



PA9

Investing in People and Skills

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



European Union Strategy for the Danube Region

PA9

Investing in People and Skills

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES



table of content

06	European Union Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 9: »Investing in People and Skills«
	Working Area 1
	»Performance of Education Systems«
10	Central European Cooperation in Education and Training (CECE)
11	Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)
12	Edu.Region – Education Network for the economic area and the labour market of Lower Austria and the southern Czech regions
13	Optimizing the links between labour market and the educational system: modernising the vocational system in Romania
14	Cluster Modernising VET system – Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET
15	Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the Regional Cooperation Council
16	Competence-Based Teacher Professionalism – The Innovative and Creative Turn
16	Enhanced Competitiveness and Employability through Innovative Work-based Learning in VET
	Working Area 2
	»Cooperation in Labour Market«
18	Austro-Hungarian Experts Academy (EXPAK AT.HU)
19	Austro-Slovenian Experts Academy (EXPAK AT.SI)
20	Qualification Network for Austrian Companies in Romania
21	Virtual education network for Austrian companies in Bulgaria
22	Austro-Czech Experts Academy (EXPAK AT.CZ)
23	Establishing of a Network of Agricultural Training Centres
23	Mastering Skills of European Professional Medics (MED)
	Working Area 3
	»Creativity and Entrepreneurship«
26	Empowering Young People - Connecting Europe (EYPCE)
27	SMART Training Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Emerging Sustainable Economic Sectors
28	(d)unaVision – Learning Journeys and Being Spaces for a Sustainable Future
29	ECO NET – Support for Training Firms in South Eastern Europe
30	Economic Educational Territorial Structure (ET-struct)
31	Creativity and business - unlocking the potential
31	E-Log: Online Competency-Oriented Education in Logistics

Working Area 4

»Lifelong Learning and Mobility«

- 34 Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS)
- 35 Removing obstacles to recognition of qualifications
- 36 Training on competence based assessment for VET teachers
- 37 Capacity Building Mobility Programme of the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital
- 38 Cluster on Development of National Qualification Frameworks

Working Area 5

»Equity, Social Cohesion, Active Citizenship«

- 40 aces – Academy of Central European Schools
- 41 CoDeS: Collaboration of Schools and Communities for Sustainable Development
- 42 E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S)
- 43 Sprachenoffensive – Language Strategy
- 44 Education Twinning – Heading for Excellence in the CENTROPE Region (EdTWIN)
- 45 Concordia Vocational Training

Working Area 6

»Demography and Migration«

- 48 SEEMIG: Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE –
Transnational Actions Towards Evidence Based Strategies

Working Area 7

»Poverty and Social Inclusion«

- 50 THARA e Romengo than THARA Platz der Roma
- 51 NSRS in the Danube Region

Working Area 8

»Gender Equality«

- 54 **Imprint**

EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION

Priority Area 9: »Investing in People and Skills«

Covering a fifth of the European Union with more than 100 million inhabitants, the Danube Region is a key to the well-being of the European Union as a whole. As many of the region's challenges know no borders, the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Region.

Priority Area 9 »Investing in People and Skills« (PA 9) of the EUSDR deals with the key topics of education and training, labour market and marginalised communities. It is coordinated by Austria and the Republic of Moldova, with the involvement of a wide network of key players and stakeholders from the 14 States of the Danube Region and in cooperation with the European Commission.

Education and training are more than ever of key importance in the Danube Region, for socio-economic development and growth, but also for equitable and inclusive societies and for the well-being and personal fulfilment of its citizens. The Danube Region can only progress and grow in a smart and inclusive way by investing in people and skills and making best use of the human capital. In this respect, the Strategy aims at action to ensure that education and training systems develop learner's creativity and capacity for innovation and deliver the required skills and knowledge needed in an increasingly macro-regional labour market. In order to be prepared for the changes and challenges ahead, a focus is being put on capacity-building and the empowerment of actors on all levels, fighting poverty and modernising labour markets, training and social protection systems.

The added value of the EUSDR and in particular PA 9 has shown concrete results of innovative approaches of cooperation in the fields of education, labour market and inclusion. The work of PA 9 also aims to contribute to the »Education and Training 2020« strategic framework and to the achievement of EU 2020 targets, in particular with regard to smart and inclusive growth.

PA 9 has successfully established a network of different stakeholders guaranteeing efficient cooperation between relevant actors, i.a. through the involvement of existing regional cooperation networks and initiatives. In order to provide a framework for discussions in the fields of human capital and labour market in the Danube Region, stakeholder conferences and several thematic events as well as Steering Group meetings are realized each year. Last year's conference »Skills, Competences, Inclusion – Developing Human Capital Policies and Projects in the Danube Region (EUSDR)« in Vienna assembled around 150 participants from the whole region who discussed existing challenges and project ideas in more than 20 break-out sessions.

Clear results are also evident in terms of projects. So far, more than 55 cross-border and regional Danube networks, projects and project ideas were started or labelled in the framework of our coordination. PA 9 also provides information to potential project partners in order to facilitate the implementation of projects and the development of new ones.

This Project Folder will provide you with an overview of on-going and selected finished projects as well as some project ideas for which Priority Area 9 of the EUSDR serves as a common umbrella.

