

## Working Groups

### Format

Participants are invited to join one of the workshops to exchange current policies and identify requirements and needs to face future challenges and developments. In this context participants are also invited to find new opportunities for wider cooperation and closer collaboration.

To set the stage each workshop will start with an introduction of the current framework and good practise examples of projects by experts and project leaders. The workshop hosts provide the group with further input, lead the discussion, summarize the thoughts and ideas. The discussions will be summarized and an overview of the main outputs of the workshop will be given in the plenum.

### **1. Increasing Quality and Efficiency of Education and Training: Better Skills in Better Jobs**

*High-quality (vocational) education and training systems contribute to improving the framework for investments and economic growth by increasing the availability of qualified human resources. Attractive and inclusive VET systems, which integrate well-functioning elements of work-based learning, also help to reduce youth unemployment. Building partnerships between education, economy and labour market is essential in matching better skills in better jobs. The aim of this workshop is to share and debate about key policy priorities, challenges as well as applicable approaches and projects within the context of the EUSDR agenda of investing in people and skills.*

Moderator: Ulrike Damyanovic, European Training Foundation

Inputs: **Strengthening VET Systems through Regional Cooperation in Work-based Learning**

Tina Saric, Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe

**Fostering Cooperation between Schools and the Business Sector**

Monika Mott, KulturKontakt Austria

### **2. Improving Educational Outcomes and Inclusion**

*The development of skills and competences in areas of strategic importance for economic and social development is of highest priority for Danube Region countries. By promoting social innovation and entrepreneurial mind-sets, education and skills investments can help to positively reshape economies. Education is also a key driver to prevent social exclusion and to advance goals such as social and democratic participation. The workshop will present and discuss relevant policy priorities and how educational outcomes can be improved through formal and non-formal learning pathways as well as by fostering social innovation and entrepreneurship.*

Moderator: Christina Kasparyan, Business Support Center for SMEs - Ruse

Inputs: **Learning Pathways to Social Cohesion**

Marco Frimberger, Interkulturelles Zentrum

**Strengthening Social Innovation and Entrepreneurial Spirit**

Judit Makkos-Káldi, Vienna Board of Education

### **3. Active Labour Market Policies – Know How Exchange as a Key for Success**

*The experiences of 5 years of cooperation within the EUSDR show that networking and learning from each other are relevant instruments to be successful in the development of new instruments in the field of active labour market policies. Therefore different types of projects – one with the focus on vocational training and one with the focus on higher education - will be presented and discussed in the workshop. The aims are to define current common topics and to enhance networks on the topic of labour market policy to support the development of new projects in the Danube Region.*

Moderator: Barbara Willsberger, L&R Social Research, Austria

Inputs: **Vocational Training Center for the Construction Industry in Moldova**  
Viorica Corlat-Tucan, CALLIDUS-Instituț ie de învăț ământ pentru adulți în Republica Moldova

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

Monika Burkard, EFE - European Foundation for Education e.V.

### **4. Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion with a Focus on Roma**

*The goal of the workshop is to put a specific focus on the empowering of groups in risk of poverty to raise their chances in the fields of education, training and employment. Therefore projects with a focus on vocational education for marginalized groups will be presented and discussed in the workshop. The aims of the workshop are to define current common topics and to enhance networks to support the development of new projects.*

Moderator: Lydia Anstiss, Volkshilfe Österreich

Project input: **Inclusion of Roma children in education and better employment possibilities of young Roma in Danube region (EduEmpD)**  
Anica Novak and Nada Trunk Širca, Institute for romological studies, education and culture

**Centre for Education and Vocational Training Concordia**  
Ramona Gotteszman, Concordia Romania