



Activity Report on the implementation of the ERI SEE Work Programme 2010

August – December 2010

INTRODUCTION

Following the closure of the ERI SEE Agency in Zagreb, in June 2010, the Government of Serbia has expressed interest to become the next host country of the ERI SEE Secretariat and to designate the Centre for Education Policy (CEP) as the institution that will carry out the remainder of the ERI SEE 2010 and 2011 Work Programme, prior to the opening of the new ERI SEE Secretariat. The ERI SEE Governing Board has accepted both of these proposals, therefore paving the way towards the transfer of ERI SEE operations from Zagreb to Belgrade.

The Activity Report on the implementation of the ERI SEE Work Programme 2010 for the period August – December 2010 presents solely the responsibilities of CEP – the implementation of remaining activities planned for 2010, as the acting interim Secretariat.

ERI SEE ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO THE DEFINED OUTPUTS 2008-2010

Output 1: ERI SEE members are informed on lifelong learning initiatives in the region and had the opportunity to develop a common strategy

- 1.1. The third meeting of the South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net) and peer-learning visit to the Netherlands (The Hague, Netherlands, 25-28 October)

The networking of the VET agencies and institutions of SEE initiated at the First Networking Conference (Tirana-Albania, September 2008) continued in 2010 and was supported by ERI SEE.

The third meeting of the SEEVET-Net and peer learning visit were organised by the Centre for Education Policy (CEP) as the ERI SEE Interim Agency and hosted by MBO Raad, the Dutch network of vocational education and training institutions. The meeting and peer learning visit gathered together 17 representatives from the SEE national VET agencies and institutions from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia as well as representatives of MBO Raad and CEP.

The purpose of the peer learning visit was for the SEEVET-Net members to familiarise with the Dutch Vocational Education and Training (VET) system. The visit was organised in three days and it included visits to the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, MBO Raad, Inspectorate of Education, Centre for Expertise VAPRO, and the two Regional Training Centres (RTC), Mondriaan and Zadkine.

At the third meeting, which was organised on the fourth day, each country represented the current and recent activities of the VET agency/centre, as well as its VET system and the work on the VET agency/centre as regards the matter. The country representatives elected new Chair of the SEEVET-Net from the Centre for Vocational Education from Montenegro for the period 2010-2011. The prior responsibility assumed by the newly elected Chair will be signing of the SEEVET-Net Cooperation Agreement. The participants also agreed that some basic formalities as regards the work of the network, such as rules of procedure, minutes from meetings and similar will have to be established all with the aim to professionalise the work of the network. As regards proposition on future cooperation and activities for 2011, the participants proposed that the next SEEVET-Net meeting be held in Moldova. The rationale for this decision was to show regional support to the development of the VET system in Moldova, to provide support to the local VET centre in gaining visibility and recognition in the country, mainly due to the fact that Moldova is currently taking first steps in reforms of vocational education and training and it could learn from mistakes of other countries from the region. As agreed at the meeting the flagship theme for 2011 will be Quality Assurance and Enhancement in VET.

In accordance with the meeting agreements, on December 10, Chair of the SEEVET-Net send amended Cooperation Agreement and Rules of the Procedure of the Network to all VET agencies and institutions of SEE. After comments and statement of approval, the Agreement will be finalized and date of signing will be proposed.

1.2. Update of information on lifelong learning on the ERI SEE website

The activities have been reduced in connection to the website maintenance due to increased workload under shorter time span and significantly lower budget than envisaged.

Output 2: Information on the European Qualification Framework and on the development of National QF in the SEE region has been provided

1.1. Information exchange with the Governing Board and among experts on Qualification Frameworks

The activities have been reduced in connection to the website maintenance due to increased workload under shorter time span and significantly lower budget than envisaged.

1.2. Provision of relevant information on Qualification Frameworks on the ERI SEE Website

The activities have been reduced in connection to the website maintenance due to increased workload under shorter time span and significantly lower budget than envisaged.

1.3. Synergy of the activities with Council of Europe, the European Training Foundation and the OECD

Responsibility for external institutional cooperation lays with the Chairmanship of the ERI SEE Governing Board and the Governing Board itself. However, if participation of the Chairmanship or the Governing Board members cannot be ensured CEP may accept to attend external events. There were not external meetings attended in 2010.

Output 3: The issues of quality and equity in education are promoted and strong networks have been established

1.1. Provision of relevant information on the ERI SEE Website

The activities have been reduced in connection to the website maintenance due to increased workload under shorter time span and significantly lower budget than envisaged.

Output 4: The knowledge triangle (research, education and innovation) has strengthened in South Eastern Europe

1.1. Support to the networking/peer-learning amongst the SEE bodies for quality assurance in higher education

Centre for Education Policy started with preparatory activities for organization of networking event of the national institutions for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Romania. Together with colleagues from Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Bologna Secretariat from Romania, the final Agenda was prepared and all technical details regarding the event were organised. The event is postponed for 2011 due to the lack of funds.

1.2. Provision of selected information on the knowledge triangle

The activities have been reduced in connection to the website maintenance due to increased workload under shorter time span and significantly lower budget than envisaged.