Roland Hanak

PRIORITY AREA COORDINATOR
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, AUSTRIA

Jürgen Schick

PRIORITY AREA COORDINATOR
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, AUSTRIA

»To enhance performance of education systems through closer cooperation of education institutions, systems and policies«

Fostering efficiency, innovation and good governance in education and training is crucial in the face of the challenges posed by globalisation, demographic changes, rapid technological developments and increasing pressure on public budgets. This should be done in particular through the exchange of best practices of different education and training systems through transnational cooperation, joint development of programmes and materials, promotion of research on the economics of education, peer learning, and capacity building, i.e. for evidence-based policy and practice and for facilitating the policy learning process, strategy formulation and policy action. Specific added value lies in the inclusion of third countries and best use should be made of already existing programmes and cooperation structures.

Central European Cooperation in Education and Training

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Czech Republic
Hungary
Slovakia
Slovenia

START

1997

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

**Federal Ministry of
Education and Women's
Affairs (Austria)**
Jürgen Schick
**juergen.schick@
bmbf.gv.at**

WEBSITE

**[www.bmbf.gv.at/
schulen/euint/
bibildung/cece.xml](http://www.bmbf.gv.at/schulen/euint/bibildung/cece.xml)**

Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia have been holding regularly regional conferences of civil servants since 1997. The key objectives of these conferences are close cooperation in educational matters and – along with the implementation of specific joint projects – the exchange of expertise and good practice on the administration level in all areas of lifelong learning. Joint conferences, seminars and expert workshops are being held on a regular basis in order to promote continuous mutual learning.

The initiative also promotes increased content-related and organisational cooperation on the EU level, especially in the implementation of the strategic framework for European cooperation in the field of education and training (ET 2020). Since 2004 the cooperation between the five neighbouring countries of the region has been based on a Memorandum of Understanding, which was renewed in 2007. In 2013, the responsible Ministers signed a new Joint Memorandum with the intent to continue and further their regional and EU-related cooperation in education and training.

Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)



Centre for Education Policy

»Development
from Within«

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Montenegro
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia

START

2004

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

**Centre for
Education Policy**
**ERI SEE Interim
Secretariat**
cep@cep.edu.rs

WEBSITE

www.erisee.org

The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) is a regional platform for dialogue and cooperation in the field of education and training. It supports national reforms in education and training through regional capacity building, transfer of know-how and linking these efforts to European frameworks for education development (the EU Work Programme »Education and Training 2020«, the Bologna and the Copenhagen Processes).

Promoting cooperation between the education and research sectors in South Eastern Europe (SEE) is a priority as well. ERI SEE also addresses more global developments in education and training (the World Declaration on Education for All and the Dakar Framework for Action, as well as the education objectives of the Millennium Development Goals). ERI SEE actively promotes education and youth issues in the region recognizing the crucial role those issues play for CEE and SEE countries on their way to becoming member states of the European Union.

Edu.Region – Education Network for the economic area and the labour market of Lower Austria and the southern Czech regions



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Czech Republic

START

2011

STATUS

Ongoing (will be finished in August)

CONTACT

**NÖ Landesakademie,
office@
sprachkompetenz.at**

WEBSITE

**www.edu-region.
noe-lak.at**

The project Edu.Region considers the question on how well students are prepared for the demands of a work life with interregional cooperation. Based on traditional professions the project analyzes the changes in competences needed to fulfill job profiles.

Key questions are:

- How do the developments on the labor markets and the economic areas influence job profiles?
- Which interregional competences are important for students?
- Which knowledge about the neighboring regions do students have – what should they further know?
- How can we give students insights into economic relations across the border?

When opening the labor market, one of the most important limitations in the economic area between Austria and the Czech Republic was repealed. The regions of Lower Austria, South Bohemia, South Moravia and Vysočina can grow together as joint economic area and labor market.

Optimizing the links between labour market and the educational system: modernising the vocational system in Romania



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Germany
Romania

START
2013

STATUS
project in
implementation

CONTACT
National Centre for
TVET Development,
Romania
tvvet@tvvet.ro

WEBSITE
www.alegetidrumul.ro

The RO-GE experts' joint Working group includes representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Education, of the National Centre for TVET Development, of the Academy of Esslingen Baden-Württemberg, of 4 School Inspectorates, 4 VET schools and their German partner companies (Daimler AG, Schaeffler Romania, Star Transmission, Marquardt Schaltsysteme S.C.S., Caditec Brasov, DWS Sibiu, Christiani, Draexlmaier).

The activity of the working group is focusing on 3 main areas of interest:

- Curriculum revision on a number of selected qualifications
- Teachers' training on didactic strategies relevant for the vocational training
- Marketing and promotion of the vocational pathway

A draft strategic action plan on modernising the vocational system in Romania, with a focus on the 3 areas of interest, has been developed and it is foreseen to be operational in the near future with the support of the European Social Fund and of Erasmus+ Programme.

