



REPORT

of the 4th meeting of the South East Europe Regional VET Network

(SEEVET-Net)

11-12 July, 2011

Chisinau, Moldova

Background

In its Work Programme for 2011, ERI SEE has identified the development of mutual policy learning practices through enhanced institutional cooperation in Vocational Education and Training in South East Europe as one of its objectives. Building on the previous initiatives in the region carried out under the ERI SEE umbrella in cooperation with different partners¹, the 4th Meeting of the SEEVET-Net had three main goals:

1. To create the SEE Regional VET Network between the vocational education and training institutions acting in SEECF region through signing the Cooperation Agreement;
2. To operationalise the Cooperation Agreement through brainstorming and discussion on developing a work plan for 2012/13;
3. To provide an opportunity for VET institutions acting in the SEECF region to exchange information and their experience.

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.

¹ 25-26 September 2008, Tirana, Albania; 17-18 December 2008, Ankara, Turkey; 10-11 December 2009, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 28 October 2010, Woerden, the Netherlands

The meeting brought together officials from the national VET institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia as well as experts from 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 Education Reform Initiative of South East Europe (ERI SEE).

The Agenda of the meeting is provided in the Annex 1. The list of participants is provided in Annex 2.

Day I

Opening the meeting

Mr. Mihail Sleahitchi, Minister of Education of the Republic of Moldova opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of creating the platform for regional cooperation in VET in South East Europe. On behalf of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova, he expressed an honour of hosting an important regional event and appreciation to the ERI SEE Governing Board for supporting multilateral regional cooperation, promoting the synergies between initiatives and reforms in SEE countries aligned with the reforms and initiatives in the European Union.

The Chair of the SEEVET-Net, Mr. Dusko Rajkovic in his opening remarks emphasized the need for cooperation within the SEEVET-Net, exchange of experiences and examples of good practice in the region in order to respond to the common identified challenges in VET. He informed the participants about the interest for cooperation with the SEEVET-Net expressed by various organisations of European Union.

On behalf of the Centre for Education Policy as the ERI SEE Interim Agency (CEP), Ms. Jasminka Cekic Markovic, Deputy Director, welcomed the participants and thanked the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova for support in organization of the meeting.

As planned, the next part of the day was dedicated to the presentations of the Moldova's VET system and challenges and perspectives for South East Europe in the light of global and European trends in VET. At the end of this session, regional VET initiatives are presented.

The presentations were delivered in the following manner:

Mr. Octavian Vasilachi, Chief, Department for secondary vocational and specialized education, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova

Presentation of the Moldova's education system started with an overview of its structure, and description of the current situation within education system as well as within VET. Also, conceptual, strategic, legislative basis and identified priority areas for training are briefly presented.

In the part related to the main objectives of the VET reform process it is underlined that Moldova is tending to increase the level of professional training provided by technical vocational education through, to modernize system of technical vocational education according to the Copenhagen process and labour market, to increase the quality of education and training

of competitive workers in order to meet labour market demands, and to enhance the value of human and material resources.

Further, brief overview of the schools' endowments and cooperation within international projects are presented including the results of the study related to employment of VET graduates in 2010, identified main challenges for the VET system in the future and solutions for reconsidering the VET system.

Ms. Aurelia Vartic, VET Projects Consultant, LED Moldova

Within this presentation main technical assistance VET projects in the Republic of Moldova are presented starting with description of Moldovan VET sector after 1998, first EU projects as part of the support in VET sector, and recent and current donor driven activities in VET.

The following projects are described in depth including the overview of the main objectives and achieved results: Support to the Labour Market Authorities and Vocational Education Services in working towards improving the Labour Market in Moldova, Moldovan Occupational Standards, Assessment and Certification (SOMECA), Strengthening of Vocational Education and Training in Moldova (CONSEPT), Agricultural Schools as Centres of Competence for Regional Education and Training (MOLAGRI), VET school develops as a training provider for WSS in Moldova, Training Firms (ECO NET Moldova), Moldovan Employment and Entrepreneurship Education and Training Activity (MEEETA), and Strengthening initial and continuing training of handcrafts in Moldova. Special attention was dedicated to the support of the European Training Foundation during the VET reform processes.

At the end, lessons learned are presented and necessity of donors' inputs synergy is underlined.

