



**Activity Report on the implementation of the  
ERI SEE Work Programme 2011**

**1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

## **SUMMARY**

ERI SEE achieved the following specific **objectives** in 2011:

- Established mutual policy learning practices through enhanced institutional cooperation in Vocational Education and Training in South East Europe
- Established 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
- Supported country initiatives in the domain of mutual policy learning and cooperation in the field of education in general
- Initiated 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 increasing the number of higher education graduates, as suggested by EU2020 education benchmarks

ERI SEE accomplished **outputs** in 2011:

- Established institutional network of Vocational Education and Training centres in South East Europe (South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network, SEEVET-Net) with adopted Work Programme for 2012/2013
- Initiated institutional network of Quality Assurance Agencies in post-secondary education
- Established, in cooperation with the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC), three clusters of knowledge in the field of (1) Vocational Education and Training lead by Romania; (2) National Qualifications Frameworks led by Croatia and (3) Evidence-Based Policy Making led by Serbia
- Initiated regional policy and practice exchange in the area of ensuring equitable, quality education
- ERI SEE website significantly improved

ERI SEE specific objectives and outputs were achieved through the following **activities** which took place in 2011:

1. 4th Meeting of the Vocational Education and Training centres in South East Europe (SEEVET-Net) , 11-12 July, 2011, Chisinau, Moldova
2. Networking visit of SEE QA experts to the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and the Bologna Secretariat, 19-20 October, 2011, Bucharest, Romania

3. Regional conference “Policy development and monitoring for quality and equity in education”, 6-7 December, 2011, Belgrade, Serbia
4. 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body, 11 March and 11 November, 2011, 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)
    - Kick off meeting, 30-31 May, 2011, Bucharest, Romania
    - Regional workshop “Developing a Quality Culture at VET Providers’ Level”, 24-25 November, 2011, Vienna, Austria
  - 5.2. Evidence Based Policy Making in Education (Serbia)
    - Kick-off meeting held within the regional conference “Turning Research into Practice – Learning from PISA”, 16-17 June, 2011, Belgrade, Serbia
    - Regional meeting Evidence Based Policy Making in Education, 16 December, 2011, Vienna, Austria
  - 5.3. Development of National Qualifications Frameworks (Croatia)
    - Kick-off meeting held within the international conference on referencing of the Croatian Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework and to the Qualifications Framework of the EHEA, 27-28 October, 2011, Split, Croatia

## **ERI SEE ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO THE 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**

#### **B.2. 4th Meeting of the South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net)**

Vocational Education and Training (VET) contributes significantly to the creation of jobs, economic growth and social development, as well as to personal development and social inclusion. It constitutes an important part of lifelong learning and plays a vital role in enabling young people to acquire skills and competences relevant for labour market requirements. South East Europe countries have identified VET development as a very important factor for economic and social development and considerable actions have been foreseen with the national IPA and ENPI planning documents. In order to fulfill the potential of their VET systems, the countries in SEE are undergoing fundamental changes, as a result of numerous international, regional and national initiatives.

In its Work Programme for 2011 ERI SEE has identified the development of mutual policy learning practices through enhanced institutional cooperation in VET in SEE as one of its objectives. Building on the previous initiatives in the region carried out under the ERI SEE umbrella in cooperation with different partners, the 4th Meeting of the SEEVET-Net which was held on July 11-12, 2011 in Chisinau, Moldova had three main goals:

- to create the SEE Regional VET Network between VET institutions acting in SEECP region through signing the Cooperation Agreement;
- to operationalise the Cooperation Agreement through brainstorming and discussion on developing a work plan for 2012/13;
- to provide an opportunity for VET institutions acting in the SEECP region to exchange information and their experience.

The 4th Meeting of the SEEVET-Net gathered the representatives of the VET institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia as well as the representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Training Foundation (ETF) and the Centre for Education Policy as the Interim Agency of the ERI SEE.

At the occasion of the 4th Meeting of the SEEVET-Net, the SEE Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net) was officially established through signing the Cooperation Agreement<sup>1</sup> between VET institutions from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia. All VET institutions that were not able to sign the Cooperation Agreement in Chisinau, Moldova are welcomed to do so at a later stage. The SEEVET-Net Cooperation agreement and Rules of procedure, adopted at the meeting, were finalized by the Centre for Education Policy in accordance with comments and amendments received after two rounds of consultation with all SEE countries. The SEEVET-Net members elected new Chair of the SEEVET-Net from the Centre for Vocational Education from Montenegro for the period 2011-2012.

