

“Regional Support for Inclusive Education”

2nd Annual Conference in South East Europe

“INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN PRACTICE”

Patterns, tools and actions

28-29 October 2014

Session 4 „Inclusive Education in the region: the future“

Nada Jakir, Croatia

Panel discussion: Wednesday 29 October, from 14:30 to 15:30

Duration: 15 minutes

1. *What are the benefits of regional approach in inclusive education to your Ministry?*

Beneficiary countries of the project “Regional Support for Inclusive Education” share the same tradition of the education system, which is a good base for the development of mutual understanding and sharing common values when it comes to the policy of inclusive education. At the same time this is the space for the future mobility of the citizens, which includes students, teachers and labour market.

The joint goal of the countries in the Southeast Europe is the aspiration towards European values, respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Those are the values that are common to the countries in this region.

A characteristic of the beneficiary countries and especially of the Republic of Croatia is the existence of special policies, along with strategic documents for socially disadvantaged groups. Improving access to inclusive education is a challenge for all of the beneficiaries which include establishing the system of inclusiveness based on the new premises as a possible solution for future cohesive development of the countries in the Southeast Europe.

2. *How can your Ministry support the regional efforts in inclusive education?*

All of us in the countries in the Southeast Europe are faced with challenges in the establishment of policies, especially the policies for inclusive education of disadvantaged groups. Through mutual cooperation we empower our efforts to make inclusive education sustainable.

Regardless of the level of the development of inclusive education in each country, mutual cooperation is particularly relevant for the exchange of information, the identification of good practices and joint projects.

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports is willing to share implementation policy developments and good practices concerning the support provided in the education system for students with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups.

The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports will also invest additional efforts in joint empowerment of the educational staff, raising awareness in the general public and it will persist in its efforts to make all of the schools in Croatia and region open to all students, especially because the school is the first social environment that the child experiences outside of his home.

The promotion of inclusive education is of invaluable importance not just for the children who are relying on it, but for the rest of the rest students including excellent as well, since human values, human rights and democracy cannot be implemented without mutual understanding of each and every member of the society in order to create a happier and perspective society.

The role of the media is of utmost importance because there is a lack of positive examples of inclusiveness.

According to that, an excellent school is one in which all of the students feel good and a democratic society is one which includes all groups of people.