

VET INSTITUTIONS NETWORK

One year Experience on Regional VET Agencies/
Centers cooperation : Regional & International
networking and project related activities

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The SEEVET-Net main objectives are:

- *to support the national education reform in SEE countries;*
- *to promote regional cooperation at system and expert levels through capacity building transfer;*
- *to facilitate information exchange;*
- *to provide a platform for sharing expertise, good practice examples, as well as to facilitate education experts in different fields of education and training in SEE.*
- *To facilitate and help our countries to work in strategic planning*



What is Strategic planning?

- It is a discussion about the future
- It is about where we have been, where we are now, where we would like to go and how we are going to get there
- It is about how one can improve based on given mandate



Steps towards networking development agreed:

- The institutions interested to be members of the network need to send a letter of expression of interest.
- Preparation of the draft agreement for networking the VET agencies and institutions of South Eastern Europe. The draft agreement have been discussed during the second meeting of the national VET agencies and institutions (Ankara, December 2008).
- Common vision on the aims of the network is to be developed.
- The strong points of the VET sector development in each country of South Eastern Europe to be identified and to be used for planning the mutual learning process within the network.
- To define the further practical steps for consolidation of the network. When sufficiently clear ideas will be developed, project proposal to be developed aiming at further development of the network.



About the idea: VET Centres Strategic planning for international networking and project related activities

- Cross countries cooperation and experiences through national and international activities.
- IPA countries are eligible for range of EU fundings and participation in international activities
- IPA funds are available in different forms for engaging VET Agencies/Centres in peer learning activities
- Important lessons have been learned from the on-going implementation of LEARN Country projects



Role & contribution of SEEVET-Net

- Better understanding of the current situation of VET in Europe and of the relevance of sustainable networking of VET agencies and institutions in SEE;
- Acquiring knowledge on the lessons learned in the process of establishing of VET agencies and institutions in SEE, transfer of the experiences of the EU Member States and better understanding of the main aspects of the work of the VET agencies.
- The roadmap for development of sustainable mutual cooperation between the VET agencies and institutions of SEE was discussed and agreed;
- Understanding of the current situation of VET development in SEE and its role in development of qualifications frameworks and lifelong learning, as well as identified topics for regional cooperation in both areas.



The current stage: Where is the VET Agency/Centre now?

- Who are we as **VET Agency/Centre** and what we do?
- If staff from Ministry of Education is asked what **VET Agencies/Centre** are doing what will be the response?
- If VET schools are asked what **VET Agencies/Centres** are doing; what will be the response?
- Who are the key stakeholders for the **VET Agencies/Centres** and how should they respond to them?
- How do **VET Agencies/Centres** works with them and how it finds out what they expect from them?
- What is the philosophy, the value, and the culture of the **VET Agencies/Centres** ?
- What makes the **VET Agency/Centre** unique in the country; is there competitive advantage?



Variety of possibilities stage: Where does VET Centre want to go?

- What services/ support the **VET Agency/Centre** offered to VET schools?
- What services/ support the **VET Agency/Centre** offered to Ministry of Education, or any other stakeholder?
- What services/ support the **VET Agency/Centre** can offer to stakeholders in the future?
- What is previous experience with International cooperation? Is it done in sustainable way? Is it done in transparent way?



Regional VET Network objective & Key areas for mutual learning and joint actions:

- To support implementation of policies in the VET sector contributing to human capital development in a lifelong learning perspective, through policy learning in the context of the objectives related to the EU accession and the “Education and Training 2010” and follow-ups.
- Collection and dissemination of comparable information on the VET sector in South Eastern Europe region.
- National Qualifications Frameworks.
- Quality assurance and improvement in the VET sector.
- Lifelong Learning and VET (including mainstream, non-formal and in-formal education)
- Social partnership enhancement in the VET sector



The improvement stage: How is it going to get there?

