



DANUBE REGION
strategy
People & Skills

Projects, Networks
&
Initiatives

June 2012

Danube Region Strategy

“To Invest in People and Skills”

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Work area 1

“To enhance performance of education systems through closer cooperation of education institutions, systems and policies” (Action 1)

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.

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Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)



The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) is a regional platform for cooperation in the field of education and training. It supports national reforms in education and training through regional capacity building, transfer of know-how and linking these efforts to European frameworks for education development. Promoting cooperation between the education and research sectors in South Eastern Europe (SEE) is a priority as well. ERI SEE also addresses more global developments in education and training.

Project start: 2004 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Danube Region Countries:  (BA, BG, HR, MD, ME, RO, RS)

Contact: Centre for Education Policy; cep@cep.edu.rs

Website: <http://www.erisee.org/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative:		When/Until (m/y)
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthened institutional cooperation in the area of VET through implemented SEEVET-Net Work Programme for 2012 leading to: (1) enhancement of policy knowledge on social partnership among EU member states and countries in South East Europe; (2) established data base on VET systems in SEE countries and (3) built capacity of the SEEVET-Net Institutions representatives for effective roles and responsibilities in order to contribute in their full capacity to policy evaluation and policy advising;• Established peer-to-peer exchange programme for the staff of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agencies in South East Europe;• Provided support to the lead and participating countries in the three joint TFBHC and ERI SEE clusters of knowledge lead by Romania in the area of Vocational Education and Training, Croatia in the area of National Qualifications Frameworks and Serbia in the area of Evidence-Based Policy Making;• Provided support to regional cooperation and developing complementary activities to the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training;• Initiated mutual policy learning and cooperation the field of teacher professional development	In 2012

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	<p>policies as well as in the field of standards and assessment in pre-tertiary education.</p>	
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<p>16th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body</p>	27 March 2012
	<p>Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education Working meeting - Consultation on draft project concept note</p>	April 2012
	<p>The 5th meeting of SEEVET-Net together with representatives of the relevant EU institutions focusing on social partnership models and best practice examples presentation and exchange of experiences regarding the social partnership issues</p>	4-5 June 2012
	<p>Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Modernizing VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET Workshop for concluding on good practices to be included in the compendium</p>	21-22 June 2012
	<p>Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Development of National Qualifications Frameworks Workshop on RPL</p>	May 2012
	<p>Pilot exchange of staff of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agencies in South East Europe (Based on short-term placements of SEE QA experts at QA Agencies in the region)</p>	September- November 2012
	<p>Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Modernizing VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET Meeting for concluding on cluster's outputs and for identifying priorities for further development of VET policy in the region, adapted to national needs - recommendations for further cooperation</p>	September/October 2012
	<p>Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education Conference - Consultation on final project design</p>	September 2012
	<p>Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Development of National Qualifications Frameworks Referencing Conference</p>	October 2012
	<p>17th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body</p>	October 2012
<p>Training of the SEEVET-Net Institutions representatives in graduate tracer studies methodologies</p>	November 2012	

	Joint TFBHC and ERI SEE Cluster of knowledge: Evidence-Based Policy Making in Education Regional TAEIX event	November 2012
	Seminar on challenges for teaching development in relation to the introduction of the educational standards and standardized assessment in pre-tertiary education	December 2012
	Support to regional cooperation and developing complementary activities to the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training (Mapping exercises, preparatory project activities and meetings)	During the 2012
	Creation of the framework and outline for development of the mutual data base on SEE countries VET systems including creation of the SEEVET -Net subpage on the official ERISSEE web page in order to make data base visible	January - Development of the data-base outline February/August - filling in the data-base by relevant content August/September - creation of the SEEVET-Net subpage on the ERISSEE web page October - Publishing data-base on the SEEVET-Net subpage on the ERISSEE web page
	Creation and development of the newsletter dedicated to the presentation of the VET reform processes progress in SEE countries	February - development of the outline and design March/ June - development of the 1st newsletter content July - Publishing of the 1st newsletter August/ November - development of the 2nd newsletter content

		December - Publishing of the 2nd newsletter
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established institutional network of Vocational Education and Training centres in South East Europe (South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network, SEEVET-Net) with adopted Work Programme for 2012/2013 Initiated institutional network of Quality Assurance Agencies in post-secondary education Established, in cooperation with the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC), three clusters of knowledge in the field of (1) Vocational Education and Training lead by Romania; (2) National Qualifications Frameworks led by Croatia and (3) Evidence-Based Policy Making led by Serbia Initiated regional policy and practice exchange in the area of ensuring equitable, quality education ERI SEE website significantly improved 	
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	4th Meeting of the Vocational Education and Training centres in South East Europe (SEEVET-Net)	11-12 July 2011
	Networking visit of SEE QA experts to the Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and the Bologna Secretariat	19-20 October 2011
	Regional conference “Policy development and monitoring for quality and equity in education”	6-7 December 2011

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	14 th and 15 th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body	11 March and 11 November 2011
	<p>Modernising VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET (Romania)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick off meeting • Regional workshop “Developing a Quality Culture at VET Providers’ Level” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-31 May 2011 • 24-25 November 2011
	<p>Evidence Based Policy Making in Education (Serbia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick-off meeting held within the regional conference “Turning Research into Practice - Learning from PISA” • Regional meeting Evidence Based Policy Making in Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16-17 June 2011 • 16 December 2011
	<p>Development of National Qualifications Frameworks (Croatia)</p> <p>Kick-off meeting held within the international conference on referencing of the Croatian Qualifications Framework to the European Qualifications Framework and to the Qualifications Framework of the EHEA</p>	27-28 October 2011

Central European Cooperation in Education

The objective of this cooperation is the implementation of joint projects, an exchange of expert knowledge and good practice at administrative level in all fields of lifelong learning. Because of EU enlargement in 2004 and the accession of some of the CECE members to the EU, the areas of cooperation have increasingly expanded from regional to an intensified

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cooperation in terms of content and organisation at EU level. In the framework of CECE a solid and reliable partnership has evolved over the years, which discusses both regional and international issues and looks for common ways to further enhance the systems of education. Joint conferences, seminars and workshops for experts will serve the purpose of "learning from one another" and, not the least, generate financial synergies: joint research projects and an exchange of expert knowledge will ensure an improved utilisation of the limited knowledge resources available in all countries involved.

Project start: 1997 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Countries:  (AT, CZ, HU, SK)

Contact: Austrian Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, Mr. Jürgen Schick; juergen.schick@bmukk.gv.at

Website: <http://www.bmukk.gv.at/europa/bibildung/cece.xml>

Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the Regional Cooperation Council



Task Force Fostering & Building Human Capital
of the Regional Cooperation Council

The aim of the TFBHC is to promote coherency and coordination between education, higher education, research and science by creating a platform for dialogue and cooperation of actors involved in these sectors. A significant goal of the TFBHC is to harmonize the aims of the ET2020 and EU2020 with the developmental goals of SEE and the Western Balkans. The upcoming conference "Which forces are driving SEE. Ideas and actions for European integration, and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through human capital development" is aimed at addressing key challenges in human capital development that have not yet been entirely approached with the focus on regionally-led development. Innovative and efficient measures are required for finding ways to sustainable economic growth and for safeguarding equitable and inclusive societies. In particular investments in human capital through education, science and research have a paramount role to play in this regard.

