

Investing in People and Skills

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European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

PRIORITY AREA 9

Investing in People and Skills

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

3rd edition













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EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Priority Area 9: »Investing in People and Skills«

The Danube Region covers about a fifth of the territory of the European Union and is home to around 115 million inhabitants. With 14 states participating in the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), the development of the region is a key to the well-being of the EU as a whole. As many of the region's challenges know no borders, cooperation within the EUSDR seeks to create synergies and coordination between policies and initiatives, and ultimately also deals with the question of how we want to shape our future in Europe.

In this framework, Priority Area 9 »Investing in People and Skills« (PA 9) deals with the key topics of education and training, labour market and marginalised communities. Education, training and modern labour markets are not only key drivers for socio-economic development and sustainable growth, but also for more equitable and inclusive societies and the well-being and personal fulfilment of its citizens. The Danube Region will only be prepared for the changes and challenges ahead by further investing in people's skills and competences, in particular of disadvantaged groups.

The added value of the EUSDR and in particular PA 9 has already shown concrete results of innovative cooperation approaches in the fields of education, labour market and inclusion, especially in terms of projects. Coordinated by Austria and the Republic of Moldova, PA 9 has successfully established a broad stakeholder network guaranteeing efficient cooperation of relevant actors in the region. Existing regional and EU agencies, such as ERISEE and the ETF, are involved in this process. Stakeholder conferences and several thematic events are realized each year.

PA 9 also provides information to potential project partners in order to actively facilitate the implementation of projects and the development of new ones. So far, more than 70 cross-border and regional Danube networks, projects and project ideas were started or labelled in the framework of our coordination. This project folder provides you with an overview of on-going and selected finished projects as well as some project ideas for which Priority Area 9 of the EUSDR serves as a common umbrella.

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all engaged project partners and institutions as well as our Co-Coordinators and to the European Commission for the fruitful co-operation and their active efforts!

Roland Hanak

PRIORITY AREA COORDINATOR FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, AUSTRIA

Jürgen Schick

PRIORITY AREA COORDINATOR FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, AUSTRIA

Targets PA9

- Contribution to a higher employment rate in the Danube Region, especially through tackling youth and long-term unemployment
- Contribution to improved educational outcomes and relevant skills and competences in the Danube Region, focusing on learning outcomes for employability, entrepreneurship, innovation, active citizenship and well-being
- Contribution to increased quality and efficiency of education, training and labour market systems
- · Contribution to ensuring inclusive education and training and promoting inclusive labour markets, equal opportunities and non-discrimination as well as the promotion of civic competences and lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Contribution to a closer cooperation between educational, training, labour market and research institutions, in particular on transnational, regional and bilateral levels

Work Area 1

»To enhance performance of education systems through closer cooperation of education institutions, systems and policies«

Fostering efficiency, innovation and good governance in education and training is crucial in the face of the challenges posed by globalisation, demographic changes, rapid technological developments and increasing pressure on public budgets. This should be done in particular through the exchange of best practices of different education and training systems through transnational cooperation, joint development of programmes and materials, promotion of research on the economics of education, peer learning, and capacity building, i.e. for evidence-based policy and practice and for facilitating the policy learning process, strategy formulation and policy action. Specific added value lies in the inclusion of third countries and best use should be made of already existing programmes and cooperation structures.

Central European Cooperation in Education and Training (CECE)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Czech Republic Hungary Slovakia Slovenia

DURATION

2013 -

CONTACT

Federal Ministry of **Education (Austria)** juergen.schick@ bmb.gv.at

WEBSITE

www.bmb.gv.at/enfr/ euro/biregeducoop/ cece.html

In view of deepening a close institutional partnership and cooperation in the fields of education and training, in 2013 the responsible Ministers of Education of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia have signed the Joint Memorandum of Understanding »Central European Cooperation in Education and Training (CECE)«. Based on the long-standing regional exchange and joint conferences of Director-Generals from the participating countries, the main scope of cooperation on policy, programme and project level is in connection with the objectives of the European Union in the field of education and training.

This concerns in particular the implementation of the »Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training« (ET 2020), including the internationalization of education, the establishment and implementation of lifelong learning strategies, educational research and other issues of specific interest to CECE members. Throughout the years, joint conferences, seminars and expert workshops are being held in order to promote continuous mutual learning. With the aim to promote cooperation with other Danube Region countries, the network and specific projects can be opened up regarding know-how transfer when and where appropriate. In 2016, the rotating informal CECE-Presidency is held by the Czech Republic, to be followed in 2017 by Slovenia.



Bundesministerium für Bildung

Cooperation between Schools and the Business Sector in the Field of Tourism



»Enhancing the labour market relevance of education and training for tourism and hospitality.«

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bosnia and Herzegovina Montenegro Serbia

DURATION

2014 - 2017

CONTACT

KulturKontakt Austria leila.sirbubalo@ kulturkontakt.or.at

WEBSITE

www.kulturkontakt. or.at/educoop

The project's objective is to enhance the quality of vocational practical training for pupils by promoting better cooperation between partners from the tourism sector and schools of tourism and hotel management. The focus has been placed on the organisation of high-quality internships and the change of profile of the vocational practical training coordinators to an interface between schools and the private sector.

Project measures include guidelines for broadening the profiles and competences of the practical training co-ordinators and their adaption to the respective national contexts. support to the introduction of this new profile, training and quality assurance measures and, in the case of Montenegro, the creation of a national Web portal for an enhanced flow of information between schools and the business sector. The regional focus of the project enables the exchange of experience in this field between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Austria



Austria Bulgaria Germany Slovenia

DURATION

2014 - 2017

CONTACT

Landesakademie Esslingen, Germany Christiane Spies, christiane.spies@ aka-es.kv.bwl.de

WEBSITE

http://lehrerfort bildung-bw.de/ akaprojekte/inter_ buero/03_proj_thema/ 3_desk/

Develop, Evaluate and Safe Knowledge – Knowledge Continuity in Vocational Education (DESK)

The goals of the DESK project are ...

- to increase awareness in educational organizations for the challenge of retaining critical knowledge in times of demographic change
- to create best practice examples and a toolbox for organizations to preserve existing expertise within the faculty.

As the DESK project intends to produce results feasible for a variety of VET-systems the project-partners were selected from 4 different VET-systems (Austria, Germany, Slovenia and Bulgaria) with different educational concepts and different economic situations. Additionally not only vocational schools but also teacher-training organizations were incorporated as partners. Until now all partners have been able to create local individualized projects to develop and save knowledge in and for their institutions. Over the course of the next months these concepts for knowledge retention and development will be tested and evaluated.

As a result a handbook and toolbox will be produced at the end of the project to empower organizations to retain knowledge, to set up environments and activities and to facilitate the active exchange of knowledge from those who are willing to share with those who are eager to learn and apply.



»In the beginning we thought that it would be so easy. Really - How hard can it be to tell the students to learn better? But in the course of the project it became clear that it is hard work to effectively support and assist the students in finding individual solutions to their problems and to empower them to learn better by themselves. This is only possible if the entire faculty of the school works together and shares expertise and experiences. «

Quote from a participating Austrian teacher



Germany Romania

DURATION

2014 - 2016

CONTACT

Lead Institution: RO National Centre for TVET Development ROMANIA, Felicia Ioana Sandulescu, vet@tvet.ro

WEBSITE

www.proiectdalivet.ro www.alegetidrumul.ro

Development of Apprenticeship Learning in IVET in Romania (DAL – IVET)

The project's general aim is to create the starting point for the development and introduction of a more flexible. work-based learning oriented pathway for young people who want to train for a labour-market relevant qualification. The specific objectives of the project are: developing the basis of a legal framework for introducing apprenticeship / dual system in IVET, improving the skills and competencies of the teachers and trainers involved in work-based learning, through a pilot training programme, enhancing the accountability of the key actors involved in IVET and raising awareness of all relevant stakeholders that could contribute to this pathway.