- What you would like to improve in the **VET Agency/Centre** ?
- How much the environment in which the **VET Agency/Centre** operates is part of the change? What are the key characteristics of the environment?
- What future you expect for the portfolio of programmes and activities of the **VET Agency/Centre** in the dynamic VET reform environment?
- How much international activities are part of that environment and in which way?
- How you choose with whom to cooperate? Which criteria you use for cooperation with international partners?
- How international cooperation and networking can be done in the future in the **VET Agency/Centre** ?



The objectives of this exercise are following:

- To support the **VET Agency/Centre** to understand the value of analyzing problems that it face as an institution
- To support the **VET Agency/Centre** to foster its capability to act effectively and responsibly in the on-going reform process in the country
- To support the **VET Agency/Centre** to develop its potential to use effectively opportunities from international cooperation and networking

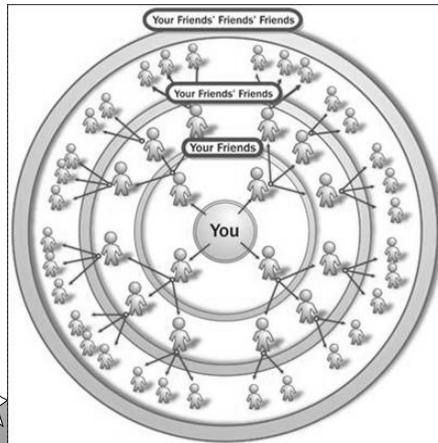


SEEVET-Net on line Forums goals:

- To further develop the established networks between the different stakeholders in LLL (ministries, adult education providers, social partners, NGO sector, international organizations) on local, national and regional level;
- Improve communications channels within the region for different aspects of Vocational Education and Training, by bringing together individuals to steer the cooperation in the region in different areas such as: lifelong learning, Quality assurance, etc.;
- To empower the education experts in South Eastern Europe in terms of more effective lobbying and advocacy for Lifelong Learning by providing them with practical and theoretical tools and know-how;
- To raise the public awareness of the importance of lifelong learning for personal and professional fulfilment in the rapidly changing globalized world nowadays;
- Accelerate the implementation of the ongoing reforms in VET that will positively influence on the LLL;
- Raise awareness on the importance of Lifelong Learning as a basic principle and a broad concept which is becoming increasingly interesting to people from every population level throughout their entire life-spans;
- Exchange experiences, good and bad practices, and (why not) give solutions for different concerns.



What are options and conditions for the future network?



The Strengthening of SEECV VET Network

1. The important need is to attract new members in SEECV VET Network

While new members are attracted to join the SEECV VET Network, the overall level of functioning is uneven.

Levels of interest, interaction, and activity are different.

Some SEECV VET Agencies and Institutions take repeated advantage of training seminars while others have yet to participate.

Another issue is the uneven capacity of VET agencies.

This, in itself, is not unexpected, but the challenge is to encourage the higher capacity VET Agencies to cooperate with those operating at lower levels, to the mutual benefit of both.

The Strengthening of SEECP VET Network

2. Another option is to improve understanding of effective use of the Network:

- how to maintain effective networks,
- the roles of SEECP VET Agencies managers,
- the techniques for information sharing in the ERI SEE Network.



The Strengthening of SEECP VET Network

3. Enhancing of the Electronic-Forum through the use of new technology as well as new content

The e-Forum is an excellent way to directly link individual VET experts or stakeholders around the world working on skills development issues to cooperate and communicate with partners. Messages may include:

- Announcements of international conferences and workshops,
- Information on new publications and resources,
- investigation for materials that would be useful for an individual's work in VET and that may be available abroad, e.g. curriculum materials,
- Finding partners for international co-operation in research and development.



The Strengthening of SEECP VET Network

4. The ERI SEE Web site will be further improved and enriched with new technology and new VET information

To create and maintain a website that will include a virtual library, online searchable databases, electronic information resources, e-Learning, online training/teaching courses, online classrooms and collaborative projects, discussion forums etc., that will make the website dynamic and interactive.

The ERI SEE Web site will be further improved and enriched with new technology and new information in education and training relevant for the Balkan region and in accordance with the Objectives of the Initiative.