Ms. Lilia Pogolsa, Director, Institute for Education Sciences

The first part of the presentation included description of the legal base for the establishment and main activities of the Republican centre on VET education development. Basic goals of the Centre are policies development and implementation in secondary vocational education, educational standards development, development and implementation of modular curricula on the specialty disciplines, development and implementation of methodologies on career orientation guide and, monitoring of the inclusion processes of people with SEN in vocational education.

The presentation closed with a description of the VET sector common problems and their potential solution.

Global trends in VET: Challenges and perspectives for South East Europe

Mr. Mihaylo Milovanovitch, Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Speaking about challenges and perspectives of VET in from the perspective of the global trends, data regarding to the changes in world of skill supply, decline/stagnation of enrolments, tertiary educational attainment and demographic shape of tertiary education in the future are presented.

Regarding to the increasing relevance of VET review of classical recommendations as meeting labour market needs and improving co-ordination with employers was presented, but also some new models as mainstreaming of VET and better system integration, NQFs development, credit-based assessment systems, «professionalization» of the system and the academic curriculum are presented.

As conclusion, it was underlined that potential of schools, school types, and principals should be used fully, that it is possible to raise school profile in order to serve regional and micro-level needs and that is necessary create conditions for entrepreneurial operations.

European trends in VET: Challenges and perspectives for South East Europe

Ms. Ulrike Damyanovic, Head of Western Balkans and Turkey Unit Geographical Operations Department, European Training Foundation

European Trends in VET are presented through main European initiatives and strategic directions described in the Enlargement Agenda: 2014-2020, New Financial Perspective, Europe 2020, Education and Training 2020, VET 2020.

Special attention was drawn to the challenges for SEE – Findings Torino Process and HRD Reviews through further development of professional institutions to support change, bridging gap between demand and supply, excellence and diversification of VET, overcoming fragmentation of reforms and inclusive education issues.

At the end ETF Regional Initiatives and Involvement of ETF in sister Initiatives 2011 are presented.

Regional initiatives in VET

Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Modernising VET system

Ms. Zoica Elena Vladut, Deputy Director, National Centre for TVET Development, Romania

Cluster of Knowledge Modernizing the VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET is presented through description of the framework and expectations related to enhancement of European cooperation in VET for 2011- 2020. This part of presentation included, also, description of the main challenges.

A global vision for VET in 2020 is presented as same as strategic objectives for the time period 2011-2020.

More details are described: countries and organizations involved in the CoK, goals and objectives of the CoK, including references to the ERISSE as specific objectives, key outputs. The main joint activity (development of the Compendium of good practice) is precisely presented through goals for developing the compendium and SEE countries contribution in development of this compendium are going to be: identification of factors that constitute and are related to attractiveness of VET, mapping the countries policy measures and improvement of attractiveness of VET and to some extent CVT. Presentation finished by envisaged timeline for the planned activities.

ERI SEE Work Programme 2011

Ms. Jasminka Čekić Marković, Deputy Director, Centre for Education Policy/ERI SEE Interim Agency

At the beginning of the presentation short description of cooperation history within the ERI SEE initiative was given. Also, it underlined that the Work Programme for 2011 is set within the wider ERI SEE mission statement and the relevant Memorandum of Understanding. After that, ERI SEE objectives, outputs and activities for 2011 including the planned timeline are described.

Synergy of the regional initiatives with the SEEVET-Net

Mr. Duško Rajković, Chair of the SEEVET-Net

Dusko Rajkovic gave a brief overview of the on-going regional initiatives within VET sector, and underlined necessity of mutual cooperation, exchange of experience and synergy of activities in order to achieve better and more effective results and in order to avoid potential duplication and overlapping.

Presentation of the work of each VET Institution

Each country represented work of national institutions in charge for VET with the focus on the VET system recent developments and activities and cooperation between VET institutions. After each presentation, relevant discussion took place focusing on similarities and differences between SEE countries VET systems, common challenges, exchange of experiences and burning issues common for the all participating countries.

Individual country presentations could be placed at the ERI SEE website <http://www.erisee.org/node/207>.

Day II

Discussion on the SEEVET-Net Cooperation Agreement

Signing of the SEEVET-Net Cooperation Agreement

On the second day of the meeting, participants focused on establishing the SEE VET network and on defining its tasks and priorities through adoption of the WP for 2012/13.

Ms. Cekic Markovic from CEP provided a brief background on the process of preparing the final version of the Cooperation Agreement. After two rounds of consultation with all SEE countries the Cooperation Agreement was finalized by the Centre for Education Policy and in accordance with comments and amendments received.