- the feasibility study »Terms of Reference for introducing dual system/apprenticeship in initial VET in Romania«;
- the Master plan for the implementation of the feasibility recommendations;
- the International conference »Work based learning: challenges and opportunities«, 19-20 October 2015, Bucharest, Romania.

 the acreditate pilot training programme »Together we build bridges – practical training in VET« for tutors and teachers – April 2016, Predeal, Romania;

These results have had a crucial contribution to the design of the Concept paper »EDUCATION AND TRAINING - OPTIONS OF 8TH GRADE GRADUATES« aiming at improving work-based learning and increasing the attractiveness, quality and relevance of the Romanian vocational education and training system. The project activities have already had an important impact at system level: first of all by creating the premises of the introduction and implementation of a flexible and attractive apprenticeship / dual system pathway in IVET, then at regional and local level by better addressing the needs of the companies, increasing IVET graduates employability and raising their and the public's confidence in the new form of training and in the end, improving the relevance, credibility and image of IVET in Romania.



»In work-based learning (WBL), tutors occupy a key position, providing the students with induction, guidance and support across the whole WBL process. It is crucial that they have the opportunity to develop their skills and to receive support and guidance in fulfilling their duties. «

Dana Carmen STROIE, Pilot training program director, Head of Training programmes and quality assurance, NCTVETD



Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Montenegro Republic of Moldova Serbia

DURATION

2004 -

CONTACT

Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe Secretariat. info@erisee.org

WERSITE

www.erisee.org

Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)



»Development from Within«

The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) is a regional platform for dialogue and cooperation in the field of education and training. Through its activities (in the form of capacity building activities, transfer of know-how and implementing and coordinating projects on themes of joint interest) it supports sustainable education reforms taking into account both regional and country-specific needs and demands in education reforms. as well as European trends and developments. Its activities are linked to the European frameworks for education development (the EU Work Programme 'Education and Training 2020', the Bologna and the Copenhagen Processes).

The role of ERI SEE as the regional organisation facilitating and boosting communication and cooperation in SEE was recognized in the framework of South East Europe 2020 Strategy (SEE 2020), developed by the Regional Cooperation Council. ERI SEE is thus appointed as the regional coordinator of the Dimension D of the SEE 2020. Strategy - Education and Competences, focusing on education as the tool addressing the issue of growth and competitiveness of the region, improving regional knowledge- and skills-base and resulting in the increase in the number of highly qualified people in the workforce on the one hand, and decrease in the number of early leavers from education and training on the other.

FairGuidance





»The FairGuidance handbook is a very promising tool to raise awareness of diversity issues in guidance and counselling processes.«

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Bulgaria Germany Romania

DURATION

2015 - 2017

CONTACT

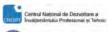
ttg team training GmbH Mrs Susanne Renner susanne.renner@ team-training.de

WEBSITE

http://fairguidanceproject.eu

For the FairGuidance project, eight organisations join their competences in order to create innovative guidance strategies to support disadvantaged persons. The project's aim is to integrate low-skilled persons, migrants, ethnic minorities, long-term unemployed and other marginalised groups into guidance, training and the labour market. In order to achieve this, the project consortium will develop a handbook for more client-oriented guidance offers that considers diversity issues.

The handbook will be used by staff in VET and it will have an impact on their professional development. Persons from disadvantaged backgrounds will benefit from these more individualised guidance services. The challenge often is to reach disadvantaged persons and to respond as a counsellor adequately to their needs and particular circumstances. At this point the project comes into play as it will not only facilitate the access to guidance services but also the transition to further education. training and the world of work.





To be announced

START

2015 -

CONTACT

National Centre for the Development of the Vocational Education and Training, Romania, vet@tvet.ro

Working Group on Tourism Open To Greening

The partnership in the project is intending to develop a green competence-needs analysis in order to identify specific Learning Outcomes (LO) for green training units in the tourism sector in the Danube Region. to establish a transferable package of LOs focused on green competences applicable for tourism sector according to ECVET criteria and implementing quality assurance (EQAVET). The project also intends to develop innovative teaching and learning materials focused on green competences in order to improve teaching and learning activities.

The aim of the project is to establish a greenway partnership in the Danube Region, which supports the improvement of qualification profiles/ professional training standard in the touristic sector by approaching green competences as key competences for a sustainable society. The target group is composed by teachers and curriculum developers, policy makers, representatives of the companies from the tourism sector, researchers in the educational field and creative experts.

A new cycle of the project starts in 2017.

Cluster Modernising VET system -Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET

Austria Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Montenegro Republic of Moldova Romania Serbia

DURATION 2011 - 2013

www.erisee.org/ node/298



Cluster Modernising VET system meeting during the Romanian Congress of Education. Bucharest 14 - 15 June 2013

The cluster »Modernizing VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET« had organized a number of expert meetings to foster mutual learning on topics of common interest (e.g. quality assurance and matching VET supply with labour market demand) and developed specific tools to support the development of a quality culture at school level and the improvement of VFT attractiveness and relevance

The aim of the Cluster was to support the regional cooperation in VET in accordance with the diversified needs of the countries for mutual learning. regional exchange of experience and good practice and for encompassing the specific phases of national reforms in VET.

The main result of the Cluster is a Compendium of good practices collected from the different countries. involved, to share the quality culture, to allow an increasing attractiveness of VET as a training pathway, which ensures equal opportunities for students and the skills which are needed on the existing and future labour market.



Optimizing the links between labour market and the educational system: modernising the vocational system in Romania



Germany Romania

2013 - 2015

www.alegetidrumul.ro

The RO-GE experts' joint Working group included representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Education, of the National Centre for TVET Development, of the Academy of Esslingen Baden-Württemberg, of 5 School Inspectorates, 5 VET schools and their German partner companies (Daimler AG, Schaeffler Romania, Star Transmission, Marquardt Schaltsysteme S.C.S., Caditec Brasov, DWS Sibiu, Christiani, Draexlmaier). The activity of the working group was focussed on 3 main areas of interest:

- Curriculum revision on a number of selected qualifications
- Teachers' training on didactic strategies relevant for the vocational training
- Marketing and promotion of the vocational pathway

The project was finished in February 2015. Based on its results, the RO Ministry of National Education and the National Centre for TVET Development together with KulturKontakt Austria intent to prepare a project, in which all the EUSDR member countries interested in the topic will be invited to participate, on Enhanced Competitiveness & Employability through innovative WorkBased Learning in VET.

»I am very happy to sign the Joint declaration on our cooperation in the development of vocational education ... With the support of and the benefit from the experience of Baden-Württemberg authorities, we want to create in Romania a high level vocational education system. It is obvious that one of the secrets of the Landa's extraordinary development consists in its vocational education system.«

Victor Ponta, Romanian prime minster, Stuttgart, 13th of June 2013

Planned Projects

PLANNED PLANNED

Enhanced Competitiveness and Employability through Innovative Work-based Learning in VET

LEAD

TVET

DURATION

to be announced

Recognition and Validation of non-formal and informal Learning for VET Teachers and Trainers in SEE Countries

LEAD

ERISEE

DURATION

to be announced

Removing Obstacles to the Recognition of Academic Qualifications in the Region - Seminar on the Establishment of a fast-track Procedure for the Recognition of the Academic Qualifications

LEAD

ERI SEE and RCC

DURATION

to be announced

Work Area 2

»To foster cooperation between key stakeholders of labour market, education and research policies in order to develop learning regions and environments«

To increase innovative capacities of the labour force in the Danube Region, new forms of partnerships and cooperation among key stakeholders (labour market, education and training, research and employers) need to be further developed. Employers (private, public and voluntary) have an important role to play in identifying the knowledge, skills and competences needed in working life. To increase the employability and entrepreneurial potential of all learners, communication and active cooperation should be further developed between education and training institutions on the one hand and employers on the other.

Labour market policy measures for the Austrian-Moldovan cooperation within the construction industry

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Moldova

DURATION

2013 - 2016

CONTACT

L&R Social Research reiter@LRSocial research.at

WEBSITE

www.lrsocial research.at

This consulting and informational project is designed to serve as a supplemental guidance in the establishment a vocational centre for the Moldavian construction and building industry.

The main topics included are:

- information on structure, models and approaches of active labour market policy and dual vocational training to the relevant Moldavian bodies:
- consulting support to Moldavian efforts to assist in moving closer to European;
- specific advice with regard to the implementation of labour market measures.

A particular focus of the supplemental support is the question of how the approach of dual vocational training can be implemented to improve the qualifications of Moldavian construction and building specialists. The systematisation of the dual vocational training is also a topic in this context. The following are instruments of the supplemental guidance to be implemented: consulting and training, workshops and seminars, a final conference and public relations.