Project start: 06/2008 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Danube Region Countries:  (AT, BA, BG, HR, ME, RO, RS)

Contact: KulturKontakt Austria, Ms. Marija Soronda; marija.soronda@kulturkontakt.or.at

Website: <http://www.taskforcehumancapital.info>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the Regional Cooperation Council		When/Until (m/y)
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Possible WB/SOE regional project on a topic of regional interest in line with the strategic objectives of "ET 2020"	Autumn 2012
Next	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Workshop for developing a possible WB/SOE	Autumn 2012

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steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<p><i>regional project on a topic of regional interest in line with the strategic objectives of “ET 2020”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>5th Annual Task Force Meeting in order to summarize and evaluate the activities and achievements of the Task Force and determine future course of action</i> 	
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Launch and running of TF website in view of enhancing coordination, fostering the exchange of information and experiences and contributing to cross border regional development.</i> • <i>TF Capacity Building Mobility Programme (see separate sheet)</i> • <i>International Conference on “Fostering and Building Human Capital for Sustainable Knowledge Societies in South Eastern Europe” to provide a platform for discussion on the changing role of human capital for sustainable knowledge economies and development as well as social inclusion. Bucharest, RO</i> • <i>Task Force Meeting of Senior Officials from the Istanbul MoU aimed at starting preliminary discussions on priority areas and projects of regional character in South East Europe which would ensure accelerated and sustainable economic and social development of the region.</i> • <i>Initiation of 3 regionally owned and run Clusters of Knowledge on the topics: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education, Vocational Education and Training and National Qualifications Framework</i> • <i>Commissioned study to map capacities for evidence-based policy making in education in view of gaining insight in this topic and serve as basis for a possible regional IPA project</i> 	<p>2008</p> <p>Autumn 2008</p> <p>6-7 March 2009</p> <p>18 Nov. 2009</p> <p>May/ June/Oct.2011</p> <p>Autumn 2011</p>
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cluster of Knowledge Kick-off Event: Evidence Based Policy Making in Education - Turning Research into Practice - Learning from PISA”, Belgrade, RS</i> • <i>Cluster of Knowledge Kick-off Event: “Development of National Qualifications Framework”, Split, HR</i> • <i>Regional Meeting within the Cluster of Knowledge “Evidence Based Policy Making in Education” and presentation of the Study “Mapping Regional Capacities for Evidence-based Policy Making in Education in South Eastern Europe”, Vienna, AT</i> • <i>Meeting between TF/ERI SEE/RCC/ETF with the Working Group on Western Balkans of European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs in view of gaining support for human capital development issues in SEE</i> 	<p>16-17 June 2011</p> <p>27-28 Oct. 2011</p> <p>16. Dec. 2011</p> <p>25.Jan. 2012</p>

Cluster of knowledge on evidence based policy making in education

Joint Cluster of Knowledge of the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital (TFBHC) and the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe- ERI SEE.

The project wants to contribute to improving the qualities of human capital based on strengthening of the “knowledge triangle”: education - research - innovation, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of the educational systems in line with EU standards. Strengthening Evidence Based Policy Making through building the relationship between research, policy and practice, aiming to monitor education reforms and continuously improve education policies. The project has been initiated to support ongoing initiatives of the Ministries in the region to improve education policy developments. The project will promote research in the area of education, including research on the economics of education, peer learning, and capacity building, and it will influence the policy learning process, strategy formulation and policy action.

Project duration: 01/2010-12/2013 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Countries:  (AT, BA, HR, MD, ME, RO, RS)

Contact: Serbian Ministry of Education and Science, Ms. Biljana Stojanovic;
biljana.stojanovic@mpn.gov.rs

Website: <http://www.mpn.gov.rs/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: Cluster of knowledge on evidence based policy making in education		When/Until (m/y)
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote evidence-based policy making in education within the region • Identify priorities for further development of evidence based policy making in the region, adapted to national needs • Hub for regional projects - Develop regional projects/initiatives with the purpose to foster evidence-based policy making at regional level • Develop mechanisms for regional cooperation in better use of evidence in policy and practice, • Build capacity for implementation of different techniques and tools for progressive policy-making among policy makers, public servants and researchers in WBC, • Strengthening of the institutional capacities for monitoring of educational policies and other priorities) • Use EU mechanisms and funds for enhancement of evidence based policy making 	December 2013
Next	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop regional projects/initiatives with the 	April 2012

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<p>steps/events in 2012 and 2013</p>	<p>purpose to foster evidence-based policy making at regional level (develop mechanisms for regional cooperation in better use of evidence in policy and practice, build capacity for implementation of different techniques and tools for progressive policy-making among policy makers, public servants and researchers in WBC, strengthening of the institutional capacities for monitoring of educational policies and other priorities).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second event/working meeting, conference - Consultation on final project design - develop regional projects/initiatives with the purpose to foster evidence-based policy making at regional level • TAEIX event - Monitoring education - data, indicators and challenges in education statistics - meeting with bodies responsible for data collection and monitoring of education systems 	<p>September 2012</p> <p>November 2102</p>
<p>Outputs to date</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities for regional cooperation in the area evidence based policy making defined • Project for Danube Region Strategy “People and Skills” - Support to EBPM Cluster of knowledge prepared • Report based on mapping of major research institutions in the area, their capacities and current research projects conducted and finalized • Concept note for the regional project in the area of Evidence Based Policy Making as support and promotion of the Cluster activities prepared • 	<p>Jun 2011</p> <p>December 2011</p> <p>April 2012</p>
<p>Main events to date (starting June 2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluster Kick Off Meeting • Turning research into practice - learning from PISA (regional meeting) • Regional Meeting: Regional Capacities in Evidence-based Policy Making in Education • Regional conference: „Policy development and monitoring for quality and equity in education“, Focus on policy monitoring and evidence gaps in policy development 	<p>Jun 2011</p> <p>Jun 2011</p> <p>December 2011</p> <p>December 2011</p>

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Cluster Modernising VET system

Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET

The cluster Modernizing VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET has 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 to develop specific tools to support the development of a quality culture at school level and the improvement of VET attractiveness and relevance (E.G. Compendia of good practices on the topics).

Project duration: 05/2011-10/2012 **Status:** Completed project

Participating Countries:  (AT, BA, BG, HR, MD, ME, RO, RS)

Contact: TVET Centre, Ms.Dana Stroeie; dana.stroeie@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.tvet.ro/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: <i>Modernising VET system - improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET</i>		When/Until (m/y)
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Compendia of good practice on improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET</i> 	11.2012
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Workshop for concluding on good practices to be included in the compendium</i> <i>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</i> 	20- 21.06.2012 ROMANIA 09 or 10.2012 (to be decided) ROMANIA
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Draft examples of good practice elaborated by participating countries</i> 	23.04.2012
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Kickoff meeting to agree upon the cluster’s objectives and timeline and to decide on cluster’s outputs -</i> <i>Workshop on exchange of good practices on the agreed topics of interest (with focus on quality assurance and cooperation with social partners in VET)-</i> 	30-31.05. 2011 Bucharest 24- 25.11. 2011 AUSTRIA



International Cooperation for School Leadership (ICSL)



The project involves 5 partner countries from the Central-European Region: Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia in the framework of the Central European Cooperation for Education (CECE) and is supported by the European Commission. The aim of the initiative is to improve the first version of the competency framework developed for school leaders in the framework of the project in 2010. In the upcoming period the tool will also be adapted to national training programmes for school leaders in each partner country and the partners also plan to develop methods for the application of the competency framework in the selection and assessment of school leaders during 2011-2012 in order to disseminate it to the interested target groups in the countries of the Central European region.

Project duration: 02/2011-01/2013 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Countries:  (AT, CZ, HU, SI, SK)

Contact: Judit Juhász judit.juhasz@tpf.hu

Website: http://english.tpf.hu/pages/content/index.php?page_id=229

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: International Cooperation for School Leadership		When/Until (m/y) 31/01/2013
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common (for the 5 Central-European Partner countries: Hungary, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia) competency framework of school leaders • The adaptation of the competency framework in the school leaders' training programme in the 5 Central-European partner countries • Peer review report by the Swedish partner on the processes of school leadership development in the Central European region with special regard on the Czech example • Measurement toolkit containing methods and ideas on the possible use of the framework in school leaders' selection, appointment and assessment systems. • 2-2 national workshops in each country for decision makers, school leaders and teachers for the dissemination of the first version of the competency framework and its further improvement - Sept-Oct, 2011 • International dissemination conference • Project meeting for partners - Budapest • Peer learning activity and expert workshop - Sweden • Peer learning activity and expert workshop - Czech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of June 2012 • November 2012 • November 2012 • December 2012 • November 2011 • November 2011 • November 2011 • April 2012 • October 2012

	<p>Republic</p> <p>The main objective is to raise awareness of partners' and stakeholders of school leaders' competencies by common development processes and to improve school leaders' training programmes with a transnational perspective. This project - being a research-based development project - does not have quantified indicators.</p>	
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing the common competency framework • Adapting the framework into national training programmes • Peer learning activity in the Czech Republic for project partners • Closing project meeting in Austria for project partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of June 2012 • November 2012 • October 2012 • November 2012
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competency framework development <p>See in “events to date”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of June 2012
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start up meeting for project partners in Budapest • National workshops in Hungary (1 workshop, 24 participants), Austria (3 workshops), Slovakia (2 workshops, 42 participants), Slovenia (1 workshop, 19 participants), Czech Republic (2 workshops, 41 participants) for school leaders, teachers and decision makers • International dissemination conference in Budapest for decision makers, school leaders, teachers, researchers and experts from the partner countries (67 persons from 9 countries) • Expert workshop for project partners in Budapest • Peer learning activity and expert workshop in Sweden for project partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2011 • October, November 2011 • November 2011 • November 2011 • April 2012

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Work Area 2

“To foster cooperation between key stakeholders of labour market, education and research policies in order to develop learning regions and environments” (Action 2)

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.

