

The 3rd meeting of the South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network

October 28, 2010, Woerden, the Netherlands

The third meeting of the South Eastern Europe Regional VET Network (SEEVET-Net) took place in The Netherlands and it was hosted by MBO Raad, the Dutch network of vocational education and training institutions. This report is produced by the [Centre for Education Policy](#), the hosting institution of the [ERI SEE](#) secretariat at the time of the visit.

The following countries' representatives participated in the meeting:

Country	Name and Surname	Institution	Position
Albania	Ilija Paluka	National VET Agency	Director, Chair of SEEVET-Net
Albania	Marsela Robo	National VET Agency	Specialist for curriculum and teacher training
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Slavica Ivosevic	Agency for preschool, primary and secondary education - Department for VET	Deputy director and Head of VET Department
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Zlatan Buljko	Federal Ministry of Education and Science	Professional Advisor for HE Reform and International Relations
Croatia	Darko Belovic	Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia - Department for Vocational Education	Senior expert advisor for educational programs in technical schools in Directorate for Secondary Education
Macedonia	Zeqir Zeqiri	Vocational Education and Training Center	Director
Macedonia	Lidushka Vasileska	Vocational Education and Training Center	Adviser for health education
Moldova	Mihai Balan	Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova	Head of Department of International Relation and European Integration
Moldova	Octavian Vasilachi	Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova	Head of Department of Vocational Education
Montenegro	Dusko Rajkovic	Centre for Vocational Education	Director
Montenegro	Nada Sekaric	Centre for Vocational Education	Legal secretary

Montenegro	Ivana Mihailovic	Centre for Vocational Education	Adviser for international cooperation and public relations
Serbia	Jelena Jakovljevic	Institute for Improvement of Education - Center for Vocational and Adult Education	Advisor-coordinator for Development of Qualifications
Serbia	Milica Gerasimovic	Institute for Improvement of Education - Center for Vocational and Adult Education	Advisor-coordinator for Vocational Education

The meeting was also attended by Ms. Nevena Adzic and Jelena Brankovic from the Centre for Education Policy, as well as Mr. Manfred Polzin from MBO Raad.

The meeting started at 10.30h and ended by 15.00h.

The agenda drafted prior to the meeting was amended and the following one was adopted at the meeting.

1. A brief introduction on ERI SEE and the Centre for Education Policy's role in it
2. Report from Mr. Ilia Paluka, Chair of SEEVET-Net
3. Presentation of the work of each VET Agency/Centre (15 min. for each country representative) with the focus on the VET system recent developments and activities and cooperation between VET Agencies/Centres (moderated by Mr. Ilia Paluka, Albania, and Ms. Jelena Brankovic, CEP)
- *Joint lunch*
4. Election of a new Chair of the SEEVET-Net (one year mandate) (moderated by Ms. Jelena Brankovic, CEP)
5. Discussion on the Draft Agreement of SEEVET-Net (moderated by Ms. Jelena Brankovic, CEP)
6. Proposition on future cooperation and activities for 2011 (moderated by Ms. Jelena Brankovic, CEP)

1. A brief introduction on ERI SEE and the Centre for Education Policy's role as regards the initiative

Ms. Nevena Adzic provided a brief introduction on the ERI SEE initiative and gave an update on its recent activities, focusing on the transition process of its secretariat from the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports to the Serbian Ministry of Education.

Ms. Jelena Brankovic made a brief overview of the activities and projects of CEP and its structure. The role CEP has as regards ERI SEE and therefore SEEVET-Net was as well explained.

2. Report from Mr. Ilia Paluka, Chair of SEEVET-Net

Mr. Paluka presented the idea of the SEEVET Network, focusing on its purpose and place in a wider European context, as well as the benefits and opportunities it potentially brings to its member countries. In more concrete, Mr. Paluka outlined the main objectives of the network, introduced the idea of strategic planning for international networking and project related activities, presented key areas for mutual learning, as well as the role and contribution of SEEVET-Net, among other related matters.

After the presentation, Mr. Rajkovic (Montenegro) raised the issue of how novel the information provided by Mr. Paluka was, stressing that the network needs to move forward and that some concrete results need to be achieved.

The PowerPoint presented by Mr. Paluka can be found under the annexes to this report.

The discussion spontaneously moved towards the Cooperation Agreement where the issue of the mandate for signing the Agreement was raised, among other issues, such as the delay in signing the document. Ms. Brankovic, however, suggested that the Agreement is discussed in the afternoon, as it was suggested in the agenda. Mr. Paluka suggested to move that discussion altogether after the elections for the new Chair of SEEVET-Net, which was justified by the fact that, in his words, this would be one of the responsibilities of the new Chair. Even though there were suggestions to organise elections before the country presentations, majority agreed to have the elections, followed by the discussion on the Agreement, at the end of the meeting.

