



REPORT

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

4-5 June, 2012

Miločer, Montenegro

Background

The Education Reform Initiative of South East Europe (ERI SEE) has supported the development and regional networking of the national VET institutions since 2008¹. In 2011, the South East Europe Regional Vocational Education and Training Network – SEEVET-Net was established through signing of the [Cooperation Agreement](#) between VET institutions from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia. VET institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania also joined the SEEVET-Net in 2012 by way of protocol. The leading idea behind the network is to share information about good practices, to agree on coherent ways of action regarding the arrangements of exchange co-operation and to share experience on strategic VET issues. The overall SEEVET – Net objective is to support implementation of policies in the VET sector contributing to human capital development in a lifelong learning perspective, through policy learning in the context of the objectives related to the EU accession and the “Education and Training 2020” and follow-ups.

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 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

¹ 1st meeting of SEE VET Institutions, September 2008, Albania; Conference on Implementation strategies for NQF's in SEE, December 2008, Turkey; 2nd meeting of SEE VET Institutions, December 2009, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 3rd meeting of SEE VET Institutions and peer learning visit, October 2010, the Netherlands; 4th meeting of SEE VET Institutions, July 2011, Moldova

factor in the possibilities of enterprises to remain successfully competitive on the market. Having in mind the importance of the topic, the 5th meeting of SEEVET-Net was focused on social partnership models and best practice examples presentations and exchange of experiences regarding the social partnership issues.

Meeting report

The meeting was held from 4th to 5th June, in Miločer, Montenegro and brought together the representatives of the national 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. Apart from Bulgaria, all other SEEVET-Net members from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia were present at the meeting.

The meeting was jointly organized by the National VET Centre of Montenegro and CEP.

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

Day I

After the welcome speeches of Mr. Srđan Raičević, Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Sports of Montenegro and Mr. Duško Rajković, Chair of the SEEVET-Net, the Deputy Director of CEP, Ms. Jasminka Čekić Marković gave a brief overview of the key points of the agenda and opened the working sessions of the meeting.

As planned, the next part of the day was dedicated to the presentations of the state of play regarding the social partnership in SEE as well as on well functioning social partnership models including overview of the situation and initiatives regarding the social partnership in other countries.

Each of the participating countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia) presented the situation regarding the social partnership in their countries. More specifically, an overview of social partners' organisations and their role in VET; legal frameworks regulating social partnership and institutional arrangements at central or local level; cooperation mechanisms with social partners in VET and challenges regarding to further development of social partnership in VET.

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Individual country presentations are available at the [ERI SEE website](#).

The participants used these presentations to intervene with questions and also discuss on social partnership models' differences, similarities and common challenges in SEE countries, making this part of the programme highly interactive. The main questions and discussions were about the establishment, roles and responsibilities of sector committees as well as about the common obstacles for the establishment of successful social partnership models. The participants were especially interested in developing an innovative tool known as Sector Profiles that provides relevant data on economy, labour market and educational provision to Sector Councils, VET Agency, Ministry, but also to other stakeholders for the purpose of planning of development of VET qualifications and VET that is responsive to labour market needs (evidence based policy making). These Sector Profiles were mentioned by the representative of Croatia and all of them are available at the [Agency for VET and Adult Education website](#).

After the discussion, Mr. Gérard Mayen, Senior expert at ETF gave a presentation on [ETF report about the role of the social partners in the Southern Mediterranean region](#) and the study aims, context, background as well as the main findings and recommendations. Special attention was drawn to the tripartite approach and why the social partnership in VET is important for each of the partners in VET (public system, enterprises and trade unions). He also presented a short overview of the ETF Regional Project - Social Partnership in VET in the Mediterranean. The project aimed to reform the capacities of social partners in this region has been implemented by the ETF since July 2011.

Mr. Elido Bandelj, Director of the Institute for VET presented the social partnership model in Slovenia as one of the successful models examples. The presentation included: the rules governing vocational education, with the special attention to the key system innovations introduced with the Law on Vocational Education (2006); main social partners organizations, their structure, roles and responsibilities alongside with the cooperation mechanisms; an overview of the public institutions for development and consultancy.

Another successful model of the social partnership was presented by Ms. Ildiko Pataki, Regional coordinator at the National Centre for TVET Development in Romania. More specifically, main social partners organisations, social partners and their role in education/training/employment policies, legal documents, social partnership arrangements and cooperation mechanisms regarding education, how systems overcome obstacles in establishing effective social partnership in education, best practice examples, lessons learned.

The presentations were followed by the discussion about the common characteristics of the successful social partnership models, underlining the importance of the sector committees and their role. As one of the common problems the participants stated was the role of trade unions (how to define their role, how to build their capacities to be more involved, how to negotiate to define their needs).

Day II

The second day was dedicated to the SEEVET-Net annual meeting and enhancement of institutional cooperation through discussion on the future regional priorities.

Mr. Duško Rajković, Chair of SEEVET-Net reported on the activities of the SEEVET-Net during his mandate. He reminded the participants about the chronology of the SEEVET-Net development in the past five years and underlined the importance of the previous meeting held in 2011 in Moldova where the SEEVET-Net was officially established through signing of the Cooperation Agreement between SEEVET-Net member countries. He informed the participants about the recently received expression of interest of the representatives of Kosovo* to actively participate in the work of the network, as well as to become official member of the SEEVET-Net. Regarding to the future activities, he stressed the importance of joint project proposals and creating the project teams for this purposes. Although the SEEVET-Net is not the legal entity, applying for projects will be possible with the establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in the Republic of Serbia.

