

ERI SEE

EDUCATION REFORM INITIATIVE OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Background paper

ERI SEE seminar on
"ICT in Education: The Role of Teachers and Teacher Training in ICT
2-3 December 2005, Zagreb, Croatia

Context:

Information and communication technologies (ICT), properly used, contribute to the quality of education and training and to Europe's move to a knowledge-based society.

The European Commission has been active in supporting and complementing the efforts of EU Member States in this field, by encouraging co-operation, networking and exchange of good practice at a European level. The importance of using ICT in education has been also stressed by the ministers of education and higher education from the SEE. Programmes for enhancing ICT use in educational institutions are in progress.

The seminar took into consideration the recommendations from the expert seminar on "*Ensuring Access to ICT for Everyone*", organised in Graz, on 27-28 November 2003, in the framework of the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe and the Dutch expertise in the field.

The workshop showed that strengthening the role of ICT in education is a priority also in all the countries in SEE. In order to achieve this goal teachers play a key role. The increased role of ICT in education requires new teaching skills and teacher training – in- and pre-service - should to respond to this need.

Objective:

The seminars would simultaneously target actors from the policy/expert field and teacher training practitioners, pursuing the following objectives:

A. Initiate new and sustain existing focused discussions among the SEE experts/policy makers and practitioners on the **national experiences, strategies and action plans** for teacher training in ICT and the role of ICT in education, **with a special focus on the use of ICT in the education process**.

B. Facilitate **information exchange** on EU-SEE level and SEE regional level on **international standards** and their **application** in the sector of ICT in education, with a special focus on **teacher training in applying ICT in the education process**, also via **peer exchange** on relevant **quality assurance systems, case studies and good practices**.

Topics:

- To what extent the existing structures and activities undertaken in the field of teacher training **respond to the needs** of teachers from the SEE, especially in terms of use of ICT in education processes/schools?
- **Availability and challenges** with the **implementation of strategy/action plans** developed at national level on ICT in education, with a particular focus on teacher training
- Presentation of **case studies**, with possible accent on:
 - Q & A systems
 - Outsourcing of teacher training activities and partnerships between the public and private sector in terms of application of ICT in education
 - "ICT as tool" – good practices in schools

Expected outcomes:

- **An overview** on the status quo of the national strategies, action plans or activities undertaken in the field of teacher training –use of ICT, ICT infrastructure, etc.
- Collecting **case studies for dissemination** at regional level
- **Recommendations** for a regional cooperation approach
- **Fostering** existing networks

Participants/target group

The participants expected to attend the seminars would be **representatives** from each signatory ministry of the Memorandum of Understanding, responsible for teacher training, **practitioners** in the field of teacher training from the ERI SEE region, as well as **international experts** from the Netherlands and other institutions.

Contact person

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