»With the support of and the benefit from the experience of Baden-Württemberg authorities, we want to create in Romania a high level vocational education system. It is obvious that one of the secrets of the Landa's extraordinary development consists in its vocational education system.«

Victor Ponta,
Romanian Prime Minister

Cluster Modernising VET system – Improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Montenegro
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia

DURATION

2011 – 2013



Cluster Modernising VET system
meeting during the Romanian
Congress of Education,
Bucharest 14 – 15 June 2013

The cluster »Modernizing VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET« had organized a number of expert meetings to foster mutual learning on topics of common interest (e.g. quality assurance and matching VET supply with labour market demand) and developed specific tools to support the development of a quality culture at school level and the improvement of VET attractiveness and relevance.

The aim of the Cluster was to support the regional cooperation in VET in accordance with the diversified needs of the countries for mutual learning, regional exchange of experience and good practice and for encompassing the specific phases of national reforms in VET.

The main result of the Cluster is a Compendium of good practices collected from the different countries involved, to share the quality culture, to allow an increasing attractiveness of VET as a training pathway, which ensures equal opportunities for students and the skills which are needed on the existing and future labour market.



Serbia

humancapital.info/

15 PA9 Investing in People and Skills

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Competence-Based Teacher Professionalism – The Innovative and Creative Turn

LEAD

University of Vienna (Austria)

DURATION

to be announced

Enhanced Competitiveness and Employability through Innovative Work-based Learning in VET

LEAD

KulturKontakt Austria (Austria)

DURATION

to be announced

»To foster cooperation between key stakeholders of labour market, education and research policies in order to develop learning regions and environments«

To increase innovative capacities of the labour force in the Danube Region, new forms of partnerships and cooperation among key stakeholders (labour market, education and training, research and employers) need to be further developed. Employers (private, public and voluntary) have an important role to play in identifying the knowledge, skills and competences needed in working life. To increase the employability and entrepreneurial potential of all learners, communication and active cooperation should be further developed between education and training institutions on the one hand and employers on the other.



Austro-Hungarian Experts Academy EXPAK AT.HU

»The EXPAK AT.HU is a project active in the field of labour and employment policy which aims to promote cross-border cooperation. This project proves the key fact that the challenges on the employment market faced by this border region can be met successfully when all the responsible institutions and actors engage in systematic cooperation.«

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

**Austria
Hungary**

**START
2008**

**STATUS
Ongoing**

**CONTACT
L&R Social Research
Barbara Willsberger
willsberger@
lrsocialresearch.at**

**WEBSITE
www.expak-at.hu**

- EXPAK AT.HU provides regional actors of labour market policy with a forum for exchange in the field of labour market policy. The activities of the EXPAK AT.HU focus on the following fields of action:
- Preparation of an annual report (»Integration monitor«) as a theoretical basis for the activities of EXPAK AT.HU which includes the latest study results, data analyses and results of an annual business survey.
 - Development and implementation of two cross-border projects for unemployed people.
 - Common development of company-related services for the Roma target group.
 - Establishment and support of a systematic cooperation of the regional branch office of the Burgenland Employment Service with the employment offices of the neighbouring regions in Hungary.
 - Organisation of conferences, seminars, excursions and internships for a mutual exchange of information and for the discussion of the developments on the employment markets and in employment market policies.

Austro-Slovenian Experts Academy EXPAK AT.SI

The activities of the EXPAK AT.SI focus on development of a network of labour market stakeholders, development of a labour market cooperation system with the objective of elimination of the existing imbalance within the regional labour market of the Austro-Slovenian border region, increasing the Quality of Location and the competitiveness in the border region by reducing unemployment and increasing employment opportunities, establishment and support of a systematic cooperation of the regional branch office of the Styria and Carinthia neighbouring regions in Slovenia and organisation of conferences, seminars, workshops and excursions for a mutual exchange of information and for the discussion of the development of the labour market and employment market policies. The network is built at different levels: regional, national and county. The implementation of recent methods and approaches results in an improvement of PES services offered.

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

**Austria
 Slovenia**

**START
 2010**

**STATUS
 Ongoing**

**CONTACT
 L&R Social Research
 Barbara Willsberger
 willsberger@
 lrsocialresearch.at
 Sanja Selak
 selak@
 lrsocialresearch.at**

**WEBSITE
 www.expak-at.si**

»European Integration can flow throughout the regional borders by establishing networked cooperation and coordination systems. In this sense, a crossborder forum has been built up within the Austro-Slovenian Expert Academy – EXPAK AT.SI – as a tool to discuss and face the labour market challenges.«

Barbara Willsberger,
 L&R Sozialforschung

Qualification Network for Austrian Companies in Romania

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Romania

START
2013

STATUS
Ongoing

CONTACT
ÖSB Consulting GmbH
Roxana Weiss-Anton
roxana.weiss-
anton@oesb.at

WEBSITE
www.qnromania.ro

The general objective of the project is the adaptation, setting-up and piloting of a qualification network for Austrian companies in Romania. Within this context, the network member companies will reunite as if in a cluster, and will receive complementary support for carrying out internal training needs analyses and developing subsequent qualification plans, liaising with adequate training providers as well as for the actual planning of staff trainings and accessing of corresponding non-reimbursable financing sources if available. Last but not least, communication and cooperation instruments will be set up with a view to also ensure a know-how transfer from Austria to Romania on how to efficiently manage a network partnership.