At the end, Mr. Rajković introduced the participants with proposal about creation and development of the SEEVET-Net logo. Participants suggested announcing a public competition for students of the graphic design schools to design the logo of the SEEVET-Net and the VET Centre of Montenegro offered remuneration to the winner of the competition.

The next item on the agenda was the election of a new Chair of the SEEVET-Net. Ms. Čekić Marković, Deputy Director of CEP reminded the participants about the main responsibilities of the Chair - managing the work of the network and active involvement in the meetings preparation. The VET institutions were asked to nominate a person for the election. Based on the nomination of the National VET Agency of Albania, Mr. Zekjir Zekjiri, Director of the VET Center of Macedonia was unanimously elected for the 2012-2013 SEEVET-Net Chair.

Introducing the next item on the agenda, the SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2012, Ms. Čekić Marković provided a brief overview of the activities planned for the second half of the year. With regard to the creation of the comparable data base on SEE countries VET systems, Ms. Čekić Marković said that the data base outline would be sent to all VET institutions with request to fill out and send back to CEP. She announced the next event within the SEEVET-Net Work Programme, training of the SEEVET-Net Institutions representatives in graduate tracer studies, planned for autumn 2012. Ms. Čekić Marković stressed the importance of continued cooperation with the 3 joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Clusters of Knowledge.

Ms. Ildiko Pataki, Regional coordinator at the Romanian Centre for TVET Development reported on the recent developments within the Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge Modernizing VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET. She briefly reminded the participants about the composition of the Cluster and participating countries as well as on the

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Cluster objectives. The key output of the cluster will be a Compendium of Good Practices in Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET. It will facilitate creation of knowledge, support for policy development, and inputs for policy in action and policy evaluation. Speaking about the main results so far, she mentioned agreement on the cluster's objectives and on the working plan; common decision on the set of topics of common interest to be included in the compendium; an agreed structure for the good practice examples and draft versions of the good practice examples elaborated by some of the participating countries. Next steps within the Cluster would be: elaboration of the drafts of good practice examples by all of the participating countries; workshop for discussing and revising the content of the good practices to be included in the compendium (June 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 (autumn 2012).

With regard to the future SEEVET-Net activities in 2013, the participants proposed that the next SEEVET-Net meeting could be in Belgrade, Serbia. The participants also agreed about the next SEEVET-Net meeting topic – recognition of prior learning (validation of informal and non-formal learning). Based upon the inputs and discussion, CEP will prepare the SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2013 and send by the end of 2012 for online voting.

At the end of the second day, the representatives of the VET institutions had the opportunity to visit the old town of Kotor as well as the Maritime School in Kotor

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.

3 June, 2012

Arrival of Participants

Transfer to the Hotel

20:00 Dinner in the hotel restaurant

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:

- Ilia 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

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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

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 - Restaurant Langust
(Meeting point: Hotel Residence reception 19:45)

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**
Concretization 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 finalization 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
- 15:30 - 16:00** Transfer back to hotel
- 20:00** Dinner in the hotel restaurant for the participants leaving on 6 June, 2012

List of participants

Name and Surname	Institution	Position	Country
Ilia Paluka	National VET Agency	Director	Albania
Majlinda Lleshi	National VET Agency	Specialist of Evaluation, Certification and Accreditation	Albania
Slavica Ivošević	Agency for Pre-School, Primary and Secondary Education	Head of VET Department	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Nino Buić	Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education	Head of Project Implementation Section	Croatia
Ferit Idrizi	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	Director of European Integration and Policy Coordination	Kosovo*
Ryve Prekorogja	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	Acting for VET	Kosovo*
Zekjir Zekjiri	Vocational Education and Training Center	Director	Macedonia
Vera Kondikj Mitkovska	Civic Education Centre	Senior Program Manager	Macedonia
Alina Gheletchi	Sectoral Commission for Agriculture and Food Industry	Economist	Moldova
Olga Moroza	Institute of Education Sciences	Head of the International Relationships and Technological Transfer Office	Moldova

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Srđan Raičević	Ministry of Education and Sports	Secretary of the Ministry	Montenegro
Duško Rajković	Centre for Vocational Education	Director/Chair of the SEEVET-Net	Montenegro
Nada Šekarić	Centre for Vocational Education	Legal Affairs Officer	Montenegro
Ivana Mihailović	Centre for Vocational Education	Adviser for International Cooperation and Public Relations	Montenegro
Ildiko Pataki	National Centre for TVET Development	Regional Coordinator	Romania
Gordana Mitrović	Institute for Improvement of Education	Head of the Center for Vocational and Adult Education	Serbia
Jelena Jakovljević	Institute for Improvement of Education	Advisor-coordinator	Serbia
Elido Bandelj	Institute for Vocational Education and Training	Director	Slovenia
Gerard Mayen	European Training Foundation	Senior expert	Italy
Mladen Dragašević	Regional Cooperation Council	Head of Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Jasminka Čekić-Marković	Centre for Education Policy (ERI SEE Interim Agency)	Deputy Director	Serbia
Nevena Adžić	Centre for Education Policy (ERI SEE Interim Agency)	Programme Coordinator	Serbia