The Chair of the SEEVET-Net, Mr. Rajkovic, announced that six countries expressed their interest to join the SEEVET-Net by signing the Cooperation Agreement. He outlined that the SEEVET-Net is an open network and VET institutions from other SEE countries that were not able to sign the Cooperation Agreement in Chisinau, Moldova are welcomed to do so at a later stage. He also stressed that non-signatory countries are invited to continue their work within the SEEVET-Net, but without the right to vote.

After the discussion and a consensus that the agreement in the presented form is ready to be signed, the Cooperation Agreement between Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions acting in the SEECP region aiming to create the SEE Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net) was signed between VET institutions from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia.

Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

Ms. Cekic Markovic from CEP stated the activities regarding finalization of the Rules of Procedure were the same as for the Cooperation Agreement. The final version was prepared after two rounds of consultation with all SEE countries.

With no objections raised, the Rules of Procedure were adopted.

Report from Duško Rajković, Chair of SEEVET-Net

Mr. Rajkovic made a brief overview of the activities of the SEEVET-Net in former years. During his mandate, Mr. Rajkovic as the Chair of the SEEVET-Net participated in several meetings: the Regional Workshop related to Clusters of Knowledge held in December 2010 in Sarajevo; the kick off meeting of the Cluster of Knowledge Modernizing VET – Improvement of performance, quality and attractiveness of the VET system held in May 2011 in Bucharest; the meeting of EVTA General Assembly held in June 2011 in Budapest. Mr. Rajkovic informed the participants about the main objectives and outputs of the mentioned meetings.

Following the report from the Chair of SEEVET-Net, Ms. Damyanovic from ETF announced the upcoming meeting on Quality and Quality assurance in VET which will be held in September 2011 in Budva, Montenegro and will be a start of ETF Mutual Learning Programme.

Mr. Paluka, from the National VET Agency of Albania expressed his satisfaction with the official establishment of the SEEVET-Net and outlined the main objectives of the network. He also expressed his regret that Croatia, Slovenia and Romania had not signed the Cooperation Agreement and his hope that in the future these countries would join the network.

Ms. Damyanovic from ETF mentioned the IPA Multi-Beneficiary meeting in March in Montenegro where Turkey and UNMIK/Kosovo expressed their interest to join the network. She also stressed the important of synergy of the SEEVET-Net with all three Clusters of Knowledge.

It was agreed that the Centre for Education Policy as the ERI SEE Interim Agency will send the procedure of how other interested countries could join the SEEVET-Net.

Election of a new Chair of the SEEVET-Net

Upon signing the Cooperation Agreement and officially establishing the network, Mr. Rajkovic announced the election of a new Chair of SEEVET-Net for one-year mandate (2011-2012). Each VET institution present at the meeting had a right to nominate candidate, but only the signatories had the right to vote.

The VET institutions were asked to nominate a person for the election.

National VET Agency of Albania nominated Mr. Dusko Rajkovic.

Centre for Vocational and Adult Education of Serbia nominated Mr. Dusko Rajkovic.

VET Centre of Montenegro nominated Mr. Dusko Rajkovic.

The results of the voting on the nomination of Mr. Rajkovic were the following:

In favour: 5 (all but Macedonia);

Against: 1 (Macedonia);

Abstain: 0.

Mr. Dusko Rajkovic was elected for the 2011-2012 SEEVET-Net Chair.

SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2012/2013

Ms. Cekic Markovic presented the proposal of the Work Programme 2012/13 which had been developed by the VET experts in the Centre for Education Policy in consultation with the Chair of SEEVET-Net and 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.

After an overview of SEEVET-Net establishment activities, overall objective, instruments and methods of cooperation, the specific SEEVET-Net objectives for 2012 were presented. Moreover, the detailed descriptions of particular activities which to be conducted in order to achieve the established objective are given including the proposal of the activities identified as priorities in 2013. Finally, the envisaged timeline for the SEEVET-Net activities in 2012 were proposed.