The meeting enabled a platform for discussion on developing the SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2012/2013. The proposal of the Work Programme 2012/13 has been developed by the VET experts in the Centre for Education Policy in consultation with the Chair of SEEVET-Net and is based on the review of the existing documents on VET in the region, minutes of meetings taking place in the region on VET and consultations with VET experts in the region. Following the discussion at the meeting and inputs received from the representatives of VET institutions acting in SEECF region, the Work Programme 2012/13<sup>2</sup> has been finalized by the VET experts in the Centre for Education Policy and sent to approval and adoption to the SEEVET-Net members.

The representatives of the VET institutions had the opportunity to exchange information and their experience and to hear about the global and European trends in VET from the OECD and ETF representatives.

The meeting was jointly organized by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova, the National VET Centre of Montenegro, the Director of which is Chair of SEEVET-Net and the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency.

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

## **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**

### **B.3. Study visit to the Quality Assurance Agency in Romania back to back with the 1st regional networking meeting of Quality Assurance Agencies**

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.erisee.org/downloads/2011/07/1\\_SEEVET-Net\\_Cooperation%20Agreement\\_Chisinau,%20July%202011.pdf](http://www.erisee.org/downloads/2011/07/1_SEEVET-Net_Cooperation%20Agreement_Chisinau,%20July%202011.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.erisee.org/sites/default/files/SEEVET-Net%20WORK%20PROGRAMME%202012.pdf>

The Networking visit of SEE QA experts to the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and the Bologna Secretariat<sup>3</sup> was held on 19-20 October in Bucharest, Romania. The networking visit gathered quality assurance experts from higher education institutions and agencies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro and Romania, as well as experts of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and the Bologna Follow Up Group Secretariat. The event was also attended by the representatives of the Centre for Education Policy as the Interim Agency of the ERI SEE.

The participants had the opportunity to learn from each other and exchange information and their experience and practice in the field of quality assurance in higher education. Furthermore, the participants had the opportunity to discuss Global and European trends in quality assurance policy, as well as the role of European Standards and Guidelines in Quality Assurance (ESG). The participants were informed about the preliminary results of the MAP ESG project (Mapping the implementation and application of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area) coordinated by ENQA and about the role and application procedures for European Quality Assurance Register. During the visit to the Bologna Secretariat, the participants received information on the current issues in the Bologna Process and importance of QA for recognition of degrees.

As part of 1st regional networking meeting of Quality Assurance Agencies, the participants discussed the importance of regional cooperation in quality assurance and proposed a Quality Assurance Mobility Programme to be established as a further regional cooperation activity for 2012 in already initiated peer learning process among quality assurance experts from higher education institutions and agencies.

The event was successfully organized by the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, the Bologna Follow-up Group Secretariat, and the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency.

The Agenda of the networking visit is provided in the Annex 2.

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

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<sup>3</sup> Networking visit materials are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/211>

**B.6. Activities under work programmes of 3 knowledge clusters organized 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 kick off meeting**<sup>4</sup> on the Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Modernising VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET was held on 30-31 May, 2011 in Bucharest, Romania. The meeting gathered the representatives of Ministries of Education, Science and Research and other institutions involved in VET from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia, as well as representatives of the European Training Foundation (ETF), the Centre for Education Policy on behalf of the ERI SEE, and KulturKontakt Austria (KKA) on behalf of the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC).

The main goal of the kick off meeting was to agree upon the cluster's objectives and timeline and to decide on cluster's outputs. Romania, as cluster's leader, organized sessions for introducing the participants in the Romanian practices on VET.

The event was an opportunity for starting the dialogue among EU member states and SEE partner countries in the field of education and training, in particular in view of creating a platform for mutual learning, disseminating examples of good practice, increasing quality and performance, bridging the shortage of expertise in particular policy areas and supporting reforms in national education and training systems overall. The key output of the cluster will be a *Compendium of Good Practices in Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET* which will facilitate the creation of knowledge, the support for policy development, and inputs for policy in action and policy evaluation.