New Danubian Governance in Labour Market Relevance of Higher Education (EDU-LAB)

their home areas.

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Belgium Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Germany Hungary Romania Serbia Slovakia Slovenia

DURATION 2017 -

CONTACT

European Foundation for Education, Germany Monika Burkard monika.burkard@ e-f-e.eu

EDU-LAB addresses fields with major societal challenges:

- Labour market policies
- Education systems and policies
- Demographic change and migration

EDU-LAB aims at improving institutional capacities to increase the labour market relevance of higher education with a view to retain more young talents studying and working in the region. Brain drain due to higher academic and economic attractiveness in Western Europe is combined with an emigration from rural regions to cities and an overall population decline in the Danube region.

EDU-LAB aims at improving institutional capacities to increase the labour market relevance of higher education with a view to retain more young talents studying and working in the region. EDU-LAB focuses on harmonizing labour market demands and training structures. The starting point for a new mindset of cooperation is capacity development. EDU-LAB forms a triple helix cooperation model with partners from education, business and politics/administration in a joint learning process. FDU-LAB creates a »Danubian Charta for young talents« to embody the new governance model improving professional chances for young talents in



Targeted Capacity Building of VET Partnerships in the Danube Region for the Effective Modernization of VET Systems (Learning by Doing)



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bosnia and
Herzgovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republik
Germany
Hungary
Moldova
Montenegro
Romania
Serbia
Slowakia
Slowenia

DURATION

2017 - 2019

CONTACT

Budapest Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ágnes Dobrotka dobrotka.agnes@ bkik.hu Learning by doing project is about to implement effectively adapted, revived or modernised apprenticeship systems in the Danube countries, contributing to smart growth of the whole region.

- a) Improved capacities of chambers of commerce and all stakeholders relevant in the VET reform towards apprenticeship
- b) To reinforce national and transnational partnerships of VET actors enabling them to set up (adapt), revive or modernise apprenticeship systems effectively.
- c) Establishment of an Apprenticeship Observatory in the region.

The structure of the actions follows the working activities of the EAfA in the Danube region by improving the capacities of chambers of commerce and enterprises, key actors of the process.

The methodology is divided into 3 main stages:

- ambition setting (getting to know the good practices related to apprenticeship systems and roles of chambers, being familiar with partner countries' existing VET policies in detail)
- vision development (clarifying the realistic aims with local stakeholders)
- action planning (drafting national level actions plans for adapting, reviving or modernising apprenticeship systems).

»For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.«

Aristotle, The Nicomachean Ethics, 350 BC



Experts Academies (EXPAK)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Czech Republic Hungary Slovenia Slovakia

DURATION

2008 - 2015

WERSIT

www.expak.at

The EXPAKs are forums for labor market and regional political actors from Austria with Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Czech Republic to cooperate bilaterally within the following fields of activity:

- Exchange of information and expertise
- Design and implementation of joint projects
- Cross-border labor market cooperation

The main objectives include:

- Establishment of sustainable networks between the institutions and actors in the field of labour market policy in the Austrian border regions to support the common development and implementation of solutions for the challenges faced on the labour markets common to both sides of the border.
- Intensification of the cooperation between the labour market institutions (public employment services, NGOs, social partners, institutions of further education etc.) on a subregional level.
- Development of projects in particular for groups who are faced with disadvantages on the labour market.

KOOP Austria-Ukraine – Bilateral Labour Market Co-operation

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Ukraine

DURATION

2013 - 2015

WEBSITE

www.koop-at.eu/ ukraine The bilateral co-operation project, conducted by social ministries from Austria and Ukraine, had the main goal of furthering discussion and exchange on current labour market policy (LMP) issues in order to support co-operation and networking of relevant LMP stakeholders between both countries. Project activities were aimed at labour market experts (policy makers, ministry and PES officials, social security and training institutions, social partners etc.) and other stakeholders to facilitate networking and transfer of experiences, knowledge and good practice examples.

During the project, a number of workshops and study visits were carried out in Austria, where the visiting Ukrainian experts received first-hand information about a broad range of labour market policy issues, like LM integration of disadvantaged persons, monitoring of LM trends and developments, different LMP support measures for companies, LM integration of refugees, and existing public qualification/training schemes for companies.



Qualification Network for Austrian Companies in Romania

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Romania

DURATION

2013 - 2014

WEBSITE

www.qnromania.ro

The project aimed at supporting Austrian companies in Romania with boosting competitiveness of their personnel, by setting up of a qualification network (QN) in Bucharest. A QN is a cluster-like alliance of at least 3 companies that share the common goal to increase the professional level of their employees, by means of jointly planning and implementing corresponding training measures.

The project was finalized in January 2015, and benefited from financial support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Consumer Protection as well as from technical assistance granted by the consultancy company ÖSB Consulting GmbH and its Romanian daughter company LMS Consulting SRL.

Ten Austrian companies in Romania joined the QN, which was set up in December 2014. Extensive consultancy measures (organizational culture and training needs analyses, identifying and liaising with training providers) have been carried out throughout the project aiming at laying the foundation for future joint initiatives to access ESF financing for trainings.

»The benefits from which a qualification network member company can take advantage are numerous and, most importantly, adaptable to the organization's own needs in relation to its human resources development, ranging from an upfront reduction of training costs up to identifying relevant and proficient training providers and/or negotiating superior training curricula.«

Cristina Dugan, Organization and Networking Expert



Virtual Education Network for Austrian Companies in Bulgaria



Austria Bulgaria Romania

2012 - 2014

http://qnbulgaria.eu

The project aimed at supporting Austrian companies in Bulgaria with boosting competitiveness of their personnel, by setting up of a qualification network (QN) in Sofia. A QN is a cluster-like alliance of at least 3 companies that share the common goal to increase the professional level of their employees, by means of jointly planning and implementing corresponding training measures.

The project was finalized in May 2014, and benefited from financial support from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP), as well as from technical assistance granted by the consultancy company ÖSB Consulting GmbH.

Five Austrian companies in Bulgaria joined the QN, which was set up in June 2013. With the support of MLSP, a 50% co-financing for trainings for QN members was made available from the National Budget, with qualification measures being carried out in 2014.

As a foreign investor number two on the local market, the **Austrian business community** in Bulgaria is considered to become the number one beneficiary of the qualification network added values, namely access to »best practices« in education needs evaluation assessment, economies of scale in joint training programs development and co-financing opportunities through EU/governmental framework, improvement of competiveness, open floor for brainstorming/ideas exchange/networking with companies from the same/ different industry, joint PR initiatives, etc.«

Katya Koleva Networking expert

Planned Projects

'LANNED PLANNED PLANNED

Creation of an Online Platform for JObs, Work Mobility and Competences to EmpowER Economic Growth in the Romanian-Bulgarian Cross-Border Area (e-JOKER)

LEAD

Human Resources Development Agency

DURATION

2017 - 2019

DALMEX - Danube Area Labour Market Exchange

LEAD

Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB)

DURATION

To be announced

New Danubian Governance in Labour Market Relevance of Higher Education EDU-LAB

LEAD

European Foundation for Education

DURATION

To be announced

Work Area 3

»To support creativity and entrepreneurship«

A reorientation towards entrepreneurship and creativity, which constitutes a prime source of innovation, is important as a prerequisite for businesses, in particular for small and medium sized enterprises, and thus for Europe's competitiveness. This could be achieved through the introduction of innovative learning programmes to support creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship at all levels of education, through the promotion of intercultural dialogue or through language training, making use of the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Danube Region. Broader learning communities and creative partnerships, involving representatives of cultural actors, civil society and other stakeholders, should be promoted with a view to creating a climate conducive to creativity and professional and social needs, as well as individual well-being.