The project, which is part of the Danube Region Development Strategy, is financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumers' Protection, whereas its operations are being carried out by ÖSB Consulting GmbH (www.oesb.at).

»The benefits from which a qualification network member company can take advantage are numerous and, most importantly, adaptable to the organization's own needs in relation to its human resources development, ranging from an upfront reduction of training costs up to identifying relevant and proficient training providers and/or negotiating superior training curricula.«

Cristina Dugan,
Organization and
Networking Expert



Virtual education network for Austrian companies in Bulgaria



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bulgaria
Romania

START
2012

STATUS
Ongoing

CONTACT
ÖSB Consulting GmbH
Roxana Weiss-Anton
roxana.weiss-
anton@oesb.at

WEBSITE
www.qnbulgaria.eu

The idea of »Virtual Education Network« for Austrian companies in Bulgaria has been formulated and supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection and the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in 2012. The Qualification Network represents an alliance of at least 3 companies, based on a partnership agreement, that wish to improve their employees' qualifications, as well as their human resources' standard, in general as well as jointly plan and implement training/qualification sessions of their employees.

As a foreign investor number two on the local market, the Austrian business community in Bulgaria is considered to become the number one beneficiary of the qualification network added values, namely access to »best practices« in education needs evaluation assessment, economies of scale in joint training programs development and co-financing opportunities through EU/governmental framework, improvement of competitiveness, open floor for brainstorming/ideas exchange/networking with companies from the same/different industry, joint PR initiatives, etc.«

Katya Koleva
Networking expert

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Czech Republic

DURATION

2009 – 2013

EXPAK AT.CZ provided regional actors of labour market policy with a forum for exchange of information and expertise, design and implementation of common projects and cross-border cooperation in the field of labour market policy. The activities of the EXPAK AT.CZ focussed on the following fields of action:

- Preparation of an annual report («Grenzraummonitor») which includes the latest study results, data analyses and results of interviews with labour market experts.
- Development and implementation of one cross-border project (counselling).
- Establishing of a website (www.jobtour.eu) to compare job profiles of Austria and the Czech Republic and describe the qualification of these jobs.
- Establishment and support of a systematic information and cooperation of the public employment service of Austria and the Czech Republic.
- Organisation of conferences, seminars, excursions and internships for a mutual exchange of information and for the discussion of the developments on the employment markets and in employment market policies.

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Establishing of a Network of Agricultural Training Centres

LEAD

Business Support Centre for Small
and Medium Enterprises (Bulgaria)

DURATION

planned to apply for funding in
programming period 2014 – 2020

Mastering Skills of European Professional Medics (MED)

LEAD

Business Support Centre for Small
and Medium Enterprises (Bulgaria)

DURATION

planned to apply for funding
in programming period 2014 – 2020

»To support creativity and entrepreneurship«

A reorientation towards entrepreneurship and creativity, which constitutes a prime source of innovation, is important as a prerequisite for businesses, in particular for small and medium sized enterprises, and thus for Europe's competitiveness. This could be achieved through the introduction of innovative learning programmes to support creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship at all levels of education, through the promotion of intercultural dialogue or through language training, making use of the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Danube Region. Broader learning communities and creative partnerships, involving representatives of cultural actors, civil society and other stakeholders, should be promoted with a view to creating a climate conducive to creativity and professional and social needs, as well as individual well-being.



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Germany
Montenegro
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia
Slovenia
Ukraine

START

2012

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

KulturKontakt Austria
Monica Wurzer
monica.wurzer@
kulturkontakt.or.at

WEBSITE

www.empowering
youngpeople.net

Empowering Young People – Connecting Europe



Gedko-Art_KKA

The aim of the project is to support reconciliation and excellence through education and training targeting the youth of the Danube Region. Active citizenship, creativity and intercultural dialogue shall be supported through innovative and joint teaching programmes for students in the Danube region. The project focuses on new approaches at school level to the students' empowerment to act as self-reliant citizens and entrepreneurs. Specific attention is also given to making best use of linguistic and cultural diversity in the Danube Region.

Through developing an innovative pilot model for school and labour market cooperation in the field of active citizenship, creativity and intercultural dialogue the project will ensure sustainability. It will enable schools to use this tested approach and established network in the future. The direct target group are teachers and students from 16 schools of the Danube Region from 8 countries.

»It was a great honour for me to work with my students on the project. It was an opportunity to discover them in another way and to see their enthusiasm, their availability to be volunteers in social activities. I can say I see my students now with other eyes.«

Teacher from the core team,
 Constanța, Romania



SMART Training Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Emerging Sustainable Economic Sectors i.e. SMART



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Czech Republic
Germany
Hungary
Slovakia

START

2012

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

**European Office,
Vienna Board
of Education
europa@ssr-wien.gv.at**

The project i.e. SMART has identified specific issues in the partner regions e.g. lack of interest in innovation/ entrepreneurship, low survival rate of business start-ups, high youth unemployment, demographic/ socio-economic brain drain. To tackle these issues, the i.e. SMART partnership (12 partners from seven polycentric regions) has developed and implemented a transnational management structure to link the involved regions so that they can provide their citizens with exciting sustainable labour market opportunities through a new multi-disciplinary training approach to innovation and entrepreneurship called the transformative business approach.