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Austro-Hungarian Expert Academy (EXPAK AT.HU)



Cross-border discussion forum for Labour Market Policy

The primary objective of the EXPAK AT.HU is to establish a sustainable networking with labour market policy institutions as well as key players in the border region between Austria and Hungary. One goal is to jointly develop and implement solutions on existing challenges on the common labour markets. Another aim is to reinforce the collaboration between labour market institutions, such as public employment services, NGOs, the social partners, training institutes, etc., at a small-scale regional level. A key role within the EXPAK AT.HU plays the development of specific projects for disadvantaged groups on the labour market.

Project duration: 04/2008-12/2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, HU)

Contact: L&R Social Research Institute, Ms. Andrea Major; major@lrsocialresearch.at
Ms. Barbara Willsberger; willsberger@lrsocialresearch.at

Website: <http://www.expak.at>

Austrian-Slovenian Expert Academy (EXPAK AT.SI)



Cross-border discussion forum for Labour Market Policy

The main aim of the EXPAK AT.SI is to work towards the removal of existing disadvantages on the regional labour market in the border region between Austria and Slovenia through the development of an effective cooperation system between labour market institutions. One of the primary goals within this project is the establishment of a common knowledge base and network of the relevant stakeholders on the issues of strategic planning of active employment and vocational skilling measures.

Project duration: 11/2009-10/2014 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, SI)

Contact: L&R Social Research Institute, Ms. Sanja Selak; selak@lrsocialresearch.at
Ms. Barbara Willsberger; willsberger@lrsocialresearch.at

Website: <http://www.expak.at>

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Austrian-Slovak Expert Academy (EXPAK AT.SK)



Cross-border discussion forum for Labour Market Policy

The main objective of the project EXPAK AT.SK is the establishment of a labour market policy cooperation system which enables an integrated labour market and reduces barriers to employment. This is to be pursued through the promotion of the Austrian-Slovak border region as a quality location, as well as the increasing of the competitiveness through better employment opportunities. Another objective is the abolition of existing regional imbalances on the labour markets.

Project duration: 07/2008-05/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, SK)

Contact: L&R Social Research Institute, Mr. Ferdinand Lechner; lechner@lrsocialresearch.at

Website: <http://www.expak.at>

Austrian-Czech Expert Academy (EXPAK AT.CZ)



Cross-border discussion forum for Labour Market Policy

One of the main objectives of the project EXPAK AT.CZ is the joint development of innovative concepts in the field of active labour market policy and its testing by pilot projects. Facilitating the cross-border labour mobility through information about job profiles, as well as the existing recognition possibilities are one of the essential elements. New developments on the Austrian and Czech labour market and the labour market policies are shared on a regular basis within conferences, workshops, seminars and counselling.

Project duration: 11/2009-12/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, CZ)

Contact: L&R Social Research Institute, Ms. Eva Horak; horak@lrsocialresearch.at
Ms. Barbara Willsberger; willsberger@lrsocialresearch.at

Website: <http://www.expak.at>

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Cooperation in Labour Market Issues: Austria-Bulgaria (KOOP AT-BG)



Arbeitsmarktpolitische Kooperation zwischen Österreich und Bulgarien
Сътрудничество между Австрия и България в областта на политиката за пазара на труда

The exchange between relevant labour market institutions and social policy institutions is the main focus of this cooperation between Austria and Bulgaria. The objective is to establish a sustainable, consistent network which provides knowledge of the labour market policy situation in both countries. Furthermore, the general public interested in the selected issues takes part in conferences, seminars and workshops of the cooperation. Another focus within the project is on the exchange of good practices within the field of active labour market policies.

Project duration: 10/2009-12/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, BG)

Contact: ÖSB Consulting, Ms. Monika Natter; monika.natter@oesb.at
Mr. Andreas Polsterer; andreas.polsterer@oesb.at

Website: <http://www.koop-at.eu/bulgaria>

Cooperation in Labour Market Issues: Austria-Romania (KOOP AT-RO)



Arbeitsmarktpolitische Kooperation zwischen Österreich und Rumänien
Cooperarea pe piața muncii între România și Austria

The focus in this cooperation is on the exchange between relevant labour market institutions and social policy institutions between Austria and Romania. The objective is to establish a sustainable, consistent network which provides knowledge of the labour market policy situation in both countries. Furthermore, the general public interested in the selected issues takes part in conferences, seminars and workshops. Another focus within the project is on the exchange of good practices within the field of active labour market policies.

Project duration: 09/2009-12/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, RO)

Contact: ÖSB Consulting, Ms. Monika Natter; monika.natter@oesb.at
Ms. Nina Tröger; nina.troeger@oesb.at

Website: <http://www.koop-at.eu/romania>

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Network for Labourmarket Cooperation in the Border Region Austria - Hungary (NETLAB_)



The main focus of this cross-border cooperation is set on the establishment of a bilateral network between social partners, representation of interests and the labour market administrations in Austria and Hungary. The network forms the project basis for strategic decision making towards jointly developed solutions on challenges on the common labour markets. The comparison of job profiles and qualifications on the platform www.jobtour.eu plays a leading role within the project, as employees can find there also information on labour and social securities law.

Project duration: 05/2008-12/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, HU)

Contact: Regional Development Association Industrieviertel, Ms. Ingeborg Derkits;
i.derkits@industrieviertel.at

Website: <http://www.netlab-online.eu/>

Bilateral Exchange in Labour Market Policy Austria - Moldova

The bilateral exchange between Austria and Moldova focusses on a know-how transfer in the field of social and labour market policies. It aims at the strengthening of the players in the relevant institutions through providing knowledge and experiences by Austrian and Moldavian labour market experts. The objective of this project is in particular in approaching EU standards, like in the labour market policy field.

Project duration: 11/2011-12/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, MD)

Contact: Attaché for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austrian Embassy Chişinău, Mr. Georg Reibmayr; georg.reibmayr@bmask.gv.at

Mastering Skills of European Professional Medics (MED)

The overall objective of the project is a practice excellence centre to be created that will develop the skills and competences of medical practitioners from countries lacking the experience of conducting specific complex diagnostic and treatment procedures because of the lack of the necessary technical base. The transfer of skills and experience from countries like Germany and Austria to countries like Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Ukraine, etc. is one of the main aims, thus unlocking the potential in the field of medicine and bringing benefits to the whole communities in these countries.

Project start: 2014 **Status:** Planned project

Participating Countries:  (AT, BG, DE, RO)

Contact: Business Support Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises - Ruse,
Ms. Christina Kasparyan; bsc@smebg.net

Establishing of a Network of Agricultural Training Centres

The overall project objective is to create conditions for providing vocational training and exchange of good agricultural practices through experiments for new crops and new practices. A network of Agricultural Training Centres will ensure development on a higher level of employment in rural areas, including ethnic minorities. Project Specific Objectives are: 1) Establishment of Agricultural Training Centres; 2) Setting up of a test (trial) fields as part of the training process; 3) Linking the newly established centres with existing ones and networking; 4) Breaking through the stereotype thinking and opening of farmers to intensive agriculture; 5) Initiating of employment habits into Roma minority groups in rural areas; 6) Increasing the productivity of existing farms through training in new practices; 7) Encouraging farmers to share experiences and practices on transnational level within the macro-region; 8) To establish a Revolving Fund for supporting the business start or expansion of trained people.