On this occasion participants reaffirmed the need for future cooperation and harmonization of activities of SEEVET-Net and activities under the Romanian cluster. In line with that, the SEEVET-Net members will contribute in the development of the Compendium.

The kick off meeting was jointly organized by the Romanian National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development (NCTVETD) and the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency.

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<sup>4</sup> Meeting materials are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/199>

**The regional workshop “Developing a Quality Culture at VET Providers’ Level”<sup>5</sup>** was held on 24-25 November in Vienna, Austria, as a further step in already initiated peer learning process within the VET Cluster of knowledge. Taking “QIBB- Quality Development in Vocational Education and Training” in Austria as an example, the workshop focused on an exchange of experience on the processes of how to establish a sustainable quality culture at VET providers’ level - and challenges encountered. The workshop also provided the opportunity for the participants to continue cluster’s internal planning process and to start the development of *Compendium*. The workshop was organized with the support of the KulturKontakt Austria.

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

**The kick-off meeting<sup>6</sup>** of the Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education was held within the regional conference “Turning Research into Practice – Learning from PISA” on June 16-17, 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The conference gathered the representatives of the ministries in charge of education and science in the regional countries, the representatives of research units, as well as the representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations. In addition to the local participants from Serbia, the conference gathered the participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia, as well as the experts from the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, European Training Foundation (ETF), KulturKontakt Austria, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC) and Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE).

The objectives of the kick-off meeting were to: present the regional Cluster of Knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making and other regional clusters of knowledge; present regional projects in the field of evidence-based policy making; identify regional priorities and financing opportunities; agree on the agenda of the Cluster and further steps.

The conference was successfully organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration/Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC), KulturKontakt Austria and the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency.

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<sup>5</sup> Materials from the regional workshop are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/209>

<sup>6</sup> Materials from the kick off meeting are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/200>



**The regional meeting Evidence Based Policy Making in Education**<sup>7</sup> was held on December 16, 2011 in Vienna, Austria, as a further step in already initiated regional cooperation within the Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education. The main aim of the meeting was the presentation of the regional study *Mapping Regional Capacities for Evidence Based Policy Making in Education in South Eastern Europe* and to discuss findings as well as to determine further course of action. Based on the *Mapping* exercise findings and recommendations, the Republic of Serbia as the leading country of the Cluster will initiate preparation of the regional project in the area of Evidence Based Policy Making as support and promotion of the Cluster activities.

The meeting was organized by the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC), the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration/Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, the KulturKontakt Austria and the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency.

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

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, as the Croatian EQF NCP, organized an international Conference on referencing of the Croatian Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework and to the Qualifications Framework of the EHEA and the first meeting of the Joint Task Force/ERI SEE Cluster on development of NQFs<sup>8</sup> that took place in Split on October 27-28, 2011.

The objective of the Conference was to discuss with Croatian and international stakeholders and experts the process of referencing of the national qualifications frameworks to the two meta-qualifications frameworks which have been adopted at the European level. Special emphasis of the conference was on the issue of transparency and quality assurance, and the experiences in preparing of the Croatian Referencing and Self-Certification Report with evaluation and guidance from five international experts.

The objective of the NQF Cluster meeting was to share information on the state of play of development of national qualifications frameworks in the participating countries. More specifically, the Cluster meeting discussed the comparability of higher education qualifications in the context of the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area.

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<sup>7</sup> Materials from the regional meeting are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/226>

<sup>8</sup> Materials from the conference and meeting are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/210>

The NQF Cluster meeting was organized with the support of the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency.

**4. 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**

**B.5. Regional Conference on Quality and Equity in Education in South East Europe**

The ERI SEE Regional conference “Policy development and monitoring for quality and equity in education”<sup>9</sup> was held from 6-7 December 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The Conference gathered the representatives of the ministries responsible for education, the representatives from the state institutions in charge of education development, assessments and statistics, the representatives from the teacher associations and teacher/education faculties, the representatives of the education research community as well as the representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations. In addition to the local participants from Serbia, the Conference gathered the participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Moldova as well as the participants from the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia, European Training Foundation – ETF, KulturKontakt Austria, World Bank, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Fund for an Open Society.

One of the main goals of ERI SEE is to initiate regional exchange of policies and practices in the area of equity and access to education as well to jointly work on increase of quality of outcomes of the educational systems in the region. This policy challenge is especially difficult in the context of transitional societies of Southeast Europe.