Each of the seven project regions has set up a regional centre of competence called a SMART point where SMART trainers train and mentor their regional emerging entrepreneurs (aged 14 to 30) in the transformative business approach so that they, in turn, can start their own new generation enterprises in the three sustainable economic sectors targeted by the project: Creative Industries, Green Economy, and ICT.

»The positive impact of this project can easily be seen by observing the students. They are engaged, motivated and eager to be part of society.«

Dr. Hartmut Rösch,
Head of Department for
Further Education and
Start-Up Center, Stuttgart
Media University, Germany

(d)unaVision - Learning Journeys and Being Spaces for a Sustainable Future



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bulgaria
Croatia
Germany
Hungary
Romania
Serbia
Slovenia

START

2013

STATUS

Ongoing

WEBSITE

www.thinkcamp.eu
www.unavision.eu
www.balkansummit.net

ThinkCamp is creating the unaVision network and is conducting prototypes of learning journeys with innovative non-formal learning concepts. In 2013 ThinkCamp experimented with the »Caravan of Change 2013«, a seven months learning journey passing through 14 Danube river countries. This year ThinkCamp organized the Vision Walk - a learning journey through two National Parks in Macedonia and the first »Balkan Summit for sustainable development« (www.balkansummit.net). These events have the mission to bring together people from the Danube and Balkan region to work on a common vision and activities for a sustainable future.

The »100 day - unaVision lab 2014/2015« has the objective to create visionary concepts for inspiring creativity spaces where people can work, learn and live together. The plan is to establish a network of unaVision Being Spaces, which are incubators for the sustainable development of the society in the Danube region. Please join the project, which starts in September.

»The week I joined the Caravan of Change 2013 was such a condensed storm of impressions of people, minds, locations that overwhelmed me. Thanks, for the opportunity to be a part of it.«

Yasmin Dorfstetter, Germany

»The Caravan of Change changed my way of travelling. You're on your way with a message. But you don't know its real expression, until the places and their people have shaped it.«

Florian Niederl, Austria

2010 – 2013

Working in a training firm promoted the ability to work in a team as well as autonomously, a sense of initiative, decision-making competence, flexibility and intercultural sensitivity, all of which are primary key qualifications in today's business world.

ET-struct Economic Educational Territorial – Structure



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Czech Republic
Germany
Slovenia
Ukraine

DURATION

2010 – 2012

Regional businesses need to cope with ever-changing conditions and pressures. For their part, workers need support so they can protect their own economic security while helping to keep their regional economy healthy and relevant. The ET-struct project was a cooperative effort between regions in Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Ukraine – all of which were seeking to help workers match their economies' needs, as a way of encouraging stability and growth.

Numerous national and international studies show that the qualifications of the local work force do not sufficiently match the needs of regional economies. To overcome this problem, ET-struct incorporated three key factors – regional politics, the regional economy and regional education – into sustainable »regional management triangles« in order to match and optimise work-force qualification with the needs of regional economies.

»Skills development is emerging as a key variable for economic and employment development of the Veneto region. ET-struct represented the opportunity to ensure a close relationship between business, policy and decision makers and the training system.«

Piero Monestier,
Coordinator of the
Training Area,
Certottica s.c.a.r.l.,
Longarone (Belluno,) Italy

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Creativity and Business – Unlocking the Potential

LEAD

Human Resource Development
Agency (Bulgaria)

DURATION

to be announced

E-Log – Online Competency- Oriented Education in Logistics

LEAD

Human Resource Development
Agency (Bulgaria)

DURATION

to be announced

»To support lifelong learning and expanding learning mobility«

Comprehensive LLL strategies and their implementation have been identified as a priority for the development of knowledge societies. Making these effective and increasing their impact for individual learners remains a critical challenge. Institutional capacity building of LLL bodies is a prerequisite for implementing these policies. Countries in the Danube Region will coordinate on the development of National Qualification Frameworks. Specific added value lies in supporting non-EU Member States in drawing up their National Qualification Frameworks. Specific attention should be drawn to rural areas and to developing alternative employment opportunities and economic diversification for people occupied in traditional sectors where restructuring is still under way such as agriculture.



Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS)

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Hungary
Montenegro
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia

START

1995

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

CEEPUS
Elisabeth Sorantin
elisabeth.sorantin@
ceepus.info

WEBSITE

www.ceepus.info



CEEPUS – Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies – is a multilateral regional university exchange programme operative since 1995. In its almost twenty years of existence more than 30.000 teachers and students from Central, East and South East Europe have enjoyed the »CEEPUS experience«. Ever growing, CEEPUS now operates 69 networks with 1025 institutions involved. CEEPUS networks consist of at least three higher education institutions from at least two different contractual countries. All subjects are welcome, what counts is quality. Apart from its academic achievements CEEPUS has intensified regional cooperation and pride in what we can achieve together.

