

## REPORT

### On the International workshop

“Participation to the Community programmes in the fields of education and training- an important tool for European integration”

Bucharest, 6-7 May 2005

### Background and Justification

In accordance with the *Memorandum of Understanding* signed by the SEE ministers of education and higher education, the **Secretariat of the Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE)** has included in its 2005 working programme activities for developing capacity building for an efficient participation of the SEE countries in the future Community programmes.

**The European Commission submitted for the approval of the Council and the Parliament the Decision on the new Lifelong Learning Integrated programme which includes the Western Balkans countries among the participating countries and allows the participation of third countries in the partnerships developed within different projects.**

The knowledge transfer capacity has been taken into account by the ERI SEE Secretariat, having in mind that in the region there is a huge wealth of experience from the candidate countries - Bulgaria and Romania, participating in the current Community programmes in the field of education and training- Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci since the first phase of those programs (1997). There is also the interest of donor countries, Austria, the Netherlands, Italy and Norway to support the capacity building measures, using their expertise and experience in participating into the EU programmes.

Another valuable project is initiated and coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Education and IRRE Veneto and aims to include partners from the SEE countries in concrete Socrates projects in order to facilitate the understanding of the mechanisms, procedures but also the outcomes of the Community projects, through direct experience.

## Objectives of the workshop

1. To present the ongoing Community programmes in the field of education and training, respectively Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci, as well as the administrative requirements for participation.
2. To disseminate best results, experiences and best practices, to discuss the relevance of participating in the Community programmes and to reflect on how to develop national capacities for managing the newly integrated Community programme.
3. To present the future Integrated Life Long Learning program

## Organizers

**The workshop has been organised by the ERI SEE Secretariat with the support of the Romanian Agency for community programmes in the field of education and training and the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research.**

The Romanian Agency for community programmes in the field of education and training is the agency subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Research that has the responsibility to manage the implementation in Romania of the Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programme.

## Target group/participants

A number of 27 experts have attended the workshop in Bucharest. Kosovo was not represented. The workshop has been designed for the representatives of the Ministries of education from the Western Balkan countries and Moldova.

There have been also invited experts from Italy, Norway, Task Force Education and Youth/Enhanced Graz Process, Stability Pact Office and the EC Delegation in Bucharest.

## Language of the workshop

The working language was **English**.

## Organisational details

**The ERI SEE Secretariat allotted a budget of 15.000 euro, supporting the cost of participation for 2 representatives of the Ministries of education signatory of the Memorandum, respectively: transportation, accomodation and visa costs. The cost of subsistence had been covered by the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research and the TFEY.**

## Agenda

The agenda of the workshop (annexed to the report) included presentations of the experts from Romania, Bulgaria, Italy and Norway, on their experience in participating into the Community programmes – Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci (presentations attached).

**There have been invited also project promoters of Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci - with the aim to give an image on the types of the projects management issues and impact envisaged, to highlight the benefits of the participation in such projects –for institutions and individuals as well- and to present possible obstacles and ways to avoid them.**

**A presentation of the new Integrated Life Long Learning program was given by the representative of the Romanian Agency, with focus on the legislative and institutional arrangements to be implemented for the fully participation of the Western Balkans countries to the program starting with 2007 (presentation annexed).**

Two working groups have been organised within an workshop aiming to develop a SWOT analysis of the current situation in each country with regard to the stage of the preparations for the participation in Community programs starting by 2007 and to draw a preliminary action plan for drafting some preparatory steps, in order to be ready for the implementation in 2007.

## Outcomes of the workshop

1. Understanding of the requirements for participating into LLL programme, developed at European level
2. Examples of best practices and bad practices, practical examples of success stories relevant for the SEE countries
3. Creation of a network of experts

## Difficulties

1. No participation from Kosovo
2. Different stages for each country in the process of European integration

## Next steps

A second expert seminar will be organised in September 2005.