-tertiary education and Introduction of standardised exams <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nika Schlamberger, Key expert, Project "Support for quality assurance within the national primary and secondary education examination system in Serbia"• Boris Jokić, Scientific Associate, Centre for Educational Research and Development, Institute for Social Research, Croatia• Jasmina Đelić, Head of Centre for Reserach and Evaluation, Institute for Education Quality and Evaluation, Serbia• Hariz Agić, Pedagogical Institute Tuzla and Đulaga Hadžić, Advisor for IT at the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Tuzla Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina
13:30 – 14:00	Discussion
14:00 – 15:30	Lunch

15:30 – 16:30	<p>Expert panel – Teachers’ preparation for standards-based education – step towards quality assurance or “pedagogical conformism”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bardhyl Musai, Director, Center for Democratic Education, Albania • Silvana Veteroska, Head of Sector for Professional Development, Bureau for Development of Education, Macedonia • Saša Milić, Director, Pedagogical Center, Montenegro
16:30 – 17:00	Discussion
20:30	Official dinner

Wednesday, 12 December, 2012

10:00 – 11:30	<p>Expert panel – Reforms of the enrollment exams - perspective of universities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitar Mišović, Director of Quality Assurance Center, University of Montenegro • Igor Drvodelić, Head of Central Applications Office, Agency for Science and Higher Education, Croatia • Jelena Branković, Researcher, Centre for Education Policy, Belgrade
11:30 – 12:00	Discussion
12:00 – 12:15	Coffee break
12:15 – 12:45	<p>Concluding remarks – Creativity and standardisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anton Dobart, Director General for General Education, Educational Planning and International Affairs, Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture
12:45 – 13:00	<p>Presentation from General Rapporteur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanja Ivošević, Institute for the Development of Education, Croatia
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
20:00	Dinner for the participants leaving on Thursday, 13 December, 2012