»The exchange with the CEEPUS program was a turning point in my life. The CEEPUS program opened my eyes wide open for the new European perspectives, competitions and events, organized for youth.«

Dobriyana T.
Bulgaria CEEPUS
2006/07

Removing obstacles to recognition of qualifications



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia

START

2014

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

**Ministry of Science,
Education and Sports
of the Republic of
Croatia, Section for
the Croatian Quali-
fications Framework,
hko@mzos.hr**

WEBSITE

www.kvalifikacije.hr

This activity has been implemented within the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) – a regional platform for cooperation in the field of education and training, according to the government agreement concluded among participating countries.

ERI SEE has been appointed as the coordinator of the activities related to education and competences in the regional strategy Southern and Eastern Europe 2020 – Jobs and Prosperity in European Perspective. One of the key cross-cutting issues of the strategy is the development of free movement of people within the SEE region. The work on the development of National Qualifications

Frameworks and removing obstacles to recognition in SEE region also contributes to the strengthening of connections between the education and labour market by creating transparency of awarded degrees and learning outcomes, as well as enhancing equity in education systems by providing flexible learning paths across education levels and types of education.

»The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) supports sustainable education reforms through regional cooperation. It aims at fostering shared European standards in education and training for a rapid integration of its member countries into a wider European area of education, thus contributing to the success and sustainability of the EU integration process.«

ERI SEE Mission Statement

Training on competence based assessment for VET teachers



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Romania

START

2011– 2014

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

**National Centre
for TVET Development
ROMANIA,
tvvet@tvvet.ro**

WEBSITE

**www.evaluate
competente.tvet.ro
www.comunicare.tvet.ro**

The aim of the project »Training on competence based assessment for VET teachers« was to develop the competencies of 600 VET teachers in the domain of competence based assessment.

In the project, a number of 4 training programmes were developed on:

- Competence based assessment;
- Training of trainers on competence based assessment;
- Development of competence based assessment instruments;
- Monitoring of competence based assessment training programmes.

A database for different assessment items in different professional domains was developed and is an important working instrument for all VET teachers.

The project was expected to develop cross countries mutual learning at system level and networking in the benefit of different stakeholders.

»This project underlines once again the importance of international cooperation in education and training, a better understanding of the different needs of each country and joint efforts of common European objectives set out in the Europe 2020 strategy. Starting in 1993, after the opening of the office Kultur Kontakt Bucharest, the bilateral co-operation in education between Romania and Austria has grown steadily in joint projects with the National Center for TVET Development and led to the modernization of vocational and technical education in Romania. A positive aspect to be emphasized is that the goal of this project is the orientation to competency evaluation. It is important that students have not only theoretical knowledge, but also to know apply, in other words to have practical skills when they enter the job market.«

Michael Schwarzinger
Austrian Ambassador
in Romania



2008 – 2013

37 PA9 Investing in People and Skills

Cluster on Development of National Qualification Frameworks

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Montenegro
Republic of Moldova
Romania

DURATION

2010 – 2013

The Cluster explored national development of NQFs, quality assurance and recognition. Peer learning seminars, meetings and workshops have been organised on these three topics identified as project objectives.

The outcome was enhanced expertise on quality assurance systems in higher education and VET in relation to the development of national qualifications frameworks, as well as on the role of National Qualifications Frameworks in recognition of qualifications, both in higher education and VET. The Cluster was funded by Education Reform Initiative of South and Eastern Europe ERI SEE.

»To promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship through education and training«

Education and training systems should enable all individuals to acquire and develop skills and competences required for their employability and to foster tolerance, intercultural dialogue and non-discrimination. Equal opportunities in learning can contribute towards the social inclusion of individuals from minorities and vulnerable groups, and active citizenship. Barriers for drop-outs to return to education and training need to be removed as well as preventive approaches and cooperation between education sectors strengthened. Mutual learning on best practices should be developed.



Academy of Central
European Schools

aces – Academy of Central European Schools

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Hungary
Montenegro
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Serbia
Slovenia
Slovakia

START

2006

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

Interkulturelles Zentrum
Christine Gamper
tine.gamper@iz.or.at

WEBSITE

www.aces.or.at



Katarina Jeeňá@aces

aces is one of the largest school networks in the region aiming at the promotion of dialogue and cross-border cooperation of young people and schools from the 15 Central and South Eastern European partner countries.

It supports the creation of common and creative spaces on different levels to foster friendship, mutual learning, knowledge sharing and educational innovation.

The core of aces is a periodic project competition and support scheme for international school partnerships offering concrete opportunities for mobility, exchange and cooperation of young people, teachers and educational institutions. All school types with pupils aged 12-17 years can participate. International conferences for project delegations offer additional platforms for exchange, joint work and training.

aces was initiated in 2006 by ERSTE Foundation (Austria) and is coordinated by Interkulturelles Zentrum (Vienna, Austria) in cooperation with VČELÍ DOM (Bratislava, Slovakia). The education ministries of all partner countries are officially supporting the programme.