Project start: 2014 **Status:** Planned project

Participating Countries:  (AT, BA, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, ME, RO, RS, SI, SK, UA)

Contact: Business Support Centre for Small and Medium Enterprises - Ruse, Mr. Kalin Minev;
hrda@smebg.net

Qualification Network Danube Area

About 36.000 Austrian companies are active in export and about one fifth of these exports go to countries of the CEE/SEE-region - with growing trend. In many of these countries Austrian companies are counted among the leading group of foreign investors. At the same time Austrian companies have to cope with a lack of sufficiently qualified staff members on the ground. This is where the qualification network Danube area sets point in order to ensure the competitiveness of Austrian companies abroad, to increase the performance of small- and medium-sized companies as suppliers of the region and to raise value creation and employment. In general, future production and provision of services are going to require much more knowledge. In this context qualified human capital is a central location factor. This fact clarifies how essential increased efforts concerning people's qualifications are. Higher qualification will therefore play a key role in supporting an intelligent, lasting and integrative economic growth in Danube area.

Project start: 2012 **Status:** Planned project

Participating Countries:  (AT, BG, HR, HU, RO, RS, SK)

Contact: Vocational Training Institute Burgenland, Mr. Jürgen Grandits;
j.grandits@bfi-burgenland.at

IPA 2008 project: Forecasting and NES data management

The IPA 2008 project included technical assistance to enhance the data management, forecasting and monitoring and evaluation capacity of the National Employment Service of the Republic of Serbia and to separate supply contract for procurement of hardware and Document Management System. The overall objective of the project was to decrease the level of unemployment in the Republic of Serbia and to upgrade the National Employment Service performance in the following areas: 1) monitoring and forecasting labour market trends and 2) monitoring and evaluation of active labour market measures.

Project start: 03/2010-10/2011 **Status:** Completed project

Participating Countries:  (RS)

Contact: Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Serbia,
Ms. Tsvetana Stoycheva; tsvetana.stoycheva@eeas.europa.eu

Website: <http://www.eunes-project.eu/en/>

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IPA 2011 project: Preparation of Serbian Labour Market Institutions for European Employment Strategy

With support of the IPA 2011 project, local employment councils will acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for identifying local needs and designing local employment action plans. Advice and support will be necessary for local stakeholders to draft project proposals and apply for grants to finance active labour market policies in line with the action plans. Overall objectives are to speed up labour market reforms in line with the EU standards, to improve the impact of Serbian employment policy and to embed forecasting, monitoring and evaluation in the design and implementation of active labour market policies.

Project start: 2012 **Status:** Planned project

Participating Countries:  (RS)

Contact: Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Serbia,
Ms. Tsvetana Stoycheva; tsvetana.stoycheva@eeas.europa.eu

Website: tba

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Work area 3

“To support creativity and entrepreneurship” (Action 3)

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.

ECO NET

Support for Training Firms in South Eastern Europe

The implementation of ECO NET began in 2001 with the aim of supporting practice-oriented business education in South Eastern Europe. To this end, the training firm model is an ideal instrument.

Working in a training firm promotes the ability to work in a team as well as autonomously, a sense of initiative, decision-making competence, flexibility and intercultural sensitivity, all of which are primary key qualifications in today’s business world.

Project duration: 01/2010-12/2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Danube Region Countries:  (AT, BA, BG, HR, MD, ME, RO, RS)

Contact: KulturKontakt Austria, Ms. Monica Wurzer; monica.wurzer@kulturkontakt.or.at

Website: <http://www.kulturkontakt.or.at/en/econet>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative:		When/Until (m/y)
ECO NET - Support for Training Firms in SEE /promotion of training firms in South Eastern Europe		01.01.2010 - 31.12.2013
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the establishing of a practice-oriented commercial education in South Eastern Europe. Implementing the idea of the training firms. • This project contributes to the development of curricula and handbooks and the establishment of central offices to strengthen national training firm networks, promote the training of multipliers, intensify cooperation with the business sector and organise national and international fairs. 	31.12.2013
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of teacher handbook • Development of students handbook • Training workshop on quality in training firms • Training Workshop on going public activities • Meeting of the Service Center Offices 	
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 60 pilot schools in the project • Over 1600 new established training firms at over 330 schools. • New Curricula have been developed in all countries • Central offices to strengthen the national training firm network has been established • Around 25 multipliers have been trained. 	
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional training firm fair in Montenegro • Regional training firm fair in Albania • Workshops on quality in training firms • Workshops on train the teachers 	March 2012 March 2012 June 2011 - 2012 June 2011 - 2012

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SMART i.e.

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

The project SMART i.e. 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, SMART i.e. will develop/implement a transnational management structure to link the involved regions so that they can provide their citizens with exciting sustainable labour market opportunities through a new multi-disciplinary approach and training to innovation and entrepreneurship in three sustainable economic sectors: Creative Industries, Green Economy, and ICT.

12 partners from seven polycentric regions will cooperate to achieve this (two partners per CE Member State: a policy/an expert partner).

Project duration: 07/2012-12/2014 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Countries:  (AT, CZ, DE, HU, SK)

Contact: European Office, Vienna Board of Education, Mr. Stuart Simpson; stuart.simpson@ssr-wien.gv.at

Empowering Young People

Connecting Europe

EUSDR PILOT PROJECT



The aim of the project is to support reconciliation and excellence through education and training targeting the youth of the Danube Region. Active citizenship, creativity and intercultural dialogue shall be supported through innovative and joint teaching programmes for students in the Danube region. The project focuses on new approaches at school level to the students' empowerment to act as self-reliant citizens and entrepreneurs. Specific attention is also given to making best use of linguistic and cultural diversity in the Danube Region. Through developing an innovative pilot model for school and labour market cooperation in the field of active citizenship, creativity and intercultural dialogue the project will ensure sustainability. It will enable schools to use this tested approach and established network in the future. The direct target group are teachers and students from 16 schools of the Danube Region from around 8 countries and external partners (e.g. NGO's, companies, cultural institutions/artists, teacher training institutions), who will co-operate within up to 4 clusters.

Project duration: 01/2012-12/2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:  (AT, BA, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, ME, RO, RS, SI, SK, UA)

Contact: KulturKontakt Austria, Ms. Monica Wurzer; monica.wurzer@kulturkontakt.or.at

Website: <http://www.empoweringyoungpeople.net/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative:		When/Until (m/y)
Empowering Young People - Connecting Europe To support reconciliation and excellence through education and training targeting the youth of the Danube Region Pilot Project within Priority Area 9 “To Invest in People and Skills” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)		1.1.2012 - 32.12.2013
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Danube Region Project Portfolio” - an innovative teachers’ guide (The guide is available to all project partners and other interested stakeholders in the DR) • School projects within 4 themes and up to 16 sub-themes • Project homepage 	31.12.2013
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	May 2012: Website May 2012: selection of the project schools May 2012: Planning Workshop July 2012: Teach the Teachers 1 July 2012: Forming clusters October 2012: Cluster events of the schools January 2013: Teach the Teachers 2 June 2013: Final Event “Danube Region Project Portfolio”	May 2012 May 2012 May 2012 July 2012 July 2012 October 2012 January 2013 June 2013 December 2013
Outputs to date	May 2012: Website Set up of internet platform May 2012: selection of the project schools 16 project schools have been selected May 2012: Planning Workshop 16 participants from the project schools July 2012: Teach the Teachers 1 32 teachers trained in new methods part 1 July 2012: Forming clusters 4 clusters have been formed which work in cross-border projects October 2012: Cluster events of the schools each of 30 persons: 8 teachers, 4 principals, 16 students take part in the cluster events January 2013: Teach the Teachers 2 32 teachers trained in new methods part 2	

	<p>“Danube Region Project Portfolio” - an innovative teachers’ guide(The guide is available to all project partners and other interested stakeholders in the DR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants who have increased their key competences and/or their skills relevant for their employability: at least 30 students/school - 480 • Number of organisations that have participated in the Programme and that have developed/adopted innovative methods: at least 16 • participants who use the results of cross-border projects to improve good governance and dual careers: at least 30 students/school - 480 • Number of participants who use the results of cross-border projects to enhance social inclusion, equal opportunities and participation rates: at least 30 students/school - 480 	December 2013
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<p>May 2012: Website May 2012: selection of the project schools May 2012: Planning Workshop July 2012: Teach the Teachers 1 July 2012: Forming clusters October 2012: Cluster events of the schools January 2013: Teach the Teachers 2 June 2013: Final Event</p>	

Training the teachers from economic VET schools to implement the training firms method

The project aim is to develop the competencies of 600 teachers from economic schools to develop entrepreneurial skills of students using the active method -training firm. In the on-going project, a number of 6 sets of materials for 3 training modules and a methodological guide for training firm will be developed.

