

Updating Priorities and Fine-Tuning of the ERI SEE Instruments for Enhanced Regional Cooperation

- Invitation to SEE countries to express interest for work in clusters -

The 1st meeting of the Working Group (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 7-8 October) provided a platform for discussion on the development perspectives of ERI SEE, including the enhancement of the regional cooperation at content level. The recommendations include re-shaping the ERI SEE work by identifying the ways to increase its added value and contribution to the specific processes which are on-going in different SEE countries and focus on:

- Identification of priority areas in which mutual learning and exchange of good practice would be valuable.
- Fine-tuning of the ERI SEE instruments¹ for regional cooperation:
 - The seminars and workshops which were the most frequently used ERI SEE instruments for peer-learning to be enriched with increased number of peer-learning visits.
 - Establishing peer learning clusters of ERI SEE countries, European countries, as well as international organisations and institutions, interested in specific topics of education and training.
 - Continuation of the support to the networking of the newly established national institutions in SEE (e.g. SEE VET network, the network of centres for external evaluation in primary and secondary education, the centres for quality assurance and accreditation in higher education, the ENIC/NARIC centres).

In response to the need for diversified ERI SEE cooperation, shaped around topics identified by SEE countries as relevant for mutual learning and regional exchange of experience & good practice, depending on the specific phase of national reforms in education and training, use of the positive experience and the praxis developed under the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme on developing peer-learning clusters was recommended. Clusters of countries and other interested parties are built around thematic areas with potential for mutual learning that would help the advancement of the reforms in the national education and training systems². Within each cluster, specific peer-learning topics are agreed, around which the activities of the cluster are developed. The Working Group recommended building smaller clusters within which the participating countries will try to formulate solutions with regard to the topics approached.

The members of the ERI SEE Governing Board are invited to identify updated priorities for regional cooperation and to further elaborate potential areas for SEE clustering, including identifying themes along which the peer learning would be organized within each specific cluster. The countries are also invited to articulate their interest to lead certain clusters.

In light of the preparations for the discussion on the development perspectives of ERI SEE at the Eleventh meeting of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body, the members of the Governing Board are invited to submit the proposals by November 12.

Enclosed to the invitation is the summary table of the initiatives for priorities for regional cooperation, potential clustering and peer-learning topics within the clusters. The potential clusters are currently presented along the ERI SEE thematic areas 2008-2010.

¹ Currently, seminars, workshops on thematic areas, peer-learning visits, Internet based, e-moderated forums on thematic areas, ERI SEE blog and the most frequently used ERI SEE instruments.

² Clustering will continue to be an important instrument within the 'ET 2020'², too.