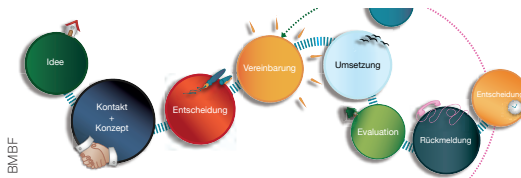
»Through this project we managed to have something »that is not school«, we managed to show to the rest of the world that we can change things and that we can be helpful in solving problems of the whole community.«

Milja Zdravkovic,
student from Serbia

»We not only got to know our partner countries better, but we also re-discovered ourselves. And all those who participated in the project, whether they were teachers, pupils, parents, or school board members, have grown personally with this experience.«

Milena Forštnar,
teacher from Slovenia

CoDeS: Collaboration of Schools and Communities for Sustainable Development (EU-Comenius multilateral network)



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Croatia
Hungary
Romania
Slovenia

START

2011

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

**Federal Ministry of
Education and Women's
Affairs (Austria)**
Günther Pfaffenwimmer
guenther.pfaffen-
wimmer@bmbf.gv.at

WEBSITE

http://
comenius-codes.eu/

The network focuses on school-community collaboration addressing sustainability. These activities provide a fresh perspective for inquiry based science learning and improve students' motivation, deepen know-ledge in science and develop civic competencies. Successful implementation is challenging: it requires special skills from teachers and sophisticated communication techniques on all sides. We wish to provide a platform modified with an inclusive approach. We aim to investigate various aspects of maintaining collaborative structures and involving with isolated communities. These resources will be available to the public.

»CoDeS is the first European project looking systematically into school-community collaboration, making good examples visible and describing possibilities, chances and success factors.«

Mag. Manfred Wirtitsch, Head of Department for Citizenship-, European Citizenship-, Consumer-, Environmental- and Road Safety Education, Austrian Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs

E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S)

»Sustainable development is a philosophy
and value matter rather than a specific
knowledge or skill – Bringing Europe to
schools by sustainable development.«

Predrag Pale, Aquilonis

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bulgaria
Croatia
Germany
Hungary
Romania
Serbia
Slovakia

START

2014

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

**Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit
(GIZ) GmbH
baden-wuerttem-
berg@giz.de**

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region is aiming to strengthen the cross-border cooperation and further development of the diverse yet inter-dependent cultural, economic, and social environments in the countries of the Danube region. These factors are important in promoting its' sustainable growth. If European integration and sustainable development are to be permanently anchored in the society, one should start by inspiring the youth with these issues.

E-School for Sustainability in the Danube Region (eSchool4S) develops an operational platform for regional cooperation and exchange of information. It promotes interactive, web-based teaching and learning concepts to cover cross-border issues in the fields of ecology, energy efficiency, and adaptation to the impacts of the climate change. eSchool4S brings together decision-makers, (in-service) teacher training institutions, schools, and students across the Danube Region to raise their ecological awareness and to implement these issues into the school curricula.

Sprachenoffensive – Language Strategy



»Language transfers more than just words. It prepares a fertile soil for understanding differences as well as for realising commonalities and thus enables good cooperation. «

Dr. Christian Milota,
Geschäftsführer NÖ Landesakademie

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Czech Republic
Hungary
Slovakia

START

2003

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

NÖ Landesakademie,
office@
sprachkompetenz.at

WEBSITE

www.sprach-
kompetenz.noelak.at

To support the neighbouring regions of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia the Language Campaign has provided creative learning environments. Starting in nursery schools, children gain their first experiences with the sound of the other language, getting to know something about cultural differences by celebrating high days or visiting each other. School education offers different learning opportunities for German, Czech, Slovak or Hungarian. Special teaching aids for the demands of the border regions have been developed.

Education institutions of the border regions exchange information on the systems or organise training opportunities for teachers on a regular basis.

Education Twinning, Heading for Excellence in the CENTROPE Region

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Czech Republic
Hungary
Slovakia

DURATION

2008 – 2011



Schooling, Vocation and Language were the three main areas of EdTWIN project activities. Students, aged 6 to 19, and educators were involved in projects focusing on personal encounters. Essential tools for successful cross-border co-operation were the languages of the partner regions. EdTWIN offered opportunities for students and educators to acquire basic skills in the project partners' national languages. In the context of the CENTROPE key-message: »Growing together – together we grow« vocational education also played an important role in the project. EdTWIN promoted and supported cross-border exchange of experience. Future citizens of the CENTROPE region therefore, had acquired the competences needed for joint successful regional development.

»The EdTWIN project represents a well-thought through, well-tuned overall concept for learning the neighbouring languages of Slovak, Czech, Hungarian, and German for pupils from different school grades, and educational and vocational paths. This not only includes learning the neighbouring languages in the classroom based on an immersion model but also the actual immersion in the language where it is spoken through linguistic and cultural encounters in the partner regions of Bratislava, Brno, and Győr/Moson/Sopron. It is particularly impressive to see how the project developed tailor-made encounters for the relevant age groups and schools and that these encounters were made possible without any extra cost for the pupils, also pupils from social disadvantaged backgrounds ...«

From the jury decision
to award EdTWIN with ESIS 2010
(Europäisches Sprachen-
innovationssiegel) Award

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Concordia Vocational Training

LEAD

Concordia Foundation (Romania)

DURATION

2014 – 2017

»To improve cross-sector policy coordination to address demographic and migration challenges«

Enhanced efforts should be pursued to develop knowledge on the status quo, on drivers and impacts of migration flows and demographic change, so to develop a basis for enhanced cooperation of different policies at all levels of governance. Cross-sector policy coordination between relevant government departments, education authorities, social services, healthcare services, cultural policy authorities, housing and spatial planning authorities as well as asylum and immigration services at local, regional and national level, as well as dialogue with civil society are essential to ensure an adequate level of support. Spatial consequences of migration-induced social, economic and cultural changes and possible responses in the framework of urban and rural development should be considered. Cooperation with existing organisations, such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with their existing analysis and recommendations, would be particularly useful.