Project duration: 10/2010-02/2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:  (AT, RO)

Contact: TVET Centre, Mihaela Stefanescu; mihastef2004@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.tvet.ro/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: Training the teachers from economic VET schools, to implement the training firms method		When/Until (m/y)
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 600 teachers from vocational education and training (VET), economic profile, to develop professional skills necessary to implement interactive learning methods-training firms 	August 2011 - June 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 workshops on development the materials for training modules 	January 2011- June 2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 training sessions on the topic of training firm 	August 2011 - June 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 570 teachers certified on learning methods-training firms 	August 2012 - October 2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 study visit in Austria on the topic of training firm : 	February 2011 and October 2012
		March 2011 - June 2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 workshops to development the methodological guide for training firm 	September 2012- November 2012
	April 2012-June 2012	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peer learning activities • 100 representative portfolios on training firms methods • 1 database of resource persons in methods-training firms • 2 leaflets • 1 brochure • 50 participants at Study visits in Austria • 2 Thematic Seminars 	<p>March 2011 March 2011</p> <p><i>February 2011</i> <i>September 2012</i></p> <p><i>March 2011</i> <i>January 2012</i></p>
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study visits in Austria (30 participants) • peer learning activities • Final conference 	<p><i>September 2012</i></p> <p>September- November 2012</p> <p><i>December 2012</i></p>
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 methodological guide for <i>training firm</i> was elaborated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Competence based on the topic of training firm ○ Training of trainers on competence based on the topic of training firm ○ Development of competence based on the topic of training firm ○ Monitoring of competence based on the topic of training firm - 3 sets materials for training modules 	
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 training sessions on the topic of training firm • 1 methodological guide for <i>training firm</i> • 2 Thematic Seminars • Final project conference 	<p>August 2011 - June 2012</p> <p><i>January 2012</i> <i>March 2011</i> <i>January 2012</i></p> <p><i>December 2012</i></p>

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Creativity and Business

Unlocking the Potential

The project partners will make a SWOT analysis for identification of gaps in creative education practices, make studies to mutually understand the context in the two countries as well as the practices and methods used. Then partners will make adaptation, modification, development and translation of training modules. The project also envisages development of an interactive online training platform, its testing through conduction of a test training, as well as practical training in Hungary for trainers.

Project duration: N/A **Status:** Project idea

Participating Countries:  (BG, HU)

Contact: Human Resources Development Agency, Mr. Kalin Minev; hrda@smebg.net

Website: <http://www.bsc.rousse.bg>

ET-struct

Economic Educational Territorial - Structure



ET-struct (Economic Educational Territorial-Structure) will build a Europe-wide network of regional experts and decision makers in the fields of economy and education.

As numerous national and international studies show work force qualifications do not sufficiently match the needs of regional economies. This hinders economic growth, competitiveness and employment and hence is in contradiction to the renewed Lisbon agenda. One identified cause is a general lack of coherence between "the connection of the educational system to the leading edge of technology and business practices".

To overcome this lack of coherence it will be necessary to closely interlink three fundamental factors, which contribute to economic growth, competitiveness and employment: Personal development, economic development, regional development.

Project duration: 01/2010-12/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:  (AT, CZ, DE, SI, UA)

Contact: European Office, Vienna Board of Education; Mr. Stuart Simpson; stuart.simpson@ssr-wien.gv.at

Website: <http://www.etstruct.eu/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative:		When/Until (m/y)
ET-struct (Economic/Educational Territorial-Structure)		
Planned outputs	<p><i>The following outputs can be found at the project homepage under “Publications”</i> www.etstruct.eu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Finalisation of a transnational online / on-site learning platform to train “new-skills-for-new-jobs” called “ET-LearnTrain”</i> www.etstruct.eu / ET-LearnTrain Fully operational since 04/2012 - total visits to date ca. 19290 i.e. ca. 920 visits per week • <i>Finalisation of a transnational management handbook “ET-Academy” , which documents the development, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of the learning platform “ET-LearnTrain”</i> • <i>Finalisation of Pilot Action Type 1 Report to evaluate “ET-LearnTrain” and “ET-Academy”</i> • <i>Finalisation of Joint Policy Guidelines Action Plan “ET-Strategy and Action”, which describes the setting up of regional knowledge triangles connecting regional politics, the regional labour market, and regional education and training for ongoing regional growth and stability</i> • <i>Finalisation of Pilot Action Type 2 Report to evaluate the feasibility of “ET-Strategy and Action”</i> • <i>Implementation of regional knowledge triangles “ET-Management” in the 10 ET-struct regions</i> 	<p>10/2012</p> <p>10/2012</p> <p>06/2012</p> <p>10/2012</p> <p>6/2012</p> <p>12/2012</p>
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Steering Committee Meeting 5, Modena (IT)</i> • <i>Ongoing Regional Expert Meetings in the 10 ET-struct regions to validate and implement the regional knowledge triangles based on “ET-Strategy and Action” Joint Policy Guidelines Action Plan</i> • <i>Final Steering Committee 6, Vienna (AT)</i> • <i>Final Transnational Conference to present the results and outputs of ET-struct, Vienna (AT)</i> 	<p>14-15.6.2012</p> <p>06-12/2012</p> <p>26-27.11.2012</p> <p>28.11.2012</p>
Outputs to date	<p><i>The following outputs can be found at the project homepage under “Publications”</i> www.etstruct.eu</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of a transnational dynamic inventory of the educational and economic situations (“ET-Inventory”) in the 10 ET-struct regions. “ET-Inventory” was then used as the basis to develop the transnational online / on-site learning platform to train “new-skills-for-new-jobs” called “ET-LearnTrain” www.etstruct.eu / ET-LearnTrain • Preliminary versions of “ET-LearnTrain”, “ET-Academy”, Pilot Actions Type 1 and 2 Concepts, and “ET-Strategy and Action” (see above) 	02/2011 03/2011 - 06/2012
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Presentation at the CENTRAL EUROPE Lead Applicants Briefing Workshops, Warsaw (PL) and Milan (IT) • Steering Committee Meeting 4, Vienna (AT) • Project Presentation (“ET-LearnTrain” learning platform) at the international Entrepreneurship Summit, Vienna (AT) • Project Presentation at Regional Event, Novo mesto (SI) • Project Meeting with preliminary results of Pilot Action Type 1 evaluation (“ET-LearnTrain” and “ET-Academy”), Novo mesto (SI) • Project Presentation at Regional Stakeholders Event, Vienna (AT) 	6/2011 7/2011 11/2011 11/2011 04/2012 04/2012 04/2012

Innovative Competency-Oriented E-learning in Tourism - ICOELIT

The purpose of this project is to strengthen the use of ICTs by developing an e-learning tool which will promote innovative tourism practices and lifelong learning skills. The target groups which will benefit from the e-learning tool are university students, teachers and professionals in tourism. The project also aims at transferring skills, knowledge and experience in the field of tourism as a way of promoting professional development and bridging the gap between the worlds of work and education.

Project duration: 11/2012-11/2015 **Status:** Planned project

Participating Countries:    (AT, BG, RO)

Contact: BSC SME, Ruse, Bulgaria, Ms Katya Goranova; bsc@smebg.net

E-Log - Online Competency-Oriented Education in Logistics

The main objective of the project: is to develop a new methodology for an online qualification platform incorporating the expertise of the partners in order to foster the organisation of an e-learning community in the field of logistics.

