

Cluster of Knowledge Modernising VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET

Kick off meeting 30-31st of May 2011
Bucharest

On 30-31st of May 2011 representatives of Ministries of Education, Science and Research and other institutions involved in VET from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia, as well as representatives of the European Training Foundation (ETF), the Centre for Education Policy on behalf of the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE), and KulturKontakt Austria (KKA) on behalf of the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC), gathered for a kick off meeting on the Cluster of Knowledge (CoK) **Modernizing VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET.**

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, organised 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.

Inputs and discussions on policy dialogue and peer learning confirmed the interest of the participating countries in finding ways for enhanced cooperation through the development of the CoK on Modernizing VET system, on a number of common topics, in order to facilitate the exchange of information on different policy options and to help the advancement of the reforms of the national VET systems.

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.

Synergies with the SEE-VET.NET of the ERI SEE shall be ensured.

During the expert meeting the focus was mainly towards the topics of social partnership for matching VET supply with labour market demand and to develop specific tools to support the development of a quality culture at school level and the improvement of VET attractiveness and relevance.



The participants had the possibility to hear from the experience of the representatives of partnership structures in charge with the educational provision planning namely one Regional Consortium, the Local Committee for Social Partnership Development and School Board. An example of a tracer study for VET graduates was also presented.

The proposed timeframe encompasses a period of two years, 2011-2012, whereas other three meetings were scheduled, aimed at developing a more structured framework of the Compendium. The representative of KulturKontakt Austria proposed that the second meeting will be organised by the form of a study visit in Austria (focussed on quality assurance and cooperation with social partners in VET). The exact timeframe will be specified later (**proposal November 2011**). The costs for this study visit will be supported by KKA.

Montenegro announced that between **27 – 29 September 2011** will organise an event on Quality assurance in VET where CoK's participants are invited.

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

The draft structure of presenting a good practice was proposed by the leader and comments on it are wellcomed from the participants.

It was proposed by the KKA representative that during the meeting each country representative will present:

- a) The topics envisaged to be considered good practice from each country;
- b) The topics considered to be important to be learned from other countries.

The leading country proposed that each participating country will send to the leader by end of June 2011 (30th of June 2011) the following:

- a revised list on at least 3 priority topics to be presented in the Compendium by each country;
- topics for interest for each country to be presented by other countries;
- proposals for compendium structure improvement and for further work for compendium development;
- other questions and proposals considered important for developing the output;
- proposals for how to define a good practice (ETF representative question).

The list of participants (including contact details) is attached.



Proposed timeframe for the activities:

ACTIVITY	DATE AND PLACE
Kickoff meeting to agree upon the cluster's objectives and timeline and to decide on cluster's outputs (e.g. compendia of good practices on quality assurance and social partnership in VET)	30-31st of May 2011, Bucharest, ROMANIA
Study visit in Austria on the topic of quality assurance and social partnership Starting the development of <i>Compendium of Good Practices in Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET</i>	November 2011, Austria
Workshop on development of: <i>Compendium of Good Practices in Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET</i> Meeting for concluding on good practices included in the compendium	April 2012, ROMANIA
Meeting for concluding on cluster's outputs and for identifying priorities for further development of VET policy in region, adapted to national needs - recommendations for further cooperation	September – October 2012, ROMANIA