While the countries of the South East Europe share the experience of the communism rule and some of the challenges of the transition process, they also differ greatly between each other and have since the 1990's had vastly different experiences. Nevertheless, all of the countries have recognized education as one of the key elements of change.

Ambitious modernization agendas for education have been emerging across the region; however they have often been hindered by ambiguous legislation, resistance from conservative education and academic communities, or political turmoil. While the countries in South Eastern Europe meet

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<sup>9</sup> Materials from the regional conference (including General Report) are available at <http://www.erisee.org/node/223>

particular challenges of transition societies, countries in “the West” have also not always met national or European modernization agendas in education. As Pavel Zgaga points out “Like all European states, countries in the region need ‘an increased momentum and commitment beyond 2010’.”

The leading principles of the conference was firstly that issues of equity and quality of education have to be addressed having in mind the overall education systems and not separately for each level of education. In fact, the main policy challenges for quality and equity in education represent transitions between levels of education, and therefore it is important to have holistic approach in development of educational policies and strategies. The second leading principle was that processes of policy development, policy implementation and especially policy monitoring and evaluation have to be based on evidence and that robust evidence base for education policy needs to be developed and utilised. The importance of these principles in the context of the Southeast Europe and the educational systems became even higher in the process of European integrations.

The main topics of the conference were:

- evidence based policy development for quality and equity in education as well as
- development of evidence based monitoring and evaluation approaches in education.

The outcome of the conference was to set joint regional priorities and focal areas for intermediate policy intervention as well to discuss the possibility of future regional cooperation in area (joint initiatives, projects etc.)

The conference was organized by the Centre for Education Policy acting as the interim Secretariat of ERI SEE.

The Agenda of the regional conference is provided in the Annex 3.

### **B.1. Governing Board and Consultative Body Meetings**

**The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body** was held in Belgrade on 11 March 2011. Members of the ERI SEE Governing Board or replacements from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Regional Cooperation Council, Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital and KulturKontakt Austria and representatives of the Consultative Body from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), European Training Foundation (ETF), NL EVD Internationaal and Council of Europe, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit/ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration and the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency took part to the meeting.

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was the constituent meeting of the new ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body and important state in the development of ERI SEE marked by the transfer of the Chairmanship from Croatia to Serbia.

The meeting addressed: hand-over of Chairmanship from Croatia to Serbia; accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the ERI SEE Memorandum of Understanding, as the 7<sup>th</sup> country who has joined the new MoU; update on RCC novelties; update on Task Force novelties; update on the establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia and discussion about next steps; adoption of the ERI SEE progress reports for 2010; presentation and adoption of the ERI SEE Budget and Work Programme for 2011; Presentation of the three clusters of knowledge developed under the following countries: Romania (VET Cluster of Knowledge), Croatia (NQF Cluster of Knowledge) and Serbia (Evidence Based Policy Making Cluster of Knowledge).

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

**The 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body** took place on November 11, 2011 in Belgrade, Serbia. The meeting was held back to back with the 4th meeting of the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC) which took place on November 10.

The meeting addressed: update on RCC and TFBHC novelties as well as on EU Strategy for the Danube Region; update on activities realized in 2011 and work plans for 2012 of three Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Clusters of Knowledge; presentation and adoption of the ERI SEE progress reports for the first half of 2011; presentation and adoption of the ERI SEE Revised ERI SEE Work Programme and Budget for the second half of 2011; information and discussion about the new initiatives in the region and potential role of ERI SEE; update on the establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia and discussion about next steps and discussion on the ERI SEE Work Programme and Budget for 2012.

The Agenda of the meeting is provided in the Annex 5.

The Governing Board meetings were organized by the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency.

### **B.7. Networking with ERI SEE institutional partners**

Representatives of the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency took part to the European Training Foundation (ETF) meeting which was held on 10 February 2011 in Turin. Together with the high level representatives of the Task Force for Building Human Capital (TFBHC), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the ETF, joint initiatives were discussed. The meeting

resulted in a plan of joint cooperation between ETF and ERI SEE in 2011, as well as ETF and RCC and ETF and TFBHC.