The project specific objectives:

- Transnational co-operation in the creation of innovative tools and practices for life-long learning;
- Complementing the traditional forms of education with an innovative online educational environment which is much more accessible to students;
- Improvement of the education, awareness, career prospects of students by the introduction of E-learning platforms;
- Partnerships between educational institutions, businesses, organizations and society;
- Provision of a high level of accessibility to various groups of learners;
- Gathering professional-oriented classmates who are truly dedicated to make progress within a certain field and study together in the E-learning platform;
- Flexible scheduling of online educational environment;
- A completely feasible 24/7 E-learning platforms where students can study and train themselves within the online environment;
- Providing opportunities to employees, disabled and elderly people, migrants, and ethnic minorities.

Project duration: 01/2012-12/2013 **Status:** Planned project

Participating Countries:    (BG, DE, RO)

Contact: Human Resources Development Agency (HRDA - Bulgaria), Ms. Kalin Minev; hrda@smebg.net

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Work area 4

“To support lifelong learning and expanding learning mobility” (Actions 4 and 5 curr.)

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.¹ 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.

¹ Coordination should be sought with the European Training Foundation (ETF).

Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital



Task Force Fostering & Building Human Capital
of the Regional Cooperation Council

Capacity Building Mobility Programme

The Mobility Programme for Capacity Building in Regional Cooperation is designed as a support measure and a capacity building instrument for civil servants, who are acquainted and have experience with managing regional activities and programmes in education, science and research, and act as contact points for the existing networks of cooperation. The programme allows participants, as well as the hosting institutions, to gain insight into work and working methods of other ministries or organizations involved in regional cooperation.

Project start: 06/2008 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Danube Region Countries:  (AT, BA, BG, HR, MD, ME, RO, RS)

Contact: KulturKontakt Austria, Ms. Marija Soronda; marija.soronda@kulturkontakt.or.at

Website: <http://www.taskforcehumancapital.info>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the Regional Cooperation Council Capacity Building Mobility Programme		When/Until (m/y)
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional stakeholder empowerment and strengthening sustainable regional partnerships within regional ministries responsible for education, science and research 	Annually since 2008
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TF Capacity Building Mobility Programme 2012 Phase 	Autumn 2012
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2008 TF organizes annually a Mobility Programme designed to foster capacities within the respective SEE Ministries responsible for education, science and research of the Istanbul Memorandum of Understanding in SEE. The aim of the programme is to strengthen the already existing, and create new networks of relevance for regional cooperation in education and research. The programme offers short-term placements in Belgrade, Chisinau, Sarajevo, Sofia, Vienna, and Zagreb at institutions responsible for international cooperation in the field of education, science and research. The programme allows participants, as well as the hosting institutions, to gain insight into work and working methods of other ministries or organizations involved in regional cooperation. 	Autumn 2008/09/10/11
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual organization of the Capacity Building Mobility Programme 	Autumn 2008/09/10/11

Training on competence based assessment for VET teachers

The project aim is to develop the competencies of 600 VET teachers in the domain of competence based assessment. In the on-going project, a number of 4 training programmes will be 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

Project duration: 10/2010-02/2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, RO)

Contact: TVET Centre, Ms. Dana Stroie; dana.stroie@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.tvet.ro/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: <i>Training on competence based assessment for VET teachers</i>		When/Until (m/y)	
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 VET teachers trained on <i>Competence based assessment</i> • 570 teachers certified on <i>Competence based assessment</i> • 42 representative portfolios on <i>Competence based assessment</i> 	September - December 2012	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 teachers trained and certified on <i>Training of trainers on competence based assessment</i> • 10 representative portfolios on <i>Training of trainers on competence based assessment</i> 	February - April 2013	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80 teachers trained and certified on <i>Development of competence based assessment instruments</i> • 16 representative portfolios on <i>Development of competence based assessment instruments</i> 	March- June 2013	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42 teachers trained and certified on <i>Training on monitoring of competence based assessment</i> • 10 representative portfolios on <i>Training on monitoring of competence based assessment</i> 	September - December 2013	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 database of resource persons in competence based assessment 	March 2014	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 newsletters 	2012 - 2014	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 participants at Study visits in Austria 	March - June 2014
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Thematic Seminar • 40 training sessions on <i>Competence based assessment</i> • 6 training sessions on <i>Training of trainers on competence based assessment</i> • 9 training sessions on <i>Development of competence based assessment instruments</i> • 6 training sessions on <i>Training on monitoring of competence based assessment</i> • <i>Second Thematic Seminar</i> • <i>Study visits in Austria</i> • <i>Third Thematic seminar</i> • <i>Final conference</i> 	<p>September 2013</p> <p>September - December 2012</p> <p>February - April 2013</p> <p>March- June 2013</p> <p>September - December 2013</p> <p>June 2013</p> <p>March - June 2014</p> <p>February 2014</p> <p>April 2014</p>
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 sets of learning outcomes, 4 training programmes, 4 handbooks on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Competence based assessment ○ Training of trainers on competence based assessment ○ Development of competence based assessment instruments ○ Monitoring of competence based assessment training programmes 	23.04.2012
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Initial project conference</i> 	June 2012

Improving quality assurance (QA) in Vocational Education and Training (VET) through schools' networks

The project aims to improve quality assurance in VET training programmes through VET schools networks. In the on-going project, a training programme for school managers, quality assurance coordinators and inspectors will be developed and implemented. Peer learning activities between schools inside each VET domain are envisaged

Project duration: 10/2010-02/2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:  (AT, RO)

Contact: TVET Centre, Ms. Dana Stroeie; dana.stroeie@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.tvet.ro/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: <i>Improving quality assurance (QA) in Vocational Education and Training (VET) through schools' networks</i>		When/Until (m/y)
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Guide of good practice in IVET schools • 1 strategy for implementing EQAVET in Romania • 48 peer learning visits in IVET schools • 16 peer reviews in IVET schools 	June 2013 May 2013 September - December 2012 February 2013
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First project conference • 2 study visits in Austria • 16 training sessions on <i>Improving quality assurance through schools' network</i> 	May 2012 May - June 2012 September - December 2011
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 methodology for schools' selection in the networks • 1 comparative analysis on implementing Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQAVET) in Member States • 1 methodology for implementing EQAVET in national context • 1 methodology for development of schools' networks in IVET • 16 schools' networks developed on different VET domains • 1 accredited training programme on <i>Improving quality assurance through schools' networks</i> • 234 persons trained and certified in <i>Improving quality assurance through schools' networks</i> • 1 project site • 16 platforms (1 for each schools' network) fully functional • 30 participants in study visits in Austria 	23.04.2012

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Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 peer learning visits in IVET schools 	March -June 2012
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CEEPUS

Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies



The CEEPUS - Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies is a multilateral exchange programme with Central and Eastern Europe, which was initiated by Austria in 1995. It is a transnational Central European university network, which is composed of different individual subject-specific networks.

At present CEEPUS unites universities from 16 Central and Eastern European countries in the framework of networks consisting of at least three higher education institutions from at least two different contractual countries.

Project duration: 05/2011-04/2018 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Danube Region Countries: 
(AT, BA, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, ME, RO, RS, SI, SK)

Contact: Central CEEPUS Office Vienna, Ms. Elisabeth Sorantin;
elisabeth.sorantin@ceepus.info

Website: <http://www.ceepus.info/>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: CEEPUS - Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies		When/Until (m/y) April 30, 2018
Planned outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint PhD Programs • exchange actions in the framework of CEEPUS networks (priority) and Freemovers • summer schools • intensive courses • excursions • internships 	
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Fall 2012:</u> 2nd CEEPUS III Senior Officials ' Meeting; Discussion of CEEPUS Work Program 2013-15. • Exchange for 2012/13 to start in Sept. 2012 • 18th Meeting of the Joint Committee of Ministers on March 15, 2013 	

Work Area 4 - Lifelong Learning and Mobility

	<p>in Vienna <u>Chair: Austria</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Accreditation Agencies to discuss easier procedure for CEEPUS Joint Degrees (still in 2012)
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approx. 35.000 persons exchanged since 1995 <u>Operative in 2011/12: 61 networks (800 participating units)</u> <u>2012/13: 66 networks (879 participating units)</u> Scholarship months available for <u>2011/12: 6065</u> for <u>2012/13: 6075</u>
Main events to date (starting June 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Fall 2011: Negotiations with MSUC (Moscow State University for Civil Engineering) to be included as Silent Partner</u> <u>1st CEEPUS III Senior Officials´ Meeting in Ljubljana, Dec 2011: discussion of pledges for 2012/13, fine tuning of common procedures in 16 countries, discussion of further EUSDR activities.</u> <u>January 2012: Ministers´ Prize Selection for best network - award in 2012</u> <u>19th Meeting of the International Commission, Zagreb, March 2012: network selection 2012/13</u> <u>March, April, May 2012: National CEEPUS day in HR, CZ and AT. (Additional meetings later during the year.)</u> <u>Spring 2012: selection of this year´s 3 winners of the competition “europe now” initiated by the Central CEEPUS Office in 2008</u>

Cluster on Development of National Qualification Frameworks

Fostering shared European standards in education and training by focusing on development of NQFs with emphasis on recognition of prior learning - validation of informal and non formal learning and cooperation on self-certification process - quality assurance assessment. The outcome is heightened understanding, enhanced expertise and forging partnerships that will contribute to better design and implementation of the above outlined segments, thus contributing to the successful integration into a wider European area of education. Taking this into account, peer learning seminars, meetings and workshops should be organised on topics identified as project objectives.