Danube Competence Centres for Creativity and Entrepreneurship (Danube ENTRE)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bulgaria Czech Republic Hungary Republic of Moldova Romania

START

2017 (Pending funding approval)

CONTACT

Christina Kasparyan **Business Support** Centre for Small and Medium **Enterprises-Ruse** bsc@smebg.net

The idea of the project is building upon the discussions among the organisations related to the topic of fostering creativity and entrepreneurship within the dedicated Working Group »Creativity and Entrepreneurship« under PA9 and upon the results of the »i.e.SMART« project, creativity and entrepreneurship. labelled under PA9. Within the Working Group various practices have been identified. They need to be systematically and consistently taken into account while developing new initiatives. The needs identified by the been recently funded under the countries of the Working Group related to creativity and entrepreneurship include: 1) Bringing creativity closer to entrepreneurial education and training; 2) Bringing education closer to businesses; 3) Supporting continuous education and training for SMEs, creative industries and

greener businesses. Thus the partners discussed the possibility for establishing Danube Competence Centres for Creativity and Entrepreneurship that will represent a Network for exchange of practices. transfer of approaches to foster development of new curricula or trainings, advice and research on emerging industries and anticipating necessary skills for the future. The preparation phase of the project has START-Danube Region Projects Fund. It will consist of feasibility studies. workshops with stakeholders to identify potential roles and services and the development of the complete finalized project proposal. Identification of possible sources of funding is also part of the preparation phase.

»The creative and entrepreneurial potential of the Danube Region is among its most valuable assets. Therefore building of competences and providing a common platform for creative entrepreneurial collaboration among the countries in the region is a task, which we have to fulfil within the project for establishment of **Danube Competence** Centres with the help of our partners and the stakeholders.«

Katya Goranova, Executive Director of BSCSME, Project Lead Partner



(d)una Vision - Learning Journeys and Being Spaces for a Sustainable Future



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bulgaria Croatia Germany Hungary Republic of Moldova Romania Serbia Slovenia Ukraine

DURATION

2013 - 2015, follow up project 2016 - 2020

CONTACT

ThinkCamp gem. eG. info@thinkcamp.eu

WEBSITE

www.thinkcamp.eu www.unavision.eu

ThinkCamp is co-creating and coordinating the unaVision network and is conducting prototypes of learning iournevs with innovative project based learning concepts. In 2013 ThinkCamp conducted the »Caravan of Change 2013«, a seven months learning journey passing through 14 Danube river countries, About 1,000 people joined one of the 50 events. In 2014 – 2015 ThinkCamp organized the Vision Walk - a learning journey through two National Parks in Macedonia, the first »Balkan Summit for sustainable development« a 100 days laboratory and summer school with many events in Pristina and Skopje.

These events have the mission to bring together people from the Danube and Balkan region to work on a common vision, activities for a sustainable future and to create meaningful, green workplaces through Social Entrepreneurship.

The plan is to establish a network of »BeingSpaces« which are the nodes for the una Vision network, learning journey and eco-social entrepreneurship network in the Danube region and the rest of Europe. Interested partners are invited to join the network



VEN - Income Generation in VET Schools and Colleges

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Moldova

DURATION

2014 - 2017

CONTACT

KulturKontakt Austria. **Project Office** Republic of Moldova; nadja.vetters@ kulturkontakt.or.at

WEBSITE

www.kulturkontakt. or.at

Labor market relevant vocational education to improve the employment . outlook for young graduates is a priority not only in Moldova. In partnership with the Moldovan Ministries • of Education and Agriculture and Lichetnstein the project VEN sets out to increase quality and attractiveness of VET by supporting schools in establishing an entrepreneurship culture and generating additional income by using existing expertise and infrastructure. Following an analysis of the current legal framework, 7 VET schools are piloting models of school entrepreneurship. Based on the lessons learned of the piloting phase, recommendations for adjustments of the regulatory framework to allow for more effective income generation and transparent financial management will be developed.

The first pilot year showed:

- it is a viable and doable way of improving the educational offer of the VET system,
- students get better prepared, equipped with a practical skills set and entrepreneurial thinking required to succeed in their profession later on.
- also teachers' competencies improve,
- the transparent management of funds requires clear rules at the level of schools and a consistent regulatory framework at the national level.
- generated income is reinvested in school infrastructure and educational materials and thus contributes to the material basis for relevant vocational practical training.



»The modernisation of the VET system is one of our main objectives. We encourage our VET schools to engage in transparent income generating activities to improve their educational offer. This is a chance for students to develop their skills and to be the best in the field«

Cristina Boaghi, Deputy Minister of Education of the Republic of Moldova

ECO NET Support for Training Firms in South Eastern Europe

INISHED FINISHED FINISHED F



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Montenegro
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia

DURATION

2010 - 2013

WEBSITE

www.kulturkontakt. or.at The project ECO NET supports practice-orientation in commercial education in South Eastern Europe through the introduction of virtual companies as a new learning/teaching approach. In partnership with respective Ministries of Education, around 330 partner schools and six newly established Service Centres training firm networks have been set up in ten countries. Train-the-trainers courses, teaching manuals for training firms and entrepreneurship text books for students have been produced. In the framework of ECO NET around 1.000 teachers and 25 teacher trainers have been trained. Ministries of Education and Agencies for VET have received support in developing strategies for introducing training firms at the system level and support in curriculum development.

The project ECO NET was implemented by KulturKontakt Austria with funds provided by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs.



Economic Educational Territorial - Structure (ET-struct)



Austria Czech Republic Germany Slovenia Ukraine

2010 - 2012

www.etstruct.eu

Regional businesses need to cope with ever-changing conditions and pressures. For their part, workers need support so they can protect their own economic security while helping to keep their regional economy healthy and relevant. The ET-struct project was a cooperative effort between regions in Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Ukraine - all of which were seeking to help workers match their economies' needs, as a way of encouraging stability and growth.

Numerous national and international studies show that the qualifications of the local work force do not sufficiently match the needs of regional economies. To overcome this problem, ET-struct incorporated three key factors - regional politics, the regional economy and regional education - into sustainable »regional management triangles« in order to match and optimise work-force qualification with the needs of regional economies.

»Skills development is emerging as a key variable for economic and employment development of the Veneto region. ET-struct represented the opportunity to ensure a close relationship between business, policy and decision makers and the training system.«

Piero Monestier, Coordinator of the Training Area, Certottica s.c.a.r.l, Longarone (Belluno,) Italy



Empowering Young People – Connecting Europe

SHED FINISHED FINISHED



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Germany
Montenegro
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia
Slovenia
Ukraine

DURATION

2012 - 2014

WEBSIT

www.empowering youngpeople.net

The aim of the project was to support new approaches in teaching/learning to empower students to take an active role in shaping the future of their region. The project invited secondary schools of the Danube Region to a creative joint venture of thinking and acting together in four thematic areas: active citizenship, cultural dialogue, sustainable development and social responsibility and entrepreneurship. Around 110 teachers have gained experience in regional project implementation. 400 students have actively participated in four regional projects in fields relevant for the Danube Region. The schools shared their project results and experiences at a final event in Vienna. The »Danube Region Project Portfolio« - an innovative teacher's guide is available to teachers/schools in the Danube Region and others.

Further information: www.mahara.at/user/ kulturkontakt-austria.

Empowering Young People was a pilot project within Priority Area 9 »Investing in People and Skills« of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region and was implemented by KulturKontakt Austria.

»It was a great honour for me to work with my students on the project. It was an opportunity to discover them in another way and to see their enthusiasm, their availability to be volunteers in social activities. I can say I see my students now with other eyes.«

Teacher from the core team, Constanța, Romania



SMART Training Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Emerging Sustainable Economic Sectors i.e. SMART



Austria Czech Republic Germany Hungary Slovakia

2012 - 2014

WERSITE

www.ie-smart.eu

The project i.e. SMART has identified specific issues in the partner regions e.g. lack of interest in innovation/ entrepreneurship, low survival rate of business start-ups, high youth unemployment, demographic/ socio-economic brain drain. To tackle these issues, the i.e. SMART partnership (12 partners from seven polycentric regions) has developed and implemented a transnational management structure to link the involved regions so that they can provide their citizens with exciting sustainable labour market opportuni-

Each of the seven project regions has set up a regional centre of competence called a SMART point where SMART trainers train and mentor their regional emerging entrepreneurs (aged 14 to 30) in the transformative business approach so that they, in turn, can start their own new generation enterprises in the three sustainable economic sectors targeted by the project: Creative Industries, Green Economy, and ICT.

»The positive impact of this project can easily be seen by observing the students. They are engaged, motivated and eager to be part of society.«

Dr. Hartmut Rösch, Head of Department for Further Education and Start-Up Center, Stuttgart Media University, Germany

ties through a new multi-disciplinary training approach to innovation and entrepreneurship called the transformative business approach.