Representatives of the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency took part to the regional coordination conference titled “Western Balkans and *Europe 2020* – Towards Convergence and Growth” in Brussels on March 30 and 31 organized by the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat. The meeting, organized to explore the possibilities of further alignment of the region to *Europe 2020* policy objectives and principles gathered over 100 representatives of regional organizations and structures, national authorities from Southeast Europe, representatives of international financial institutions, international donor agencies and the officials of the European Union institutions. In order to exchange information between the regional initiatives on their current and planned activities and to inform the donor community of the ongoing efforts at the regional level, Centre for Education Policy provided information about ERI SEE Initiative, its legal status, organizational structure, membership, mission statement, brief history, funding and activities planned for 2011 in the Questionnaire for Regional Initiatives and Task Forces in South East Europe submitted by the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat.

Representatives of the Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency took part to the High-level Symposium on Teacher Training and Entrepreneurial Learning in Istanbul 13-15 July organized by ETF. The objective of the symposium was to determine how the teaching profession can be prepared to accommodate the lifelong entrepreneurial learning agenda.

ERI SEE continued the cooperation and the coordination of the regional activities in VET with ETF and OECD whose representatives took part to the 4th Meeting of the SEEVET-Net.

### **B.8. Facilitation of information exchange**

The ERI SEE website was significantly re-designed and re-organised. The improvements were made in both technical and content related aspects. The following improvements were made:

#### **Update of Underlying Site Engine**

The underlying website engine, Drupal, has been updated to its latest version. The new updated engine should provide a more robust, secure and flexible system for further maintenance and expansion.

#### **Accessibility Improvements**

The website used to have serious accessibility issues. Persons using alternative output methods, such as voice screen readers and Braille displays had hard time navigating the website. Now, navigation and readability of the site is much easier for visitors with disabilities.

### **Style Improvements and Consolidation**

Throughout the site, margins, paddings, font sizes and faces have been consolidated so all content has the same style. Previously, there were no strict rules as to how information is conveyed, creating a confusion for user.

### **Security Improvements**

Public login and account creation has been disabled, so there is less chance of abuse of the website from malicious visitors.

### **News Organization**

Clear format for the news has been established, making it both easier to read and navigate, and making it quicker to add new news items. Also, an archive page for news has been established.

### **Calendar of Events**

There were numerous faults on the site preventing the calendar from being correctly displayed. Now, all faults have been fixed and all events are transferred to an internal database so they can be correctly displayed in the calendar and can be searched, browsed, etc.

### **Browser Compatibility**

The website was not compatible with Internet Explorer and had issues displaying in certain versions of Google Chrome and Opera. These faults have chiefly been fixed, so the website renders more evenly in different browsers and different platforms.

### **Relevant Information Update**

The information on the website about ERI SEE Initiative, its organizational structure and membership were updated in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on the Role and Organization of ERI SEE, Brdo 2010.

### **Relevant documents update**

The library of documents of ERI SEE thematic areas (Lifelong learning; Qualifications Frameworks; Quality and equity in education; Knowledge triangle: education, research and innovation) were regularly updated.

Furthermore, **the library per ERI SEE member countries** was updated with the most relevant documents on education and training.

### **B.9. Handing over activities**

Following the recommendation of the ERI SEE Co-Chair at the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body, Centre for Education Policy hired a short term international legal expert to support the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia and the ERI SEE Governing Board in drafting and finalization of the Host Country Agreement and the Statute of the ERI SEE Secretariat. In performing responsibilities and tasks, the legal expert closely cooperated with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia, the other relevant Ministries, units or persons within the Government of the Republic of Serbia and with the ERI SEE Governing Board.

At the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body, the mandate of CEP as ERI SEE interim structure has been prolonged until the end of 2012 or until the fully functional Secretariat is established. On this occasion future steps regarding the establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia were agreed.