Project duration: 2012-2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries: (BA, HR, MD, ME, RO)

Contact: Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Ms. Daria Arlavi; daria.arlavi@mzos.hr

Website: <http://public.mzos.hr>

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Work area 5

“To promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship through education and training” (Action 5 NEW)

Education and training systems should enable all individuals to acquire and develop skills and competences required for their employability and to foster tolerance, intercultural dialogue and non-discrimination. Equal opportunities in learning can contribute towards the social inclusion of individuals from minorities and vulnerable groups, and active citizenship. Barriers for drop-outs to return to education and training need to be removed as well as preventive approaches and cooperation between education sectors strengthened. Mutual learning on best practices should be developed.

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EdTWIN

Education Twinning for European Citizenship in the Centrope Region



Schooling, Vocation and Language were the three main areas of EdTWIN project activities. Students, aged 6 to 19, and educators have been involved in projects focusing on personal encounters. Essential tools for successful cross-border co-operation are the languages of the partners. Therefore EdTWIN offered opportunities for students and educators to acquire basic skills in the neighbouring languages. Based on the CENTROPE key-message: “Growing together - together we grow” vocational education played an important role. EdTWIN promotes and supports cross-border exchange of experience. Future citizens of the CENTROPE region therefore, have acquired the competences needed for joint successful regional development.

Project duration: 05/2008-12/2011 **Status:** Completed project

Participating Countries:  (AT, CZ, HU, SK)

Contact: Ms. Petra Feichtinger; petra.feichtinger@edtwin.eu

Website: <http://www.edtwin.eu/>

CoDeS

EU-Comenius multilateral network "Collaboration of Schools and Communities for Sustainable Development"



The network focuses on school-community collaboration addressing sustainability. These activities provide 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 wish to provide a platform modified with an inclusive approach. We aim to investigate various aspects of maintaining collaborative structures and involving with isolated communities. These resources will be available to the public.

Project duration: 10/2011-09/2014 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Countries:  (AT, HR, HU, RO, SI)

Contact: Austrian Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture, Mr. Günther Pfaffenwimmer; guenther.pfaffenwimmer@bmukk.gv.at

Website: <http://comenius-codes.eu/>

aces - Academy of Central European Schools



Academy of Central European Schools

The general aim of ACES is to establish and consolidate a network of shared knowledge, mutual learning and innovation which offers concrete opportunities for mobility, dialogue, exchange and cooperation of young people, schools and educational institutions from 15 Central and South Eastern European countries. The programme is furthermore characterised by its continuous development based on contributions by all partners on different levels.

The annual project competition and support scheme gives school students (aged 12-17 years, all school types) and teachers the opportunity to develop and implement international school projects and to learn from one another by fostering intercultural dialogue and cross-border cooperation.

Project duration: 01/2011-06/2012 **Status:** Ongoing Project

Participating Countries: (AT, BA, BG, CZ, HR, HU, MD, ME, RO, RS, SI, SK)

Contact: Interkulturelles Zentrum Vienna, Ms.Christine Gamper; tine.gamper@iz.or.at

Website: <http://www.aces.or.at>

Name of Project/Network/Initiative: ACES - Academy of Central European Schools (project cycle 2011/2012 and 2012/2013)		When/Until (m/y) <i>Status May 2012</i>
Planned outputs	aces 2011/2012 & similar for aces 2012/2013: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful launch of the aces call for international school partnership projects (2011: 132 project applications with 290 schools from the region involved) • Funding and support of 43 international school partnership projects involving 103 schools from 15 partner countries; topic “volunteering” • Number of directly involved students in the projects: 3.800; number of directly involved teachers in the projects: 570 • 2 international network events with 220 resp. 350 participants (students and teachers, trainers/experts, stakeholders, media); to bring participants together & train them on project management and educational topics (methods etc.), to evaluate project work and good practice • Reports on international events including exercises, methods & 24 documented Workshops on various topics & collection of background material for topic of the year; all available on ACES-website • 2 Cooperation meetings with project partners: representatives of ministries in charge for education of all partner countries • 1 Strategy meeting with ACES stakeholders including 8 aces council members (=students & teachers from 	02/2011 09/2011-03/2012 09/2011-03/2012 09/2011; 03/2012 09/2011; 03/2012 06/2011; 03/2012 12/2012

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the partner countries as consultants) • Yearly online newsletter • Online aces project documentation (archive) • Several activities to foster “participation”: 6 aces tutors (=students supporting the event facilitator team), Open Academy at events (=students & teachers offering workshops for peers), aces Council (=advisory group of 8 students & teachers) 	<p>11/2011 03/2012</p> <p>09/2011; 03/2012; 12/2012</p>
Next steps/events in 2012 and 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication “Thoughts for ACES”: contributions from 15 known authors/artists of partner countries (aces project call 2012) • Cooperation meeting with representatives of education ministries of partner countries • aces Kick-off Meeting (international network event) with 11 workshops and other training activities • Funding and support of approx. 44 new aces school projects • Strategy and Council meeting • Academy (international network event) with 16 workshops and other training activities • aces project call 2013 • Cooperation meeting with representatives of education ministries of partner countries • aces Kick-off Meeting (international network event) with 11 workshops and other training activities 	<p>06/2012</p> <p>02/2012 05/2012</p> <p>09/2012</p> <p>09/2012-03/2013</p> <p>11/2012 04/2013</p> <p>02/2013 06/2012</p> <p>09/2013</p>
Outputs to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network growth 2006-2012 from initially 8 to 15 partner countries • Continuous cooperation and meetings with project partners: representatives of the Ministries of Education of the partner countries • Short- and Long-term cooperation with ca. 70 trainers/experts (resource persons) of different fields coming from various institutions of the region (NGOs, Universities, Media, Youth work etc.) for the international network meetings • Number of schools from partner countries involved in awarded projects: 340 • Number of students in awarded aces projects: 19.300 • Number of teachers in awarded aces projects: 2.640 • (out of project people) Number of participants in aces international network meetings including trainings and workshops: approx. 2.400 • ACES website: information and platform, • facebook site • Reports on international events including exercises, methods & around 50 documented Workshops on various topics/approaches - all available on ACES-website for further use of interested schools/teachers/audience • Publication “The travel Guide to aces” • Info short films on aces, partly created by participants 	<p>07/2006 -05/2012</p> <p>Since 2007</p> <p>since 2007</p> <p>since 2007 since 2007</p> <p>Since 2007 Since 2010 Since 2007</p> <p>2009 2010; 2011; 2012</p>

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Main events to date (starting June 2011)	• Cooperation meeting with representatives of education ministries of partner countries	06/2011
	• aces Kick-off Meeting (international network event) with 11 workshops and other training activities	09/2011
	• Funding and support of approx. 44 new aces school projects	09/2011-03/2012
	• Strategy and Council meeting	11/2011
	• Academy (international network event) with 16 workshops and other training activities	03/2012
	• aces project call 2013	02/2012
	• Continuous networking amongst school project partners (involving partner visits) and other (local) partners and/or aces network schools	

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Work area 6

“To improve cross-sector policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges” (Action 6)

Enhanced efforts should be pursued 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, such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with their existing analysis and recommendations, would be particularly useful.

