

## Minutes

### Workshop “Danube Region Monitor”

#### Priority Area 9 “Investing in People and Skills” (PA9)

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2019

Venue: K+K Hotel Maria Theresia, Kirchberggasse 6, 1070 Vienna

Participants: 31 participants from 11 countries of the Danube Region (see Annex list of participants)

#### The Danube Region Monitor – a short Introduction

The Monitor should be a tool for increasing the evidence-base for Danube Region policy-making. Through a workshop with relevant stakeholders and experts indicators to measure relevant changes in the fields of education and training and labour market were selected in December 2017. The monitor will focus on indicators, which are based on quantitative data and on non-qualitative approaches. It was relevant to select indicators, which are available in all countries of the Danube Region and which are easy to assemble, to update and to understand. The indicators were chosen on the base of the targets of PA9, which are:

- Contribution to a higher employment rate in the Danube Region, especially through tackling youth and long-term unemployment (Target 1)
- Contribution to improved educational outcomes and relevant skills and competences in the Danube Region, focusing on learning outcomes for employability, entrepreneurship, innovation, active citizenship and well-being (Target 2)
- Contribution to increased quality and efficiency of education, training and labour market systems (Target 3)
- Contribution to ensuring inclusive education and training and promoting inclusive labour markets, equal opportunities and non-discrimination as well as the promotion of civic competences and lifelong learning opportunities for all (Target 4)

During spring 2018 PA9 worked on the invitation to submit an offer and the terms of reference. In September 2018 öibf (Austrian Institution for Research on Vocational Training) was contracted by KulturKontakt Austria and L&R Social Research.

#### Presentation of first Results (Roland Löffler, öibf)

The presentation of first results on the base of the first draft of the report was structured along the above mentioned targets. (see Annex presentation öibf)

## Conclusions of the Discussion and Next Steps

During the discussion the following **conclusions** were decided:

### General Conclusions:

- It was agreed to add an introduction with a short description of economic development in the region (based on GDP) as well as demographic developments.
- With all indicators a reference to EU28 average should be included.
- If available: add data from 2018
- In the case of the two Regions Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria: use existing EUROSTAT-Data for the two regions. If the indicators are not available on regional level, use the nationwide data for Germany.

### Conclusions to selected indicators:

- **Participation in education:** split into pre-school and primary school (also in regard with ET2020 targets) description of the age of compulsory school
- **Basic Competences/LLL:** also have a look on OECD data, like TIMS, PIRLS, PIACC; Indicator on low achievers (PISA) shall be kept, esp. in relation to the ET 2020 targets.
- **Employment rate by educational attainment:** include further levels in addition to “at least upper secondary education”
- The indicators “**Expenditure on education al labour market systems**” are difficult to compare, because of different data-material included in this indicator – it has to be described carefully; try to link the indicator public expenditure to the outcomes, e.g. quality and efficiency of education systems
- Target 4: **equity aspects** (gender, social/migrant background, age groups etc) should be reported **as far as possible for every indicator**, like educational outcomes, early-school leavers, participation in the labor market etc.

### NEXT STEPS

**Comments to the draft version of the report (see annex) and recommendations/suggestions for the conclusions of the Danube Region Monitor should be sent to PACs9 until 4<sup>th</sup> of July.**

Till end of July the next draft of the report will be finished and will be sent to the participants of the workshop as well as to the Steering Group Members of PA9 to send their feedback and recommendations till September. The final report will be finished by the end of September and the results will be presented and discussed at the final conference (October, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova).

