

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

EDUCATION INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BALKANS: THE EMERGING MARKET

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The Kosovo crisis has brought to the forefront the urgent need for sustainable development, lasting peace, prosperity and stability in South Eastern Europe. It has, moreover, placed education at the forefront of the bridging process that will afford South Eastern Europe equal socio-economic opportunities in the 21st century to that of other European nations. However, although the education systems of South Eastern Europe were a 'good fit' with the planned economies of authoritarian political systems, they are a 'bad fit' with the global economic structure of open political systems. To make matters worse, budget pressures on the education sector in conjunction with the increase in price for some education inputs, have led to less public funds for education. Private sector development therefore, has become an urgent need in South East Europe if the region is to generate the human capital necessary to meet the challenges ahead as it progresses along the path of EU integration and a global market economy.

The aim of this conference therefore is to provide a framework within which the private sector can be mobilized to contribute to education development in the Balkans. Within this framework moreover, public-private partnerships have a major role to play.

The main topics to be covered include:

- Overview of the Global Market for Education
- The Role of Private Education in the Balkans
- Concepts that are Working – Selected Case Studies
- Financing
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Investment Opportunities

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