As stated in the ERI SEE Work Programme for 2011 and condition under which Centre for Education Policy will host the ERI SEE Agency, the transformation process and the founding of the ERI SEE Secretariat in Serbia is not in any way CEP's responsibility.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net)**

11-12 July, 2011

Chisinau, Moldova

Hotel CODRU, Coral Hall

11 July, 2011

- 10:00 - 10:30     **Meeting opening and welcomes by:**
- Mihail Sleahitichi, Minister, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova  
Duško Rajković, Chair of the SEEVET-Net  
Jasminka Čekić Marković, Deputy Director, Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency
- 10:30 - 11:30     **Learning from the experiences - VET system in Moldova**
- Octavian Vasilachi, Chief, Department for secondary vocational and specialized education, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova  
Aurelia Vartic, VET Projects Consultant, LED Moldova  
Lilia Pogolsa, Director, Institute for Education Sciences
- Discussion
- 11:30 - 11:45     Coffee break
- 11:45 - 13:30     **Global trends in VET: Challenges and perspectives for South East Europe**  
Mihaylo Milovanovitch, Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- European trends in VET: Challenges and perspectives for South East Europe**  
Ulrike Damyanovic, Head of Western Balkans and Turkey Unit Geographical Operations Department, European Training Foundation
- Regional initiatives in VET:**
- Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Modernising VET system**  
Zoica Elena Vladut, Deputy director, National Centre for TVET Development, Romania
- ERI SEE Work Programme 2011**  
Jasminka Čekić Marković, Deputy Director, Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency
- Synergy of the regional initiatives with the SEEVET-Net**  
Duško Rajković, Chair of the SEEVET-Net
- Discussion: Defining areas of common interest for further cooperation of regional VET initiatives



- 13:30 - 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 - 16:00 Presentation of the work of each VET Institution (15 min. for each country representative) with the focus on the VET system recent developments and activities and cooperation between VET institutions
- Discussion
- 16:00 - 16:15 Coffee break
- 16:15 - 18:00 Presentation of the work of each VET Institution (15 min. for each country representative) with the focus on the VET system recent developments and activities and cooperation between VET institutions
- Discussion
- 20:30 Official Dinner- *Casa Sarbatorii*

12 July, 2011

- 9:00 - 10:00 Discussion on the SEEVET-Net Cooperation Agreement
- Signing of the SEEVET-Net Cooperation Agreement
- Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
- 10:00 - 10:30 Report from Duško Rajković, Chair of SEEVET-Net
- Election of a new Chair of the SEEVET-Net (one year mandate)
- 10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break
- 10:45 - 12:30 SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2012/2013  
Proposition on future cooperation and activities
- 12:30 - 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 15:30 Visit to Vocational Lyceum nr. 1, Chisinau  
Valentina Dobanda, Director

**Networking visit of SEE QA experts to the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and the Bologna Secretariat**

19-20 October

Bucharest, Romania

19 October, 2011

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)

- 09:00 - 09:20     **Welcoming speeches**  
Radu Mircea Damian, Director, Quality Evaluation Department, ARACIS  
Predrag Lazetic, Director, Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency  
Roxana Fratila, Adviser for European Affairs, Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports of Romania
- 09:20 - 10:20     **Global trends in QA and importance of QA in higher education in developing countries**  
  
**Preliminary results of the UNESCO-GIQAC project**  
Peter J. Wells, Programme Specialist, UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education (UNESCO-CEPES)-TBC
- 10:20 - 10:40     *Discussion*  
Coffee break
- 10:40 - 11:30     **European Standards and Guidelines in QA and the role of European Registry of QA agencies - steps and challenges**  
Colin Tück, Director, European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)
- 11:30 - 11:40     *Discussion*  
Short break
- 11:40 - 12:30     **Mapping the implementation and application of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area**  
  
**Preliminary result of MAP-ESG project**  
Achim Hopbach, President of European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)
- 12:30 - 14:00     *Discussion*  
Joint lunch
- 14:00 - 15:30     **Experience in the implementation of ESG:**  
  
**Accreditation in higher education in Romania - standards, procedures and results**

Radu Mircea Damian, Director, Quality Evaluation Department, ARACIS

**Quality assurance in higher education in Croatia – standards, procedure and results**

Emita Blagdan, Assistant Director, Agency for Science and Higher Education

Durdica Dragojevic, Expert Advisor, Agency for Science and Higher Education

*Discussion*

15:30 - 15:50

Coffee break

15:50 - 16:30

Discussion in the group: **The problems with regard to the process of accreditation of higher education in South East Europe - how to learn from the experience of others**

Informal discussion with input from all countries

Moderated by CEP/ERI SEE

16:30 - 17:00

Discussion in the group: **Potential cooperation in the area of QA in higher education: Connecting the region of Western Balkans to Europe**

