

# The Challenges We face - Early School leaving and Drop Out in SEE



State of play in SEE – facts, figures and more....

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# Quick facts about education in Albania

<b>Total population</b>	<b>2.815.749</b>
Percentage of GDP spent in education	3.4 %
Youth unemployment rate	15.5 %
Enrollment in primary school	96 %
Enrollment in secondary school	92 %
Literacy rate	98 %
Student/teacher rate	17:1

Sources: Albania in Figures 2012 - Institute of Statistics, Population and Housing  
Census 2011



# Dropout

Dropouts are students of compulsory school age who are either:

- not in school at the end of the school year, not finishing a grade at the basic (compulsory) school level;
- not registered for the new school year;
- have not received the certificate of basic education for the respective age group.



# Nonattendance & At-risk

## **Nonattendance**

Students who are registered in a particular school but do not attend classes for long periods of time for unexcused reasons, but who are not deleted from the school register

## **At-risk (of dropping out)**

Students who are exposed to factors that increase the risk of not completing compulsory education



# Early school leavers

Early school leavers (ESL) are people aged 18-24 who have only lower secondary education or less and are no longer in education or training; are those who have only achieved pre-primary, primary, lower secondary or a short upper secondary education of less than 2 years.

*(EU definition)*

ESL are three 'categories':

- Movers away: underlying problem 'choice'
- Low achievers: underlying problem 'ability'
- Low willingness: underlying problem 'behaviour' (?)

ESL - youth at risk?



# Situation in Albania 10 years ago

## **School Dropout – predictors and consequences**

Situation in 2003

High dropout rate (not reliable data)

Study findings; a link between dropout and factors such as poor economic conditions, low educational level of the family, employment of the child, obligation to parents, child lack of motivation to continue going to school. The involvement of children in agricultural tasks was a major reason behind dropout.

**From country project to a regional one**

# Preventive measures to reduce dropouts

- Huge investments (roads and schools)
- Improvement of economic conditions (incomes per capita)
- Embedding career education in curricula
- Lengthening compulsory education (from 8 to 9 yrs)
- Expanding and improving secondary education (91%)  
(vocational education)
- Co-operation between schools, employment services, youth care providers, internships, etc.
- Existence of 'care advice teams' in secondary education



# Situation in Albania... after 10 years

## **School Dropout is no longer a phenomena**

The number of dropouts decreased rapidly

The sense of urgency to 'tackle' the problem is gradually increasing.

## **From dropout as a Phenomena to Zero dropout**

An initiative which aims on improving the system of data collection in order to help reduce dropout, empower the collaboration between Ministry of education and other educational institutions

**New Law, 60/2012 on Pre-University Education University**

# Objectives of the Zero dropout initiative

- Prepare a set of instruments for proving data for all education system and categories of children at risk
- Capacity building at school level and LEA for identification and data processing related to drop out
- Designing a handbook which includes indicators that will help the educational policy to unify the dropout reduction at national level
- Professional development activities with inspectors, advisors, principals and teachers on how to work collaboratively for dropout reduction



# Early school leaving

**Early school leaving, is still is problem**

**Why do young people abandon education early?**

There are many reasons why some young people give up education and training prematurely.

In Albania early school leaving is strongly linked to social disadvantage and low education backgrounds.

Early school leaving is influenced by educational factors, individual circumstances and socio-economic conditions.

It is a process which often starts in primary education with first experiences of failure from school.



# Tackling early school leaving

A national policy against early school leaving should focus on **prevention, intervention and compensation**

Some measures are in consideration, such as:

- **Prevention** seeks to increase participation in good early childhood education (preparatory classes)
- **Intervention** focus on the whole school or training aiming at improving the school climate and creation of supportive learning environments.
- **Compensation** measures offer opportunities for education and training for those who dropped out (second chance)



**Thank You!**

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