Planned Projects

PLANNED PLANNED

Development of an Innovative Tourism Product in the Cross-Border Area – The Creative Tourism Experience

LEAD

Business Support Centres, Ruse

DURATION

2017 - 2019

Strengthening social innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of Secondary Schools' students in Danube macroregion using highly innovative Learning System

LEAD

Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd (CTRIA)

DURATION

2017 - 2019

Work Area 4

»To support lifelong learning and expanding learning mobility«

Comprehensive LLL strategies and their implementation have been identified as a priority for the development of knowledge societies. Making these effective and increasing their impact for individual learners remains a critical challenge. Institutional capacity building of LLL bodies is a prerequisite for implementing these policies. Countries in the Danube Region will coordinate on the development of National Qualification Frameworks. Specific added value lies in supporting non-EU Member States in drawing up their National Qualification Frameworks. Specific attention should be drawn to rural areas and to developing alternative employment opportunities and economic diversification for people occupied in traditional sectors where restructuring is still under way such as agriculture.



Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Albania Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria Croatia Czech Republic Hungary Macedonia Montenegro Poland Moldova Romania Serbia Slovak Republic Slovenia

DURATION 1995 -

CONTACT

CEEPUS elisabeth.sorantin@ ceepus.info

WEBSITE www.ceepus.info

CEEPUS - Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies is a multilateral regional university exchange programme operative since 1995. In it's almost twenty years of existence more than 50.000 teachers and students from Central, East and South East Europe have enjoyed the »CEEPUS experience«. Ever growing, CEEPUS now operates 74 networks with almost 1200 institutions involved.

CEEPUS networks consist of at least three higher education institutions from at least two different contractual countries. All subjects are welcome, what counts is quality. Apart from its academic achievements CEEPUS has intensified regional cooperation and pride in what we can achieve together.

»17 Central European universities and 20 participating units are involved in our CEEPUS network >Language and Literature in a Central European Context according to our opinion, the tradition of Central Europe as a space of tolerance and coexistence of different languages, religions and cultures, is manifested ... and I truly hope this is also applicable for the whole Ceepus project.«

Doc. Mgr. Libuše Heczková, Ph.D. Deputy Director from the Department of Czech and Comparative Literature, Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, 2016



ESCAPE (Enhanced Skills, Competence and Practice for the Economy)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bulgaria Czech Republic Hungary Romania Slovenia Slovakia Ukraine

DURATION

2014 - 2017

CONTACT

BHAK Linz, Michael Huber-Kirchberger, hubm@hak-linz.at

WEBSITE

www.escapeerasmus.weebly.com, www.etwinning.net



»ESCAPE« (Enhanced Skills, Competence and Practice for the Economy) deals with improving job prospects of current students and aim to learn about certain aspects of the Danube 5 training events in Linz, Sturovo, Papa, Ljubljana and Logoj have taken place, each with about 60 participants from 7 schools. In Sturovo also a 5-person delegation from Khust in Ukraine took part.

Each training event was dedicated to a certain subject like English, Biology, Geography, ICT and Business Administration. Trial lessons prepared by teachers from partner schools were Region. Within the first 2 project years held in international groups. Company visits took place (like the logistics centre in Linz Harbour or Mondial in Lugoj) during each training event, and also touristic places were visited. In September 2016 there will be a meeting in Papa to work on a continuation project preparing blocks of CLIL lessons at partner schools and student exchanges.

»School project with a view to developing teaching materials, finding work placements and fostering tourism.«



Learning, teaching, exchanging – school cooperations in the Danube Region





PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

All Danube region countries which take part in eTwinning are invited to send participants.

DURATION **2012 –**

CONTACT

Ursula Panuschka
National Agency for
Erasmus+ Education/
eTwinning National
Support Service Austria
+43 1 534 08-620 |
etwinning@oead.at |
schulbildung@oead.at

WEBSITE

www.bildung.erasmusplus.at/schulbildung_ donau In 2012 the Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ Education/ School Education and the Austrian eTwinning National Support Service have started to organize a conference focusing on teacher cooperation in the Danube Region. By now the conference is an annual event which takes place in cooperation with PA9 and other stakeholders. It gives teachers the opportunity to expand their knowledge about the importance of the Danube Region, to learn about the challenges of the region in the 21st century and to establish future school partnerships.

In five conferences from 2012 to 2016 about 210 teachers from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine took part and created about 50 new school cooperations between Danube region countries.

»I liked the opportunity to communicate faceto-face with colleagues from different countries: we shared ideas, impressions etc. (...)
I liked the discipline of all the participants in the event and I admire the whole atmosphere of it«.

A teacher at the conference 2016

ERI SEE OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Removing obstacles to recognition of qualifications





PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Republic of Moldova Romania Serbia Slovenia

DURATION

2011 -

CONTACT

Ministry of Science, **Education and Sports** (Republic of Croatia) loredana.maravic@ mzos.hr

WEBSITE

www.erisee.org

This activity has been implemented within the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) - a regional platform for cooperation in the field of education and training, according to the government agreement concluded among participating countries.

ERI SEE has been appointed as the coordinator of the activities related to education and competences in the regional strategy Southern and Eastern Europe 2020. One of the key crosscutting issues of the strategy is the workforce mobility. Development of national qualifications frameworks is one of the tools to achieve this aim.

In line with ERI SEE Work Programme 2015, an ERI SEE seminar was held in Zagreb in November 2015 in order to discuss the initiative of the South East European regional qualifications framework as a tool for automatic recognition of quality-assured qualifications.

The seminar also included a policy update on international trends in development of quality assurance and its use in recognition policy and an example of good practice the Nordic recognition network. The representatives of ministries of educa-

tion, ENIC/NARIC offices, government agencies for quality assurance and universities discussed the joint preparation of Erasmus+ project proposal based on the recommendation from the Bologna Ministerial Conference >to explore the potential for system-level automatic recognition on a regional basis with like-minded partner countries«.

A workshop on the concept of the Erasmus+ project proposal was held in Zagreb in January 2016. The University of Split, Croatia, coordinated the preparation of the E+ project proposal (Capacity Building) and submitted the proposal in February 2016.



Milestones of Learning Development (MLD)



»Strategic improvement and development of lifelong learning programs within Danube region«

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Hungary Serbia Slovenia

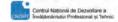
2015 - 2016

WEBSITE

www.seeyn.org

With this project we wanted to address the impact of non-formal education activities in the life-long learning aspect. Through specific activities this project aimed to improve and enhance the effects of civil society organizations' work regarding life-long learning programs by identifying needs and requirements of users, establishing relevant partnerships, specific projects and developing adequate action plan with methods, tools, agendas and programs to be implemented in future LLL programs/activities in order for them to reach full potentials and bigger impact on participants.

The final results of the project are a complete research with results to be used in future development of LLL programs for young people, ten different projects to implement the recommendations and results, partnerships created not only among project partners, but also with different international stakeholders and organizations to whom the project idea was promoted actively, two successful meetings with concrete outcomes as baseline for partner organizations who work for non-formal education of young people to be able to enhance the after-effect of their programs and increase impact of learning on practical level. To young people this project offers an innovative agenda for filling existing gaps in their participation in life long learning programs and make long term effect in their lives.



Training on competence based assessment for VET teachers



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Romania

DURATION

2011 - 2014

The project »Training on competence based assessment for VET teachers« aim was to develop the competencies of 600 VET teachers in the domain of competence based assessment. In the project, a number of 4 training programmes were developed on:

- Competence based assessment;
- Training of trainers on competence based assessment:
- Development of competence based assessment instruments;
- Monitoring of competence based assessment training programmes.

A database for different assessment items in different professional domains was developed and is an important working instrument for all VET teachers.

The project developed cross countries mutual learning at system level and networking in the benefit of different stakeholders.

Planned Projects

PLANNED PLANNED

Coordinating the Work of the South Eastern Europe Vocational Education and Training Network

LEAD

ERISEE

DURATION

to be announced

Development Tools for Cross-Border Labour Mobility (Mobility Tools)

LEAD

Human Resource development Agency, Ruse

DURATION

2017 - 2018

Recognition and Validation of Regional Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

LEAD

ERISEE

DURATION

to be announced

Sustainable Green Cross-Border Tourism put into Practice – GROSSTOUR

LEAD

Business Support Centres, Ruse

DURATION

2017 - 2019

Work Area 5

»To support creativity and entrepreneurship«

A reorientation towards entrepreneurship and creativity, which constitutes a prime source of innovation, is important as a prerequisite for businesses, in particular for small and medium sized enterprises, and thus for Europe's competitiveness. This could be achieved through the introduction of innovative learning programmes to support creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship at all levels of education, through the promotion of intercultural dialogue or through language training, making use of the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Danube Region. Broader learning communities and creative partnerships, involving representatives of cultural actors, civil society and other stakeholders, should be promoted with a view to creating a climate conducive to creativity and professional and social needs, as well as individual well-being.