Concluding discussion with input from all countries

Moderated by CEP/ERI SEE

17:00 - 19:30

Transfer back to hotel and free time

19:30

Dinner

20 October, 2011  
Bologna Follow-Up Group Secretariat

09:30 - 10:30

**Visit to the Bologna Secretariat**

Current issues in the Bologna Process

Importance of QA for recognition of degrees

Ligia Deca, Head of the Bologna Follow Up Group Secretariat

*Discussion*

## Regional conference

### Policy development and monitoring for quality and equity in education

6-7 December 2011, Belgrade, Serbia

Venue: Best Western Hotel M, Conference Room "Atrijum"

Tuesday, 6 December, 2011

- 09:00 – 09:15 Registration of Participants
- 09:15 – 09:30 **Meeting opening and welcomes by:**
- Predrag Lažetić, Director, Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency, Serbia
- 09:30 – 10:15 **Keynote speaker: Education and social change**
- Tinde Kovač Cerović, State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science, Serbia
- 10:15 – 10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45 – 12:45 **Expert panel: Policy development for quality and equity in education – evidence gaps and key issues**
- Redžep Ali Čupi, Director, Directorate for Promotion and Development of the Languages in the Education for the Ethnic Minorities, Ministry of Education and Science, Macedonia
  - Tidita Abdurrahmani, Director, Institute for Educational Development, Albania
  - Dženana Husremović, Professor, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Psychology, Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Jugoslav Bogdanović, School principal, HPTS "Uros Predic", Serbia
- 12:45 – 14:15 Lunch
- 14:15 – 15:15 **Keynote speaker: Evidence of quality and equity in education**
- Peter Rado, Senior consultant, Expanzio Consulting Ltd, Hungary
- 15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break
- 15:45 – 17:45 **Expert panel: Monitoring and evaluation of quality and equity in education – approaches and evidence gaps**
- Martina Vukasović, Research fellow, Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Oslo
  - Vjera Mitrović-Radošević, Adviser, Center for Vocational Education, Montenegro
  - Karin Doolan, Senior Research Assistant, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, Croatia
  - Peter Greenwood, Head of EBPM, European Training Foundation

20:30 Official Dinner

Wednesday, 7 December, 2011

09:00 – 11:00 Theme to be addressed in working groups:

**Steps toward quality and equity in education**

- *Priorities*
- *Focus areas*
- *Future regional initiatives*

The participants will be divided into three groups:

**WG 1** - representatives from ministries of education and institutes (Zavodi)  
Chair: Đurđica Dragojević, Expert Advisor, Agency for Science and Higher Education, Croatia

**WG 2** - representatives from bureaus of statistics and research community

Chair: Dijana Vučković, Head of Teacher Training Department, University of Montenegro – Faculty of Philosophy, Montenegro

**WG 3** - representatives of teachers' associations and teacher/education faculties

Chair: Zorica Trikić, Program Director, Center for Interactive Pedagogy, Serbia

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:00 Presentations from the WG

12:00 – 12:30 Presentation from General Rapporteur, Martina Vukasović, Research fellow, Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Oslo

12:30 – 13:00 Conclusions / round table

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 **Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education**

Presentation of preliminary results of Mapping of Regional Capacities in Evidence Based Policy Making  
Žana Bogunović, Researcher, Centre for Education Policy

