



South East European Education Co-operation Network (SEE ECN)

**IBE UNESCO – International Bureau of Education
in co-operation with
CEPS – Centre for Educational Policy Studies, University of Ljubljana**

DRAFTING NEW CURRICULA

**Seminar in the framework of
*Stability Pact Task Force on Education and Youth***

Bohinj, Slovenia, 26-28 April 2002

Context: *In the framework of Stability Pact Task Force on Education and Youth from Autumn 2000 to Summer 2001 thematic reviews of education in countries of South East Europe (led by OECD) have been exercised. These reviews give a sistematic insight into national systems of education and put a range of recommendations on curriculum, legislation, access, vocational education and training, life long learning strategies etc. Stability Pact Task Force on Education and Youth document »Strategy 2001« plans series of seminars aimed at human resource development and capacity building in SEE countries in the field of educational reform to be organized in 2001 and 2002. The first seminar on educational legislation was organized in Autumn 2001 by OSEP SEE and CEPS. Seminar on curricula will be the second in the line.*

Content: The curriculum development is a common feature of educational renewal and quality improvement in many countries today. In regions hurt by conflicts and even war during the last decade this issue was pushed off and lack of expertise in this field is obvious. Thematic reviews of education in countries of South East Europe highlight the importance of curricular change in the envisaged educational reforms. In this process, it is essential that education experts and decision makers find a common language and constructive approach to their work. They can get an important help in a conversation with distinguished international

experts: with those from neighbouring countries that have already passed curricular change as well as with those from other world regions and comparative situation. Interregional approach to this seminar is a special IBE UNESCO added value.

Objective of the Workshop: The exchange of practical information and know-how relevant for the preparation of curricular change in countries of South East Europe. It is hoped that the workshop will:

- a) contribute to human resource development and capacity building in SEE countries in the field of curriculum development as well as to national educational reforms;
- b) give information and provide analysis of contemporary trends in curriculum development (supported by the presentation of case studies and examples of good practices in some countries of the region as well as from outside the region);
- c) help recognizing concrete needs of SEE countries in curriculum renewal, in particular, by discussing concrete situations and issues,
- d) put into contact experts from SEE and other countries and initiate their further cooperation.

The outcomes of the workshop will be used for strengthening South-East European Education Co-operation Network (SEE ECN – www.see-educop.net) as a contribution to the International Network on Curriculum Development managed by the IBE.

Participants (60): Applications are invited from teams of specialists in the Stability Pact countries of South East Europe (40). Ideally, a country team (4 persons) will comprise of curricular specialists from educational institutions (2 or 3) and decision makers from responsible ministries (1 or 2) who are designated with the responsibility for educational reform. Participants are being invited jointly by IBE UNESCO and CEPS through the South East European Educational Co-operation Network (SEE ECN - operated by CEPS, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) extending invitations to SEE ECN country nodes and Ministries of Education. SEE ECN country nodes take technical co-ordination in the countries of the region.

Foreign experts (*about 10*) in curriculum development (key-note speaker, speakers, facilitators, reporters), about 5 of them designated by IBE UNESCO and about 5 of them invited among SEE ECN experts. Slovenian experts (*about 5 - 7*) experienced in curricular renewal of last decade and familiar with educational reform trends in SEE countries (speakers, facilitators, reporters).

The size of the workshop will be limited. Participants will be selected based on the appropriateness of the team's composition, their initiative and willingness to make available existing or draft curricular documents from the country, and the date on which the application is received (early applications will receive preference; C.V. should be attached). Final selection of participant country teams will be made by responsible ministries and SEE ECN country nodes and sent to CEPS not later than 15 March 2002.

Comparative approach: Prior to the seminar, materials on curriculum development are being gathered from the countries of SEE, as well as other countries or international organizations. Seminar aims at pre-school and primary education. The materials will be made accessible either in the languages of the SEE region or in English, French or German. This comparative information will be made available electronically through the SEE-Education Cooperation Network (www.see-educoop.net) and in course materials for participants. Critical reflections on recent curricular change will be presented through country case studies -- one of the EU-

associated countries, one of the EU-countries, one of the non-European countries (invited by IBE UNESCO). The workshop will address the key question “*what do we mean by curriculum for quality education for all?*”

Working method: Participants will be expected to familiarize themselves with course materials prior to the workshop (via Internet), to minimize need for presentations directly from documentation. Workshop sessions will focus on frank exchange of experience and tactics around certain aspects and common topics of curriculum development (such as logistics of curricular renewal, subject contents in curricula, curriculum for social cohesion and multiculturalism, curriculum and quality education for all). Participants will discuss the process of drafting, public debate and adoption of new curricula, as well as their substance. Country teams will have opportunity to draw upon specialists from other countries in small groups on specific issues they are facing in their efforts back home. The workshop languages will be English and “South Slavic” (one or two, depending on sources for interpretation), with simultaneous interpretation.

It is expected that greater part of the seminar will be in *small working groups*; participants will concentrate to concrete curricular issues and to concrete needs of SEE countries, analyse them and try to elaborate draft proposals. Seminar is also aimed at strengthening co-operation among experts from the SEE and other countries. Its follow-up is foreseen in the framework of further development of South East European Educational Co-operation Network.

Institutional Partners who are being invited to contribute to the workshop content and course materials and design:

CEPS University of Ljubljana

IBE UNESCO

SEE ECN country nodes

Ministries of Education in SEE (and other countries)

Stability Pact Task Force on Education and Youth/ SEE ECN

UNESCO National Commission Slovenia

OSEP SEE

CADP (Kosovo Programme)

University of Ljubljana

For further information, contact: Mr. Igor Repac, Mrs. Sabina Mojškerc, CEPS, University of Ljubljana, e-mail ceps.ljubljana@uni-lj.si, tel. + 386-1-566-1492, fax + 386-1-566-1493.