

Task Force Education and Youth

Enhanced Graz Process
Working Table 1
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe



First Session of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body **EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE**

Zagreb, 27 November, 2004

Overview First Session of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body

The **constituting session** of the ERI SEE Governing Board and Consultative Body took place on November 27, 2004. With more than two thirds of its members present (2 members out of 10¹ were not present), the Governing board **had the quorum requested** in the ERI SEE Terms of Reference. Main points addressed were:

- ◆ Procedural issues
 - Proposal and acceptance of working procedure
 - Appointed members of the GB and CB
 - Election of chair and vice-chairs
 - Appointment of the new executive director of the ERI SEE Secretariat

- ◆ Content issues
 - Development of the priorities of the ERI SEE work programme for 2005
 - Presentation of the International Education Conference “Governance and Education for Sustainable Development and European Integration” (27 – 29 January 2005).

Summary Procedure:

Mr. Anton Dobart opened the session in his function as chair of the Task Force Education and Youth and invited Mr. Gerhard Kowar (TFEY) to offer a short overview on the ERI SEE Terms of Reference as agreed upon between in at the second SOM in Predeal (May 2003), with respect to the Governing Board and the Consultative Body, as well as an overview on the nominated GB and CB members.

Subsequently **the working procedure for the GB was approved**. Croatia was elected as **Chair of the Governing Board**, with **Ms. Ivana Petricevic from Montenegro** and **Mr. Gerhard Kowar from the Task Force Education and Youth** as **vice-chairs**. After completing this procedure, Mr. Dobart passed the chair of the session to the **new ERISSEE Chair of the GB, Mr. Radovan Fuchs**.

¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania were absent

Mr. Fuchs updated the Governing Board on **the recent developments with regards to the establishment of the Secretariat** and underlined, that it should be operating in **the legal framework of a governmental agency** with the members of the GB as **steering board** and the ERI SEE executive director as **manager**. **He further stated that the establishment of the Secretariat should be completed by the end of 2004.**

Following the discussion of the working plan for 2005, the GB Chair **nominated Ms. Luminita Matei from Romania as the first executive director of the ERI SEE Secretariat. The appointment was based on a previously held secret ballot of the GB board members.** Ms. Matei subsequently introduced herself and reiterated her strong commitment to the ERI SEE initiative.

Summary Content:

The elaboration of the ERI SEE working plan for 2005 generated a fruitful discussion. Among the core priorities for 2005 identified by the Governing Board are:

- § Identification of topics of relevance for the SEE region based on inputs by the countries in the SEE region.
- § Preparation for access to the “EU Integrated Lifelong Learning Programmes - ILLP” (2007 – 2013) through development and implementation of appropriate training measures.
- § Avoiding duplication of efforts on regional, inter-institutional and international level
- § Provision of regular fora for know-how exchange and mutual update on developments and activities
- § Access to and dissemination of relevant information on the state of affairs of EU processes with relevance for the ERI SEE.
- § Continuation of the Senior Officials Meetings as a structured exchange of experience with experts and partners.

Following the discussion, the new director of the ERI SEE secretariat Mrs. Matei summarized the various points mentioned and delineated the core issues for WP 2005.

1. Collection and dissemination of a document database through the creation of an ERI SEE INDOC service linking up to existing providers (e.g. the Southeast European Education Co-operation Network <http://www.see-educoop.net>) and drawing on the work of already existing networks, e.g. the ETF National Observatories.
2. Preparation of participation in ILLLP through capacity building measures, i.e. expert seminars, training of potential promoters, creation of projects pipelines, train the trainers programs and through the establishment of networks of experts, nominated by the Ministries of Education.
3. Creating synergies with other relevant projects and initiatives by means of an integrated approach, in the first place with the ETF project “Dissemination of the Copenhagen Process to Southeast Europe”, as well as the OECD project “Education Development for Disabled and at Risk Students”.
4. Development of proposals for other thematic expert workshops and organisation of thematic expert seminars, in particular on financing in the sector of education and science.

5. Ensuring clear visibility of relevant processes in SEE and lobbying for ERI SEE not only on the level of the European Union but also raise its visibility towards the wider education community, stakeholders and civil society in the region.
6. Logistic and thematic organisation of Senior Officials Meetings as platform for sharing experiences, back-to-back with the ERISSEE Governing Board/Consultative Body Meetings.

The detailed Working Plan for 2005 is being elaborated by the executive director and will be distributed for approval.

Summary next steps:

The ERI SEE Governing Board decided upon the next steps of the ERI SEE initiative. It was underlined that the Executive Director of the ERI SEE Secretariat should commence with her work as soon as possible. It was further stated that the founding procedure of the Secretariat as legal entity should be completed rapidly.