

Stability Pact for SEE - 10th meeting of WT1
Skopje, 18 November 2004

***Importance of Education and
Training for European Integration***

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Without human and social capital effective development, there is no future which brings in social cohesion, economic competitiveness and sustainable development in a country as well as for the whole Europe.

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European context

- Lisbon goals and mandate - 2010 perspective
- Bologna, Barcelona and Copenhagen processes in education and training
- national *versus* European / enhanced cooperation at European level / implementation at national level of the European agreed policies

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Shared common goals in Europe countries

- First condition, a mutuality of interests is essential to European enlargement.
- And the spread of that mutuality to ever greater areas through the integration process is a second, equal precondition for success.

Education and training systems across Europe differ substantially. No single scheme can be labelled as the best one.

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Shared common goals in Europe countries

Search for a common European answer to common European problems acting:

- not against diversity, all the more there is a need to carefully observe it
- building on common aspects instead of differences
- countries have their own reasons to move the common goal
- quite important changes cannot be identified only by analysing the past – important changes can come from nowhere and we need to be proactive

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Common challenges/problems in Europe:

- Ø 1970s – 1990 additional education was an immediate adjunct to a primary degree
 - Ø 1990 - 2000 parallel blocks or modules of training for the first few years
 - Ø From now on life long learning (LLL)
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- Demographic trends show an ageing Europe
 - Migration is not best suited as an adjustment tool (satisfactory as a temporary fix)
 - Need to be able to attract talent from other countries in some cases, and to stop brain drain in other cases
 - Chaotic trends in the labour market are likely to be an ongoing feature
 - There is a known lack of highly skilled staff in well defined areas (hot points)
 - There is a qualitative dimension – mismatch rather than shortage of skills

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Common challenges/problems in Europe:

- Emphasis on ability to learn and update knowledge, skills and attitudes
- LLL is one answer to the skills shortage referring to both economy and democracy development. Technological change can be best managed by LLL
- Much has to be done to foster self-adjustment
- Internationalisation (globalisation) should be considered since trans-national business is developing and could become a catalyst for change - there is a need for mutual recognition of competencies and qualifications as a result of mobility.

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What is the potential offered by SEE countries

- Capacity to manage change – systemic reforms
- Short time reaction to change
- Capacity to adapt

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Brief conclusions in relation to the statement

- Invest in human capital development reflecting on the value of the private-public partnerships
- Invest in social capital development - based on trust of individuals on institutions, including those in the education and training areas (equity and quality of education and training are key features to be addressed in this respect)
- Develop corporate governance and management at all systems levels through investment in people, by providing leadership and performance in education and training, by enhancing accountability of decision makers and managers of education and training

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Brief conclusions in relation to the statement

- *Do not forget people care about their community or country development if you offer them the opportunity to be involved – Europe is built by people!*
- *The scarcity of resources is representing a political justification – make the best use of resources you have and look for the value of money by investing in people through education and training!*