Output 5: The SEE Education Reform Initiative is recognised as a reliable regional partner in the education sector of South Eastern Europe

5.1. Organisation of ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body meetings

The 13th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body was held in Belgrade on 18 October 2010. The meeting was organised by the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat, Centre for Education Policy (CEP). In total 20 participants, members of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body or replacements, representatives of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), the Task Force for Building Human Capital (TFBHC), the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat and the last Director of ERI SEE Agency took part to the meeting.

The meeting addressed: update on RCC novelties; overview of developments regarding the establishment of ERI SEE Secretariat in Republic of Serbia; introduction to the work of the Centre for Education Policy related to the ERI SEE interim period; presentation of ERI SEE Budget and Work Programme for August-December 2010; proposal for 2011 Work Programme; knowledge clusters proposals; structural changes following the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Role and Organization of ERI SEE.

All ERI SEE Consultative Body members and member countries were invited to participate at the meeting, regardless of whether or not they have signed the MoU in June. At the meeting countries were invited to comment on their priorities to effectively develop a more focused ERI SEE Work Programme in the next period. The next Governing Board meeting will be the Constituent meeting of the new Governing Board. According to the new Memorandum of Understanding, the voting rights will belong only to the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding. Non-signatory parties are invited to participate at the meeting as observers without the right to vote. Invitation letter for signing Memorandum of Understanding to non-signatory countries as well as letter for nomination ERI SEE Governing Board members to signatory countries and Consultative Body organisations was sent by the ERI SEE Chair.

5.2. Establishment of two ERI SEE clusters of knowledge

Two knowledge clusters were announced at the 13th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body: Development of National Qualification Frameworks by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Croatia and Modernising VET system by the Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Romania. Both clusters are open to participation of interested countries and organizations and will strive to generate concrete outcomes. The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia expressed interest for the cluster on evidence based policy making. Countries are invited to prepare detailed Work Programme for clusters and to present them at the next meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body. Also, clarifications with regards to ownership of the knowledge clusters as well as division of work between the TFBHC and ERI SEE will have to be given at the future events.

5.3. Enhancement of the ERI SEE visibility and networking

Representatives of the Centre for Vocational Education from Montenegro as a Chair of the SEEVET-Net and representative of the ERI SEE Interim Secretariat took part to the Regional Workshop for Senior Officials and Experts on Cooperation around Clusters of Knowledge which was held from 14 – 15 December 2010 in Sarajevo and hosted by the RCC Secretariat. The workshop enabled a platform for discussion on existing cluster proposals in the field of Vocational Education and Training (VET) and National Qualification Framework (NQF) development. Concrete thematic cluster subtopics, activities and funding option were identified by representatives of SEE region and initial cluster consortia created. At the workshop, Romanian Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports proposed the cluster on “Modernising the VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET”. On this occasion future cooperation and harmonization of activities of SEEVET-Net and activities under the Romanian cluster were announced.

5.4. Improvement of the ERI SEE website

The activities have been reduced in connection to the website maintenance due to increased workload under shorter time span and significantly lower budget than envisaged.

Summary					
Reported period	Year 2010				
First visit	01 Jan 2010 - 00:01				
Last visit	31 Dec 2010 - 23:56				
	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
	<= 27128	51203	427742	671791	11.79 GB
Viewed traffic *	Exact value not available in 'Year' view	(1.88 visits/visitor)	(8.35 Pages/Visit)	(13.12 Hits/Visit)	(241.5 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			663074	824634	28.43 GB

* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or replies with special HTTP status codes.



The statistics of the traffic viewed on the ERI SEE web site January – December 2010

5.5. Planning and reporting activities

Progress reports (activity and financial reports) for the period January - June 2010 were presented at the 13th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body. The ERI SEE Activity and Financial reports covering the above mentioned period were approved by the Governing Board members in a distance voting procedure.

Progress reports (activity and financial reports) for the period August – December 2010 will be elaborated and presented to the members of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body at the 14th meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board.

5.6. ERI SEE Development Actions (transformation into an international organisation and adjustment of the political commitment)

Following the closure of the ERI SEE Agency in Zagreb, in June 2010, the Government of Serbia has expressed interest to become the next host country of the ERI SEE Secretariat and to designate the Centre for Education Policy (CEP) as the institution that will carry out the remainder of the ERI SEE 2010 and 2011 Work Programme, prior to the opening of the new ERI SEE Secretariat. The ERI SEE Governing Board has accepted both of these proposals, therefore paving the way towards the transfer of ERI SEE operations from Zagreb to Belgrade.

On 16 and 17 September 2010 in Zagreb, representatives of the Centre for Education Policy had a technical handover meeting with the last Director of ERI SEE Agency and the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia. The meeting addressed issues concerning with budget programming and reporting, as well as activity planning and communication procedures.

On 7 September 2010, the first Working Meeting for Establishment of the ERI SEE Secretariat in Serbia was held in Belgrade. Representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Croatia, Task Force for Building Human Capital and ERI SEE Interim Secretariat took part to the meeting. The meeting focused on a row of imminent issues tied to the opening of the new ERI SEE Secretariat in Serbia and establishing CEP as the interim solution. The meeting outlined several topics which were discussed at the 13th Governing Board and Consultative Body meeting.