SEEMIG: Managing Migration and its Effects in SEE – Transnational Actions Towards Evidence Based Strategies



PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria
Bulgaria
Hungary
Romania
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia

START

2012

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

**Hungarian Central
Statistical Office**
seemig@demografia.hu

WEBSITE

www.seemig.eu

SEEMIG is a strategic project with the objective to better understand and address the longer term migratory, human capital and demographic processes of the SEE area, as well as their effects on labour markets and national and regional economies in order to enable public administrations to develop and implement policies and strategies by using enhanced datasets and empirical evidence.

In order to achieve the main objective, SEEMIG partners will

- compile datasets on longer term processes to serve as bases for complex, reliable, predictive analyses of major processes of migration and human capital;
- develop foresight scenarios and projections to predict demographic, migratory and labour market processes, as these are crucial for designing effective and sustainable national, regional and local strategies;
- build capacities of local and regional authorities to better collect and utilise statistical data in their planning and sectoral policies, and foster a balanced two-way cooperation of stakeholders to facilitate effective, evidence based policy making and implementation.

»International migration has a marked effect on the population development of the SEEMIG area, where 55 per cent of the regions show tendencies of population decline. Valid migration data and a sound evidence-base are indispensable to counter related (trans)national policy challenges.«

Heinz Fassmann,
University of Vienna

»To fight poverty and social exclusion of marginalized communities in the Danube Region, especially the Roma communities«

To make full use of the Danube Region's population specific focus needs to be put at empowering in particular groups in risk of poverty and ensuring them access and opportunities. Children, old people, mentally and physically disabled, immigrants, homeless, representatives of marginalized ethnic groups are the most vulnerable. Actions to reduce the number of people in risk of poverty need to complement each other, applying an integrated approach. Especially on Roma communities, whose living conditions are often especially dire and with no place in 21st century Europe, special attention must be paid. Hence the coordination of efforts between existing initiatives and actors such as the Roma Decade (2005-2015), EU Roma platform for Roma Inclusion, EU-Roma network and NGOs active in this field in the Danube Region is indispensable for improving the situation for Roma.



THARA e Romengo than THARA Platz der Roma

»Labour Market Initiative for Roma and Sinti in Vienna«

PARTICIPATING DR COUNTRIES

Austria

START

2014

STATUS

Ongoing

CONTACT

Volkshilfe Österreich

Verena Fabris

verena.fabris@

volkshilfe.at

WEBSITE

www.volkshilfe.at/

thara

www.thara-biznis.at

Thara e Romengo than is the newest of a series of projects which have addressed the needs of the diverse Roma communities in Vienna, Austria since 2005.

THARA is financed by the Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.

Target groups:

- Roma and Sinti of all ages living in Vienna
- Women and youth are the special focus groups of this project
- Multipliers and actors from public institutions, civil society organisations and NGOs
- The general public, both Roma and Non-Roma

Main objectives:

- The integration of Roma and Sinti into the labour market in order to improve their socio-economic situation.
- To create awareness in society for the existing inequalities and discriminatory practices Roma and Sinti are faced with.
- To further the empowerment of Roma/Sinti by means of education and qualification.
- To foster the concept of upward mobility through education and vocational qualification in Roma/Sinti communities.

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NSRS in the Danube Region

LEAD

Ministry of Education (Romania)

DURATION

to be announced

»To promote gender equality on the labour market, especially in payment«

Equality between women and men is one of the European Union's founding principles. The principle of equal pay for equal work dates already back to 1957, when it became part of the Treaty of Rome.

To create equal opportunities for women and men on the labour market, discrimination, educational stereotypes, labour market segregation, precarious employment conditions, involuntary part-time work and the unbalanced sharing of care responsibilities with men must be overcome. The full realisation of women's potential and the full use of women's skills must be fostered with the emphasis to facilitate a better gender distribution on the labour market and to allow the number of quality jobs for women to be increased. Besides the discrimination against women in career opportunities, the discrimination against female employees with regard to their wage level is imminent. The so called gender pay gap (the average difference between men's and women's hourly gross earnings across the economy as a whole) in the EU remains at 17.8%, with heights around 30% in some EU member states. To ventilate this topic a stakeholder forum involving social partners, should be initiated. This forum should explore possible ways to improve the transparency of pay as well as the impact on equal pay of arrangements such as part-time work and fixed-term contracts.

imprint

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Universitätsstraße 5
1010 Wien
ZVR 617182667
t +43 1 523 87 65
f +43 1 523 87 65-20
www.kulturkontakt.or.at

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