3. Presentation of the work of each VET Agency/Centre

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. Due to time constrains, individual presentations needed to be kept as short as possible. Participants agreed that this should not be the case as one of the main purposes of the SEEVET network is peer learning and better understanding of other VET systems in the region.

Individual country presentations have been annexed to this report.

4. Election of a new Chair of the SEEVET-Net (one year mandate)

Upon determining the countries represented at the meeting, the election procedure for the new Chair of SEEVET-Net for one-year mandate (2010-2011) was announced.

Due to the fact that no formal rules of procedure with respect to the electoral procedure in SEEVET-Net were in place, the moderator (Ms. Jelena Brankovic, CEP) suggested there be a consensus on working rules for the purpose of electing the next Chair of SEEVET-Net. All the participants agreed on the proposal and the following rules were agreed upon:

1. Every country has one vote;
2. Each country can nominate not more than one candidate;
3. The decision is taken by the simple majority of the countries present;
4. For each of the candidates each country can vote either *in favour*, *against* or *abstain* from voting;
5. The vote is not secret and each country votes by raising hand;
6. One country cannot vote in favour of and against the same candidate.

All the participants agreed on these rules.

In addition it was suggested that before the vote is cast each country clarifies which one of its representatives would raise hand, as most of the countries were represented by more than one person.

The countries were then asked to nominate a person for the election. Bosnia and Herzegovina nominated Mr. Dusko Rajkovic.

Albania nominated Mr. Ilija Paluka (Albania).

First, the votes were cast on the nomination of Mr. Rajkovic:

In favour: 6 (all but Albania);
Against: 1 (Albania);
Abstain: 0.

Due to the results of the voting on the nomination of Mr. Rajkovic, vote was not cast for the nomination of Mr. Paluka.

Therefore, the 2010-2011 SEEVET-Net Chair was Mr. Dusko Rajkovic, Director of VET centre from Montenegro.

Mr. Rajkovic assumed the chairmanship as of that moment.

5. Discussion on the Draft Agreement of SEEVET-Net

This discussion was chaired by Mr. Rajkovic and moderated by Ms. Jelena Brankovic.

The priority responsibility assumed by the newly elected chair was signing of the SEEVET-Net Cooperation Agreement during his term as the Chair. Mr. Rajkovic also stated that he would work on introducing some basic formalities as regards the work of the network, such as rules of procedure, minutes from meetings and similar, all with the aim to professionalise the work and the

network itself. Mr. Rajkovic stated that one of the first tasks he would assume would be to send a draft of the rules of procedure for SEEVET-Net meetings to all network countries that would have an opportunity to comment on it and improve it before it is finally adopted by SEEVET-Net.

Mr. Rajkovic suggested that himself and the Centre for Education Policy send a joint letter to all current SEEVET-Net countries in order to determine which countries would sign the Cooperation Agreement and not later than two or two and a half months this would be clear. Within 3 or 4 months it would be agreed on the date for signing the Agreement. Signing of the Agreement should be also a formal event which should be attended by VET centres/agencies' directors or their representatives, in case a director is not available.

6. 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, as given by Mr. Rajkovic, 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.

The Moldovan delegation agreed to host the meeting.

Ms. Jelena Jakovljevic also suggested that in the future more space for mutual learning among countries is provided at these meetings, as this is one of the main purposes of the network itself. In concrete, it was suggested that every presentation, in particular if delivered in PowerPoint should start with a graphic description of the educational system in the country, VET system within it, as well as some basic information about that country, such as its population, economy and other relevant information for VET.

This proposal was supported by the newly elected Chair.

It was also agreed that the flagship theme for the year 2011 was quality assurance and enhancement in VET, initially proposed by Mr. Paluka.

Mr. Manfred Polzin from MBO Raad suggested SEEVET-Net to consider forming association or umbrella of VET providers in their respective countries, as this was very common in many European countries and it represents a good way for the local providers to connect with other European countries, as well as with the European level institutions. He indicated that there is a tendency at the European level that educational providers are given more voice in the implementation of policy, unlike the old-style manner in which implementation was conducted by civil servants. This is, according to Mr. Polzin, a good way to influence the policy at European level and offered his help if such an activity was initiated.

List of annexes:

1. Presentation of the SEEVET-Net Chair (up to this meeting), Mr. Ilia Paluka: “VET Institutions Network: Two years Experience on Regional VET Agencies/ Centres cooperation : Regional & International networking and project related activities”
2. Presentation of Albania
3. Presentation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Presentation of Croatia
5. Presentation of Macedonia
6. Presentation of Moldova
7. Presentation of Montenegro
8. Presentation of Serbia
9. Cooperation Agreement