**The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body**

11 March 2011, Belgrade, Serbia  
Venue: Deputy Club

- 10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome by the Host and Opening Remarks**  
*Mr. Žarko Obradović, Minister of Education, Republic of Serbia*
- 10:15 – 10:30 *Chair of the ERI SEE Governing Board*  
*Mr. Radovan Fuchs, Minister of Science, Education and Sports, Republic of Croatia*
- Hand-over of Chairmanship from Croatia to Serbia**
- 10:30 – 10:45 *Chair of the ERI SEE Governing Board*  
*Mr. Žarko Obradović, Minister of Education, Republic of Serbia*
- 10:45 – 11:00 **Selection of Co-Chair**
- 11:00 – 11:15 *Signing Ceremony:*  
**Accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the ERI SEE Memorandum of Understanding**  
*Mr. Sredoje Nović, Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- 11:15 – 11:20 **Adoption of Agenda**  
**Adoption of the Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body**  
*Chair of the ERI SEE Governing Board*
- 11:20 – 11:30 **Update on RCC novelties**  
*Mr. Mladen Dragašević, Regional Cooperation Council*
- 11:30 – 11:40 **Update on Task Force novelties**  
*Mr. Jürgen Schick, TFBHC Co-Chair of ERI SEE Governing Board*
- 11:40 – 12:15 *Coffee Break*
- 12:15 – 13:15 **Update on the Establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia**  
*Ms. Tinde Kovač Cerović, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Republic of Serbia*  
**-Presentation of HCA and Statute**  
**-Tentative timetable and next steps**  
*Discussion*
- 13:15 – 14:15 *Lunch*
- 14:15 – 15:00 **ERI SEE Activity Report, August – December 2010**  
**ERI SEE Financial Report, August – December 2010**  
*Ms. Vanja Ivošević, Centre for Education Policy (CEP)*  
*Discussion and adoption of the ERI SEE reports 2010*
- 15:00 – 16:00 **ERI SEE Budget and Work Programme 2011**

*Ms. Vanja Ivošević, Centre for Education Policy (CEP)*  
*Discussion*

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:15 **Clusters of Knowledge**  
**Procedure for cluster funding via ERI SEE**  
*Ms. Vanja Ivošević, Centre for Education Policy (CEP)*

*Presentation of 2011 activity schedule:*

**Romania: VET Cluster of Knowledge**

**Croatia: NQF Cluster of Knowledge**

**Serbia: Evidence Based Policy Making Cluster of Knowledge**

17:15 – 17:25 **EU Strategy for the Danube Region and possible synergies with ERI SEE**  
*Mr. Jürgen Schick, TFBHC Co-Chair of ERI SEE Governing Board*

17:25 – 17:30 **Adoption of ERI SEE Budget and Work Programme 2011**

17:30 – 17:45 **AOB, Closing remarks and Farewell**

**The 15th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body**

11 November 2011, 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 14th Meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body**
- Chair of the ERI SEE Governing Board
- List of documents:*
- 1. Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body*
- 10:20 – 10:35 **Update on RCC novelties** *For Information*
- Mr. Mladen Dragašević, Head of Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit, Regional Cooperation Council
- 10:35 – 10:50 **Update on Task Force novelties** *For Information*
- Mr. Remus Pricopie, TFBHC Chair
- 10:50 – 11:05 **Update on EU Strategy for the Danube Region** *For Information*
- Mr. Jürgen Schick, TFBHC Co-Chair of ERI SEE Governing Board
- 11:05 – 11:20 Coffee Break
- 11:20 – 12:00 **Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Clusters of Knowledge** *For Information*
- Update on activities and plans for 2012**
- Romania: Modernizing VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET
- Croatia: Development of National Qualifications Frameworks
- Serbia: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education
- 12:00 – 12:20 Discussion
- 12:20 – 12:50 **ERI SEE Activity Report, 1<sup>st</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011** *For Adoption*
- ERI SEE Financial Report, 1<sup>st</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011**



Predrag Lažetić, Director, Centre for Education Policy (CEP)

*List of documents:*

2. *ERI SEE Activity Report, 1<sup>st</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011*

3. *ERI SEE Financial Report, 1<sup>st</sup> January – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011*

12:50 – 14:15 **Lunch**

14:15 – 14:45 **Revised ERI SEE Work Programme and Budget 2011,  
15<sup>th</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

*For Adoption*

Predrag Lažetić, Director, Centre for Education Policy (CEP)

*List of documents:*

4. *Revised ERI SEE Budget 2011, 15<sup>th</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011*

5. *Explanatory notes to the Revised ERI SEE Budget*

14:45 – 15:15 **New initiatives in the region and potential role of ERI SEE**

*For Information*

15:15 – 16:15 **Update on the Establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the  
Republic of Serbia**

- Host Country Agreement, Statute and related documents

- Tentative timetable and next steps

16:15 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 16:40 **Prolongation of mandate of CEP as ERI SEE interim structure**

*For Adoption*

16:40 – 17:20 **ERI SEE Work Programme 2012 and Budget Implication**

*For Preliminary  
Endorsement*

Predrag Lažetić, Director, Centre for Education Policy (CEP)

17:20 – 17:30 **Summary and Closing Remarks**