The discussion was followed by a presentation which highlighted the usefulness of identified topics and activities, in particular training related to the VET graduate tracer studies. The group considered other concrete activities that could be taken in order to achieve a more consistent framework for activities and drew attention to the following:

- Connection of the SEEVET-Net with EVTA
- Meeting related to social partnership should be focused on concrete issues (e.g. sectors' committees) in order to avoid general topics which are very well known
- Databases outline should be designed in such a way to allow easy comparison between countries
- The next meeting related to Evidence-based Policy Making will be organized in November in Turin, Ms. Damyanovic invited all SEEVET-Net members to take part at the event
- Ms. Vladut offered support of the Romanian experts during the VET graduate tracer studies training, bearing in mind that Romania already have good experience related to this topic
- Connection with all joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge should be established

Following the discussion at the meeting, the Work Programme 2012/13 was adopted with the above mentioned comments which have to be included. The Work Programme will be finalized by the VET experts in the Centre for Education Policy and sent to the SEEVET-Net members. Also, based on consultation with SEEVET-Net members, Ms. Cekic Markovic proposed that the next SEEVET-Net meeting be held in Montenegro.

Visit to Vocational Lyceum nr. 1, Chisinau

The representatives of the VET institutions had the opportunity to visit one of the biggest VET vocational school in Moldova.

The 4th meeting of the South East Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net)

11-12 July, 2011

Chisinau, Moldova

Hotel CODRU, Coral Hall

Day 1

11 July, 2011

10:00 - 10:30 **Meeting opening and welcomes by:**

Mihail Sleahitchi, 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- <i>Casa Sarbatorii</i>

Day II

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

List of participants

Name and Surname	Institution	Position	Country
Jasminka Cekic-Markovic	Centre for Education Policy (ERI SEE Interim Agency)	Deputy Director	Serbia
Nevena Adzic	Centre for Education Policy (ERI SEE Interim Agency)	Programme Coordinator	Serbia
Ilia Paluka	National VET Agency	Director	Albania
Marsela Robo	National VET Agency	Expert for curriculum development and teacher training	Albania
Slavica Ivosevic	VET Department, Agency for pre- primary, primary and secondary education	Head of VET Department, Deputy Director of the Agency	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Nadezhda Kamburova	National Agency for Vocational Education and Training	Chief expert	Bulgaria
Darko Belovic	Directorate for Secondary Education – Department for Vocational Education, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports	Senior expert advisor for educational programs in technical schools (TVET)	Croatia
Ulrike Damyanovic	European Training Foundation	Head of Western Balkans and Turkey Unit - Geographical Operations Department	Italy
Zeqir Zeqiri	Vocational Education and Training Centre	Director	Macedonia
Lidushka Vasileska	Vocational Education and Training Centre	Adviser for health education	Macedonia

Mihail Sleahitichi	Ministry of Education	Minister	Moldova
Loretta Handrabura	Ministry of Education	Deputy Minister	Moldova
Ludmila Pavlov	Department for International Relations and European Integration, Ministry of Education	Chief	Moldova
Victoria Isac	Department for International Relations and European Integration, Ministry of Education	Chief Adviser	Moldova
Octavian Vasilachi	Department for secondary vocational and specialized education, Ministry of Education	Chief	Moldova
Eugenia Berlinschi	Department for secondary vocational and specialized education, Ministry of Education	Chief Adviser	Moldova
Lilia Pogolsa	Institute for Education Sciences	Director	Moldova
Violeta Mija	Republican Centre for VET Development	Director	Moldova
Aurelia Vartic	LED Moldova	VET Projects Consultant	Moldova
Pius Frick	LED Moldova	VET Projects Country Manager	Moldova
Valentin Amariei	Technical University of Moldova	Pro-rector / Director of the In-Service Training Centre (Professional Formation)	Moldova
Maria Vasiliev	Technical University of Moldova	In-Service Teacher Department Chief, In-Service Training Centre (Professional Formation)	Moldova

Marcelina Russu	Department for International Relations and European Integration, Ministry of Education	Education Adviser	Moldova
Dina Sevcenco Dontu	Department for International Relations and European Integration, Ministry of Education	Education Adviser	Moldova
Dusko Rajkovic	VET Centre Montenegro	Director	Montenegro
Nada Sekaric	VET Centre Montenegro	Legal Affairs Officer	Montenegro
Ivana Mihailovic	VET Centre Montenegro	Interpreter	Montenegro
Zoica Elena Vladut	National Centre for TVET Development	Deputy Director	Romania
Gordana Mitrovic	Institute for Improvement of Education – Centre for Vocational and Adult Education	Head of the Centre for Vocational and Adult Education	Serbia
Jelena Jakovljevic	Institute for Improvement of Education – Centre for Vocational and Adult Education	Advisor-coordinator for development of qualifications	Serbia
Mihaylo Milovanovitch	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Education Analyst, Directorate for Education	France