

9th WESTERN BALKANS CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

Education Reform Initiative of SEE (ERI SEE)

—

Education and Skills in the Western Balkans

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Tina Šarić

EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE (ERI SEE)

ERI SEE – Main information

- Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe
- International, inter-governmental organisation
- Ministries of education from 7 economies:
 - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia
- Regional cooperation for the benefit of national reform processes in education and training, monitoring EU trends and developments
- Regional projects, trainings, workshops, conferences, development of different material at regional level (recommendations, guidelines, standards etc.)
- Partners:
 - Ministries of education/Labour or economy (strategic level)
 - National agencies for VET, QA in pre-tertiary, QA in higher education, Teacher education and training agencies, Chambers of commerce (implementation level)
 - International organizations (ETF, RCC, SICI, WB6 CIF...)

Thematic areas

- **Pre-tertiary education**
 - Quality Assurance in pre-tertiary education – focus on external evaluation
 - Teacher Education and Training – focus on digitalization
- **Vocational education and training**
 - Focus on modernization of VET, cooperation with business sector and work-based learning
- **Higher education**
 - focus on recognition of HE qualifications and quality assurance in higher education

SKILLS through Western Balkans Alliance for WBL

- **WBA4WBL:** established within the Berlin Process to enhance cooperation between education and business and support WBL developments;
- **Members:** VET agencies and Chambers of commerce from the WB; coordinated by ERI SEE
- **Current activity:** Enhancements of quality in education and training in SEE (EQET SEE) project, funded by ADA
- **Main feature of the project:** cooperation between education and business sector (VET agencies, Chambers of Commerce, education and business representatives) on the development of education and training material





REGIONAL STANDARDS FOR BETTER SKILLS

- Developed regionally-based occupational standards for agricultural technician and locksmith, hotel-restaurant technician, painter, tile-setter, floor-layer dry-construction worker
- Developed regionally-based qualification standards for agricultural technician and locksmith
- Developed national curricula for these two qualifications
- Developed methodologies for regionally-based occupational and qualification standards backed by feasibility studies





REGIONAL SUPPORT TO E&T PROCESSES

- Developed guidelines for teachers for environmental, social and gender aspects in the implementation of agricultural technician and locksmith programmes
- Being developed: Teaching and learning material (emphasizing work-based learning components)
- To be developed: Trainings for teachers and company instructors (emphasizing work-based learning components, environment, social and gender aspects)
- To be developed: Quality assurance mechanisms for work-based learning (through external evaluation)

Activities in General education

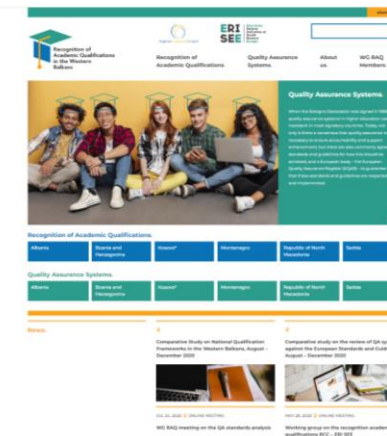
- Focus on external evaluation of institutions:
- Policy guidance for external evaluation
- Data management training
- Standard of competences for external evaluators
- Needs analysis
- Trainings
- Enhancements in the existing methodologies for external evaluations
- Piloting the enhancements
- Also includes VET components
- Within a project: Enhancements in quality of education and training in SEE (EQET SEE) funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA)

- Support to teacher education and training agencies in the region (digitalization, blended teaching and learning, digital material etc.) through seminars and exchanges of best practices



CONCLUSION

- many regional process and activities taking place with the purpose of making education and training better and more responsive to the labour market needs
- reforms in WBL and cooperation between education and business – greater awareness of relevance of this
- **issues that exist are sometimes beyond the education and training systems:**
 - demographic challenges (migrations, ageing population, natality rates...)
 - economic challenges
 - status of education and training, and educators
 - motivation and attractiveness of education and training
- **issues within the reach of education and training:**
 - quality of initial education of teachers
 - quality of the teaching and learning material
 - increasing demands on educators
- important to **work on the status of education and training in society, building a value system that appreciates education, skills, work etc.,**
- **branding of E&T as a desirable pathway**



Thank you!

Contact:

Tina Šarić

email: office@erisee.org

Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe/ERI SEE Secretariat

Dečanska 8a

11000 Belgrade

Tel: +381 (0)11 3345 376

Fax: +381 (0)11 3345 378

www.erisee.org