Danube Peace Boat E.U.R.O.P.E.



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Croatia Germany Hungary Serbia Slovakia

DURATION

2015 - 2020

CONTACT

MEDIA Education Centre (MEC), office@media educationcentre.eu

WEBSITE

www.danube peaceboat.org



Innovation + Action = Change, Floating »Giving through Teaching« Classroom, Travelling Exhibition, Media, Information and Peace Online Platform!

»Danube Peace Boat« is a transnational youth project in the Danube region with a focus on media education. intercultural learning, creativity, sustainable development and peace education. The Peace Boat is a »mobile and multimedia school« which on and off the Danube travels through different countries of the region. Participating young people engage in discussions and workshops and produce various media manifestations (video, multimedia, Radio, Internet, etc.) in this process. Danube Peace Boat E.U.R.O.P.E. is a platform designed to connect, inspire and support young people to find innovative educational approaches. It builds up knowledge and gathers experience in order to share the information with young people, who are in charge of working out possibilities for future challenges.

It expressly concerns innovation at project implementation and working methods levels as well as regarding possibilities of using media, education and informative outcomes. The project aims at creating new networks and making connections, as well as on cooperating on a cross-sector and cross-border level. It is a long term youth project that wishes to connect education, culture and tradition with tourism, clean water, ecology and green industry.



E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bulgaria Croatia Germany Hungary Romania Serbia Slovakia

DURATION

2014 - 2016The center is now established and fully functioning.

CONTACT

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH baden-wuerttemberg@giz.de

WEBSITE

http://eschool4s.eu/



»Sustainable development is a philosophy and value matter rather than a specific knowledge or skill - Bringing Europe to schools by sustainable development.«

Predrag Pale, Aquilonis

If European Integration and Sustainable Development are to be permanently anchored in society, one should start by inspiring the youth with these issues. Taking into account this premise and ensuring consistency to high-level strategies such as the EUSDR, the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the post-2015 Global Action Program, eSchool4S develops an innovative

e-learning platform for secondary school students to cover cross-border issues in the fields of Sustainable Development and European Integration.

The approach shall also bring together decision-makers, (in-service) teacher training institutions, schools, and students across the Danube Region to raise their ecological awareness and to promote inclusion of these issues into the school curricula. Students and teachers learn why the balanced interplay of the development dimensions - social, economic. and environmental - is a condition for Sustainable Development at regional, national and European level. They improve their computer skills, cognitive competences, communication as well as soft skills.

EUSDR Youth Platform

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Czech Republic Germany Hungary Montenegro Republic of Moldova Romania Serhia Slovakia Slovenia Ukraine

DURATION

2013 - 2020

CONTACT

Interkulturelles Zentrum marco. frimberger@iz.or.at

WERSITE

www.youthplatform.eu





The Youth Platform aims at contributing to the achievement of EU 2020 targets, in particular with regard to smart and inclusive growth and the »Education and Training 2020« strategy in particular as well as to the improvement of labour markets and social inclusion in the Danube Region.

The FUSDR Youth Platform is a meeting of practitioners from the formal and non-formal educational field to foster partnerships at the interface of education (formal and non-formal). training and youth, share experiences, good practices of cross-sectoral cooperation and encourage project development organized in the framework of Erasmus+.

The 1st EUSDR Youth Platform »Learning Pathways to Social Cohesion« was held from 15-17 December 2014 in Vienna and brought together participants from all 14 EUSDR countries. Based on the needs expressed by the participants the 2nd EUSDR Youth Platform »Synergies between formal and nonfomal education« focused on project development of cross-sectoral cooperation and highlighted the added value of such projects in addressing the challenges young people face, thus contributing to social cohesion in the Danube Region.



Inclusive Education: Centre for Education and **Vocational Training Concordia**



»With the training offered by Concordia I have the feeling that there is a real possibility for me out there. I like to learn and work in this open environment. «

Gianina C, training course-participant

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Romania

DURATION

2010 -

CONTACT

Centre for Education and Training Concordia; christian.estermann@ concordia.or.at

WEBSITE

www.concordia.org.ro

The Centre for Education and Training Concordia provides an inclusive training opportunity for young people - amongst others, orphans, early school leavers and teenagers with psychological impairments who do not take part in education or training (so called NEETs). Some of the teenagers belong to the Roma minority. The teenagers attend one-year-training courses for cooks, waiters, carpenters and agricultural workers or three-year-courses for bakers (starting Sep 2015) in partnership with a state school from Ploiesti where special attention is given to the alignment and combination of practical and theoretical elements in training following the model of the dual system.

Main goals of the project:

- to guarantee access of socially disadvantaged teenagers to quality education
- to promote learning experiences across diverse social environments
- to foster necessary and relevant practical and theoretical keyskills and competences for the labour market such as the ability to work in a team, reflective decision-taking and assuming responsibility.



Sprachenoffensive – Language Strategy



»Language transfers more than just words. It prepares a fertile soil for understanding differences as well as for realising commonalities and thus enables good cooperation. «

Dr. Christian Milota. Geschäftsführer NÖ Landesakademie

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Czech Republic Hungary Slovakia

DURATION 2003 -

CONTACT

NÖ Landesakademie. office@sprach kompetenz.at

WEBSITE

www.sprach kompetenz.noelak.at

To support the neighbouring regions of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia the Language Campaign has provided creative learning environments. Starting in nursery schools, children gain their first experiences with the sound of the other language, getting to know something about cultural differences by celebrating high days or visiting each other School education offers different learning opportunities for German, Czech, Slovak or Hungarian. Special teaching aids for the demands of the border regions have been developed.

Education institutions of the border regions exchange information on the systems or organise training opportunities for teachers on a regular basis.



aces -**Academy of Central European Schools**



Austria Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Czech Republic Hungary Montenegro Republic of Moldova Romania Serbia Slovenia Slovakia

DURATION

2006 - 2016

www.aces.or.at

»aces« became one of the largest school networks in the region aiming at the promotion of dialogue and cross-border cooperation of young people (12-17 years) and schools from 15 Central and South Eastern European partner countries. In supporting the creation of common and creative spaces on different levels aces fostered friendship. mutual learning, knowledge sharing and educational innovation. Over the years, 516 schools carried out 315 international school partnership projects on topics such as intercultural dialogue, participation and citizenship, conflict resolution, media literacy, diversity and solidarity. In this way 29.000 pupils and 3.000 teachers participated in exchange and cooperation activities

The yearly international aces conferences offered additional platforms for exchange, sharing of best practices and training. The aces website offers a project archive, publications (e.g. a handbook for international school projects) and an extensive online toolbox with collections of learning activities and methods, useful ICT tools and background materials. »aces« was initiated by ERSTE Foundation (Austria) and coordinated by Interkulturelles Zentrum (Austria)

in cooperation with Nadácia

Slovenskej sporiteľne (Slovakia).

»Through this project we managed to have something >that is not school, we managed to show to the rest of the world that we can change things and that we can be helpful in solving problems of the whole community.«

Milia Zdravkovic. student from Serbia

»We not only got to know our partner countries better, but we also rediscovered ourselves. And all those who participated in the project, whether they were teachers, pupils, parents, or school board members, have grown personally with this experience.«

Milena Forštner. teacher from Slovenia



EU-Comenius multilateral network »Collaboration of Schools and Communities for Sustainable Development« (CoDeS)



NISHED FINISHED FINISHED



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Croatia Hungary Romania Slovenia

DURATION

2011 - 2014

WEBSITE

www.comeniuscodes.eu/ The CoDeS-network has focused on school-community collaboration addressing sustainability. These activities have provided a fresh perspective for inquiry based science learning and improve students' motivation, deepen knowledge in science and develop civic competencies. Successful implementation is challenging: it requires special skills from teachers and sophisticated communication techniques on all sides. We have provided a platform modified with an inclusive approach and have investigated various aspects of maintaining collaborative structures and involving with isolated communities. All results, especially the publications in various translations, are available to the public on the website www.comenius-codes.eu/.