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FAMO



Monitoring of Skilled Workers

The project is based on a regular survey of supply and demand of skilled workers at the border region of eastern Austria and Slovakia. The surveys are conducted under companies about their staffing requirements, especially on skilled workers, as well as the internationalization plans and future cooperations within the region. Another part of FAMO are surveys under the working age population about their willingness of working abroad and on their qualification. The objective is to develop options for measures of upgrading training and retraining.

Project duration: 08/2008-07/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:   (AT, SK)

Contact: Paul Lazarsfeld-Society for Social Research, Ms. Michaela Hudler-Seitzberger; michaela.hudler@plg.at

Website: <http://www.famo.at/>

Central European Knowledge Platform for an Ageing Society (CE-Ageing Platform)



The CE-Ageing Platform aims to contribute to minimise negative effects and impacts of demographic trends on an ageing society and economy, to improve framework conditions (e.g. programmes, regulations) by adapting policies, governance processes and mechanisms to demographic change; reduce regional disparities as well as spatial segregation of target groups by providing a platform for exchanging knowledge on practices between urban and rural areas, between national and regional levels as well as at the transnational level; make better use of the existing endogenous potentials of an increasingly diverse and aging workforce by raising awareness on demographic change, developing ageing strategies as well as state-of-the-art training concepts; promote new service designs and up-grade skills and knowledge of the target group to meet the demands of SMEs as well as to contribute to sustainable change by establishing a joint strategy; joint 'Forum on Ageing in Central Europe' as well as development of an CENTRAL EUROPE AGE-Strategy; establishment of Regional Ageing Platforms; implementation of innovative measures/services for SMEs in the area of diversity management, life-long learning (LLL), work-life-balance and health.

Project duration: 01/2011-12/2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Danube Region Countries:       (AT, CZ, DE, HU, SK, SI)

Contact: Chamber of Labour Upper Austria, Ms. Tanja Bogner; bogner.t@akoee.at

Website: <http://www.ce-ageing.eu/>

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Re-Turn - Regions benefitting from returning migrants



To create framework conditions for retaining human capital and to counter brain drain, Re-Turn aims at pushing the topic of return migration on the political agenda in CE regions. The project provides an account of the extent of return migration, competences and needs of returning migrants as well as concrete measures to promote remigration as a source to foster knowledge development. Re-Turn is developing, testing and implementing joint strategies, new support policies, tools and services in participating regions to achieve this in a sustainable way. Re-Turn's main activities are linked to development and implementation of services needed to support migrants in their wish to return as well as promotion of returning migrants as a source of innovative enterprise development. Main outputs will help to achieve sustainable services and support structures to promote return migration (online-tool presenting regional and national remigration trends, handbook with transnational management tools to promote return migration, long-term implemented monitoring tools and support services for return migration).

Project duration: 05/2011-04/2014 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Danube Region Countries:  (AT, CZ, DE, HU, SI)

Contact: Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Mr. Thilo Lang; t_lang@ifl-leipzig.de

Website: <http://www.re-migrants.eu/>

Migration and Socio-economic Development in Western Balkans (MIDWEB)



IOM contributes through MIDWEB to the reconstruction and development of the participating countries. This is realized by temporarily placing higher educated professionals who originate from these countries and live in Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The project is demand driven and the focus is on capacity building of local organizations in identified sectors. The project aims to strengthen and increase the capacity of the network of Migrant Service Centres in the Western Balkans in order to ensure efficient dissemination of information about legal channels for migration among potential labour migrants and to provide opportunities for return of skills and human capital and their contribution to the development of the Western Balkans to the mutual benefit of migrants and countries of origin.

Project duration: 03/2011-11/2012 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Danube Region Countries:  (BA, ME, RS)

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Contact: IOM; for Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro: Ms. Zia Gulam; zgulam@iom.int

For Serbia and UNSC Resolution 1244 administered Kosovo: Mr. Hans Eijkhout; heijkhout@iom.int

Website: <http://www.tvrmidweb.org/>

Capacity Building of Institutions involved in Migration Management and Reintegration of Returnees in the Republic of Serbia



The overall objective of the project was to contribute to the establishment of a Migration Management Framework in the Republic of Serbia in line with the EU acquis on Serbia's road to the accession to EU. Through its five components, the action aimed to strengthen the capacity of central and local institutions to align with the EU standards for migration management and the reintegration of returnees. It intended to assess the implementation of the Strategy for Migration Management, to draft an Action Plan on Migration for the period of 2012-2013, to improve the data collection mechanisms and the systems for sharing data relevant to migration management, furthermore to meet specific training needs of local and central authorities, to support the capacity of national and local authorities to plan, monitor and carry out the reintegration process for returnees and finally, the project aimed at raising awareness among Government, policy makers, media, academia, civil society and the public at large on the dynamics and significance of migration within Serbia. Conferences and seminars were organized with the aim at capacity building of government institutions dealing with migration management.

Project duration: 11/2010-11/2011 **Status:** Completed project

Participating Countries:  (RS)

Contact: IOM Serbia, Mr. Tommaso De Cataldo; tcataldo@iom.int

Website: <http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/serbia>

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Work area 7

“To fight poverty and social exclusion of marginalised communities in the Danube Region, especially the Roma communities” (Action 7 and 8 curr.)

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 marginalised 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.² 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 Roma Decade (2005-2015), EU Roma platform for Roma Inclusion³, EU-Roma network and NGOs active in this field in the Danube Region is indispensable for improving the situation for Roma.

² In particular such actions could focus on the eradicating of child poverty, improving equity in education programs (from early childhood to postgraduate training), reducing the number of early school leavers, providing access to health care, promoting active inclusion in the labour market, making efforts to provide decent housing for everyone, tackling indebtedness or on providing conducted training programs for local officials on governance of multiethnic communities.

³ The Roma Inclusion Platform was endorsed and launched during the Czech Presidency in October 2008. Its main objective is to call governments and main stakeholders to debate Roma inclusion, on topics such as education, health and housing, meeting on a twice-yearly basis.

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European Network on Social Inclusion and Roma under the Structural Funds (EURoma)



EURoma is a European Network made up of representatives of twelve EU-Member States, determined to promote the use of Structural Funds to enhance the effectiveness of policies targeting Roma people and to promote their social inclusion. The primary aims of EURoma are the sharing of strategies, initiatives and approaches, learning based on experience and best practices, and the dissemination and standardisation of such knowledge.

In line with these objectives, two working lines are undertaken:

- Transmission and exchange of information, through internal and external communication channels
- Mutual learning: sharing of approaches and strategies, identification and transfer of experiences, creation of a forum for the organisation and management of projects, development of common and transversal products.

Project start: 07/2007 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Danube Region Countries:  (AT, BG, CZ, HU, RO, SK)

Contact: EURoma Technical Secretariat; info@euromanet.eu

Website: www.euromanet.eu

NSRS in the Danube Region

This project idea under the lead of the Romanian Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sport aims at supporting the access to education of children/youngsters from Danube Region, especially of Roma. A network of specialists for Roma Support (NSRS) will be established in all participating countries and will put all those specialists in contact in order to be able to train and counselling the teachers from the targeted communities and also to counselling the children/youngsters and the parents. The final aim of their efforts will be the increase of children/youngsters school participation and their school success rate.

Project duration: N/A **Status:** Project idea

Participating Countries:  (BG, RO, RS)

Contact: Ministry of Education, Ms. Tania Sandu; tania.sandu@medu.edu.ro

Website: tba

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THARA Novi Vidici

This project carries out activities to address the particular situation of Roma in the field of unemployment. It aims at the empowerment of the Roma community through infotainment, career advisory services, social counselling, workshops and the improving of public awareness within the Roma community regarding the activities carried out in the project. A multilateral aspect of THARA Novi Vidici results from the fact that a part of the target group are former refugees.

Project duration: 02/2012-01/2013 **Status:** Ongoing project

Participating Countries:  (AT)

Contact: Volkshilfe Österreich, Ms. Verena Fabris; verena.fabris@volkshilfe.at

Website: <http://www.volkshilfe.at/1462,,2.html>

Work area 8

“To promote gender equality on the labour market, especially in payment”
(Action 8 NEW)

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.

(No projects yet identified.)