Integration of Roma children into education system - countries of Danube region RomaEdu-Danube

Serbia Slovenia Romania

2015 - 2016

WEBSITE

http://mfdps.si/sl/ node/2856#overlaycontext=sl/razisko vanje/raziskovalniprojekti

80% of the Roma population lives in the Danube Region and their social inclusion largely depends on their education. Many Roma children in the Danube Region don't attend primary education-ISCED1+2, mainly due to (I) low socio-economic status (II) limited access to schools and a high rate of unfounded channelling of Roma children into special education. Another problem is also irregular school attendance and large drop-outs from primary schools. The main objective of this project was to equip teachers and Roma school mediators/assistants with the necessary skills and knowledge to work with Roma children, and to exchange good practices among Slovenia, Romania and Serbia, Roma school mediators/assistants are mostly people belonging to the Roma community who help teachers.

They represent a bridge between this community and schools. Teachers, in order to be efficient, require knowledge of cultural and social conditions in which Roma children live, which requires specific methods of work.

Within the project we trained teachers and Roma school mediators/assistants (hereinafter teachers/assistants) on how to work with Roma children (workshops on special didactics on inclusion of Roma children in schools, Roma language and culture). One of the goals of the project is to raise the number of Roma children in primary schools, decrease the number of drop-outs and to ensure conditions for increasing educational levels of Roma people in the region. Competent teachers/ assistants can help achieving this goal. Main activities:

Training module, 3 implementations: Murska Sobota-Slovenia, Belgrade-Serbia and Timisoara-Romania (attended by more than 100 participants) International conference (Timisoara. Romania): attended by 105 participants

»Participants were teachers and Roma school mediators/ assistants - they found training module very useful for future work with Roma children ...«

Planned Projects

ANNED PLANNED PLANNED.

aces | Academy of Central European Schools - ACT LOCAL! Fostering Young People's Active Involvement and Social Engagement by Supporting Cross-Sectoral Initiatives of Schools with non-school Partners

LEAD

Interkulturelles Zentrum, Vienna

DURATION

2017 - 2018

Learning Pathways to Social Cohesion

LEAD

Interkulturelles Zentrum, Vienna

DURATION

To be announced

Work Area 6

»To improve cross-sector policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges«

Enhanced efforts should be pursuit to develop knowledge on the status quo, on drivers and impacts of migration flows and demographic change, so to develop a basis for enhanced cooperation of different policies at all levels of governance. Cross-sector policy coordination between relevant government departments, education authorities, social services, healthcare services, cultural policy authorities, housing and spatial planning authorities as well as asylum and immigration services at local, regional and national level, as well as dialogue with civil society are essential to ensure an adequate level of support. Spatial consequences of migration-induced social, economic and cultural changes and possible responses in the framework of urban and rural development should be considered. Cooperation with existing organisations, with their existing analysis and recommendations, would be particularly useful.



Danube Region Information Platform for Economic Integration of Migrants (DRIM)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Czech Republic Germany Hungary Slovakia Slovenia Serbia

DURATION 2017 -

CONTACT

Slovenian Migration Institute ZRC SAZU Martina Bofulin martina.bofulin@ zrc-sazu.si

With the goal of achieving cohesion and economic development in the Danube region, DRIM's objective is to enhance the capacity of public institutions for promoting migrants' economic integration, understood as fair access to employment, work and skills enhancement. The main result of DRIM - the improved capacity of public institutions to respond to the needs of newly arrived as well as resident migrants through effective information sharing – will be a corner stone of an information infrastructure that will facilitate economic integration in the Danube region.

DRIM will achieve this goal through the following activities and outputs: a) conceptual framework for information sharing and the development of an info tool - DANUBE COMPASS: b) info tool testing (pilot action); c) learning interactions and evaluations to mainstream and disseminate DANUBE COMPASS; d) a strategy that promotes and mainstreams information sharing as a necessary step for migrants' access to employment.

»DRIM addresses this challenge of migrants' unemployment by creating comprehensive multilingual TN information platform DANUBE **COMPASS** with emphasis on labour market information to be used by public institutions as well as resident and newly arrived migrants in all countries of the upper Danube region. «

Martina Bofulin. project manager

Improving Institutional Capacities and Fostering Cooperation to Tackle the Impacts of Transnational Youth Migration (YOUMIG)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bulgaria Germany Hungary Romania Serbia Slovakia Slovenia

DURATION 2017 -

CONTACT

Hungarian Central Statistical Office (Lead Applicant) youmig@ksh.hu

Youth migration is intensifying in the Danube region and it challenges all levels of administrations. Most of the root causes and consequences of the migration of the youth (aged 15-34) affect the local governments, however, many of them are not sufficiently prepared to deal with the situation.

YOUMIG wishes to support local governments in exploiting the developmental potential of youth migration, leading to a better governed and more competitive Danube region. The project aims at boosting their institutional capacities to enhance the scarce local evidence on youth migration, contributing to improved policymaking with a focus on human capital.

Statistical offices and academic organisations team up with local governments in a complex and tailored multi-level and transnational cooperation to create local developmental strategies based on improved impact indicators of youth migration, and to introduce transnationally tested tools to manage migration-related local challenges.



SEEMIG: Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE – Transnational Actions Towards Evidence Based Strategies



Austria Bulgaria Hungary Romania Serbia Slovakia Slovenia

2012 - 2014

www.seemig.eu

SEEMIG is a strategic project with the objective to better understand and address the longer term migratory, human capital and demographic processes of the SEE area, as well as their effects on labour markets and national and regional economies in order to enable public administrations to develop and implement policies and strategies by using enhanced datasets and empirical evidence.

In order to achieve the main objective, SEEMIG partners will

- compile datasets on longer term processes to serve as bases for complex, reliable, predictive analyses of major processes of migration and human capital;
- develop foresight scenarios and projections to predict demographic, migratory and labour market processes, as these are crucial for designing effective and sustainable national, regional and local strategies;
- build capacities of local and regional authorities to better collect and utilise statistical data in their planning and sectoral policies, and foster a balanced two-way cooperation of stakeholders to facilitate effective. evidence based policy making and implementation.

»International migration has a marked effect on the population development of the SEEMIG area, where 55 per cent of the regions show tendencies of population decline. Valid migration data and a sound evidence-base are indispensable to counter related (trans)national policy challenges.«

Heinz Fassmann. University of Vienna

Planned Projects

PLANNED PLANNED

Addressing Migration Challenges, Breaking Stereotypes and Raising Awareness by Measuring the Well-Being of Young People in the Danube Region (YOUMIG)

LEAD

HU Hungarian Central Statistical Office

DURATION

2017 -

Work Area 7

»To fight poverty and social exclusion of marginalized communities in the Danube Region, especially the Roma communities«

To make full use of the Danube Region's population specific focus needs to be put at empowering in particular groups in risk of poverty and ensuring them access and opportunities. Children, old people, mentally and physically disabled, immigrants, homeless, representatives of marginalized ethnic groups are the most vulnerable. Actions to reduce the number of people in risk of poverty need to complement each other, applying an integrated approach. Especially on Roma communities, whose living conditions are often especially dire and with no place in 21st century Europe, special attention must be paid. Hence the coordination of efforts between existing initiatives and actors such as the EU Roma platform for Roma Inclusion, EU-Roma network and NGOs active in this field in the Danube Region is indispensable for improving the situation for Roma.

Changing Discourses, Changing Practices: The Roma as Human Resource (RARE)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Bulgaria Czech Republic Hungary Moldova Romania Slovakia Serbia Ukraine

DURATION

2017 -

CONTACT

Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta Eszter Mészáros meszaros.eszter@ maltai.hu

Roma people are the largest ethnic minority in the EU and among the most deprived. Most of the estimated 5,2 M Roma people living in the Danube Region today still face intolerance, discrimination and exclusion from the labour market. Despite all efforts so far, policy makers and public entities are still lacking in-depth knowledge of the target group, proper institutional capacities and tools for integrating fragmented and inefficient services, an efficient institutional framework to interweave interventions and cooperate with key stakeholders, especially civil society and the private sector.

RARE aims to enhance the capacities of and cooperation among actors having a stake in the labour market participation of the Roma in order to better exploit their economic potential. RARE will result in equipping partner institutions with new opportunities for synergies and innovation to effectively tackle labour market inclusion of the Roma in the Danube Region and monitor the efficiency of interventions

Hungarian Product and Cultural Fund (ESRA)

ESRA | HUNGARIAN PRODUCT &

PROJECT 1 Artistic Performances and CSR for Inclusion

PROJECT 2 Civil Forum Events



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Hungary (Ukraine)

DURATION

2012 -

CONTACT

ESRA - Hungarian product and Cultural Fund info@magyarter mekalap.hu

WEBSITE

www.magyarter ekalap.hu

FACEBOOK

Magyar Termekalap

Through the ESRA-Product and Cultural Fund the marginalised Roma and other impoverished communities receive access to basic products to sustain livelyhood through contribution of national product producers and product sponsors.

After a talent search, Roma performers giving benefit concerts organised by the National Product and Cultural Fund, Local NPC Funds will provide them the opportunity to participate in the sharing of social responsibility, sense of productivity, basic compensation and platform for their professional carrier development. Having the performing groups on stage with non-Roma national celebrities will help to fight cultural and social exclusion of the Roma community. With the association of the NPC Fund, that fights against poverty, the Roma will also be able to identify and become an active part of the solution to further their social and economical inclusion into society.

ESRA holds networking fairs where opportunity is provided for NGOs to showcase their projects and activity to corporate sponsors.

PROJECT 1

»Committing to have Roma talents on one stage with nationally recognized non-Roma performers for your charity events will help the professional recognition of trained young Roma musicians, that is way overdue in Hungary. «

Ferenc Sarkozi (Musical Director -Roma Hungaricum State Ensable)

PROJECT 2

»I have been only a few times part of such an effective networking forum between charitable organizations and NGOs and also having so many international corporation under one roof. «

Chief Counsellar of Ministry of National Economy

ESF projects with Focus on Roma of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Currently the following ten projects are carried out, which are based on two main aims:

- Development and modelbased imple-mentation of counsel-ling and qualification measures
- Development and modelbased testing of an one-year curriculum for key groups in the field of empowerment of Roma

Laco Drom - Good Way

LEADPARTNER

Mentor Management EntwicklungOrganisation GmbH & Co OG (Mentor Management Development Organization) **DURATION**

18.01.2016 - 30.06.2019 MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Literacy courses and workshops related to the topics work and career, health. society and diversity

Maro Drom - Our way!

Project for Integration of Roma and Sinti in Upper Austria LEADPARTNER

Volkshilfe Flüchtlings- und MigrantInnenberatung (FMB) in Oberösterreich (Refugee and Migrant Counselling in Upper Austria) DURATION

01.11.2015 - 31.05.2019 MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Promoting employability and interventions in form of social counselling

Support at authorities and early childhood education for Roma and migrants furthest from the labour market

LEADPARTNER

Association for Roma -Vida Pavlovic

DURATION

2015 - 2019

MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Low-threshold accompaniment in dealing with authorities and expert advice on early promotions of children to facilitate their start of school

THARA Romani Zor! Future -**Empowerment of Roma!**

LEADPARTNER

Volkshilfe Österreich

DURATION

01.11.2015 -30.04.2019

MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Remove barriers to enhance the integration of Roma into the labour market and combat prejudices and ignorance of the majority society

Qualification and Counselling Centre for Roma

I FADPARTNER

itworks - Personalservice und Beratung gemeinnützige GmbH (Personnel Service and Counselling)

DURATION

01.11.2015 -30.04.2019

MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Low-threshold counselling centre for Roma and Sinti focused on access to job offers and equal opportunities concerning occupational training

Cambro: Open Space for Learning and Counselling

LEADPARTNER

Caritas der Erzdiözese Wien - Hilfe in Not (Caritas of the Viennese archdiocese)

DURATION

01.01.2016 -30.06.2019

MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Improvement of a sustainable labour market access through counselling, coaching, language courses and antidiscrimination work

ESF projects with Focus on Roma of the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection

Zorrom – Empowerment

LEADPARTNER

Caritas der Diözese Graz-Seckau (Caritas of the diocese Graz-Seckau, Styria) DURATION

01.11.2015 - 30.04.2019

MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Implementation of qualification, empowerment and antidiscrimination measures to enhance the integration into the primary labour market

Romano Zuralipe - Programme for Empowerment of Roma on the Labour Market

LEADPARTNER

Romano Centro - Association for Roma people

01.11.2015 -30.04.2019

MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Career guidance and career and educational counselling to reduce labour market barriers and to enhance chances of young people on the labour market

Recognition, Competence and Information

LEADPARTNER

Österreichischer Roma-Verband (Austrian Association for Roma)

DURATION

01.01.2016 -30.06.2019

MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Through support measures Roma should be enabled to organize themselves and to carry out administrative matters independently

Dumo Ikeriba – Empowerment of Roma in the Labour Market

LEADPARTNER

Phurdo Salzburg - Centre for Roma and Sinti DURATION

January 2016 - June 2019

MAIN ACTIVITIES/GOALS

Measures against exploitation of Roma in the fields of illegal employment and sex work; support for working poor to provide a living wage within a household context



Danube Social Service & Education Cluster

INISHED FINISHED FINI

»Creating more accessible, effective and integrated social services and inclusive education programmes delivered to vulnerable groups in danger of social exclusion through clustering of social NGOs«

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria Bulgaria Germany Romania

DURATION

2015 -

CONTAC

Martin J. Ivanov, PhD, Federation of social NGOs in Bulgaria (FSSB) martin.j.ivanov@ gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.fssb.bg

The project main objectives are to interconnect bottom-up networks of social NGOs in RO, BG, DE and AT which developed over the last 3-5 years, to enlarge their perspective into the macrostrategical setup of the EUSDR, and cluster them, involving more closely business and governmental actors in order to improve the local situation and meet the objectives of EU 2020 Strategy, in particular with regard to smart and inclusive growth as well as ET 2020, especially for investing in children, active inclusion and social policy innovations.



THARA Amaro than

volkshilfe.

Austria

2015

Volkshilfe Österreich Usnija Buligovic usnija.buligovic@ volkshilfe.at

www.volkshilfe.at/ thara

»Labour Market Initiative for Roma and Sinti in Vienna«

Thara Amaro than is the newest of a series of projects which have addressed the needs of the diverse Roma communities in Vienna, Austria since 2005.THARA is financed by the Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.

Target groups:

- Roma and Sinti of all ages living in Vienna
- · Women and youth are the special focus groups of this project
- Multipliers and actors from public institutions, civil society organisations and NGOs
- The general public, both Roma and Non-Roma

Main objectives:

- · The integration of Roma and Sinti into the labour market in order to improve their socioeconomic situation.
- To create awareness in society for the existing inequalities and discriminatory practices Roma and Sinti are faced with.
- To further the empowerment of Roma/Sinti by means of education and qualification.
- To foster the concept of upward mobility through education and vocational qualification in Roma/Sinti communities.

Planned Projects

PLANNED PLANNED

CDCP-Roma: Changing Discourses, Changing Practices: The Roma as Human Resource

LEAD

Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta

DURATION

to be announced

NRS in the Danube Region

LEAD

Ministry of Education of Romania

DURATION

to be announced

Work Area 8

»To promote gender equality on the labour market, especially in payment«

Equality between women and men is one of the European Union's founding principles. The principle of equal pay for equal work dates already back to 1957, when it became part of the Treaty of Rome.

To create equal opportunities for women and men on the labour market, discrimination, educational stereotypes, labour market segregation, precarious employment conditions, involuntary part-time work and the unbalanced sharing of care responsibilities with men must be overcome. The full realisation of women's potential and the full use of women's skills must be fostered with the emphasis to facilitate a better gender distribution on the labour market and to allow the number of quality jobs for women to be increased. Besides the discrimination against women in career opportunities, the discrimination against female employees with regard to their wage level is imminent. The so called gender pay gap (the average difference between men's and women's hourly gross earnings across the economy as a whole) in the EU remains at 17.8%, with heights around 30% in some EU member states. To ventilate this topic a stakeholder forum involving social partners, should be initiated. This forum should explore possible ways to improve the transparency of pay as well as the impact on equal pay of arrangements such as part-time work and fixed-term contracts.

imprint

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