

Background

The joint European Union and Council of Europe Project “Regional Support for Inclusive Education” is a 3-year project (1 January 2013 - 30 November 2015) implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” and Kosovo*. It enhances social inclusion and social cohesion in the region (in line with the Beneficiaries’ commitments to EU accession and Council of Europe standards) by promoting inclusive education and training.

The project promotes the concept of inclusive education as a reform principle that respects and caters for diversity amongst all learners, with a specific focus on those who are at a higher risk of marginalisation and exclusion.

To increase the understanding of the benefits of inclusive education, the main activities focused on 49 pilot schools (7 per beneficiary: 3 primary, 2 general secondary and 2 vocational secondary). The experiences gained from these pilot schools provided policy makers with evidence-based proposals on how to scale-up effective practices. This enabled them to cater for increased social diversity and more inclusive societies – for the benefit of all. The project has a “bottom-up” approach that helped policy-makers move from experience in the field to mainstream education reforms.

Major project achievements

Three **regional networks** were established for mutual learning, the sharing of experiences and policy dialogue:

- **Inclusive SchoolNet** with 49 pilot schools from 7 beneficiaries and 245 members (teachers, school directors, parents, students and local community representatives) supported by a relevant web-platform. Small grants were also provided to the pilot schools which implemented school projects, fostering inclusive school environments. Towards the end of the project, an additional 35 schools were invited to join the network and benefit from school development plan training.
- **Inclusive TeacherNet** embracing 245 teachers from pilot schools encouraged peer learning and professional development. The Toolkit on improving teacher-training competences in inclusive education was developed, based on the mapping of 38 existing programmes in South East Europe.
- **Inclusive PolicyNet** composed of 70 members (policy makers as well as representatives from the School and Teacher Nets), was set up to initiate policy dialogue and policy learning, using examples from the pilot schools to identify best practices.

Regional policy recommendations for inclusive education were developed through a consultative and participatory approach and **action plans** were developed by and for the seven beneficiaries.

Awareness of the benefits of inclusive education was raised through visibility events; the production of a EuroNews documentary (broadcast in 15 languages); the production of educational TV and radio programmes based on the cases from pilot schools; and the organisation of awareness-raising events culminating in an “Inclusive day” in all 7 capital cities.

* “This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence”

Regional **mobilisation** on inclusive education including:

*Over **15,000** respondents involved in the Baseline and Final study carried out by the London School of Economics (LSE) Enterprise;*

***1,700** stakeholders organised in **196** focus groups established in **49** schools;*

***49** pilot school projects on inclusive education developed through participatory action research and implemented in partnership with students, parents and local community;*

*Mapping study on existing teacher training modules on inclusive education in SEE conducted. **42** stakeholders consulted and **38** programmes in SEE mapped and analysed;*

***140** representatives from the SchoolNet, TeacherNet and PolicyNet consulted and their feedback incorporated into mapping study which served as a basis for development of a Toolkit for teacher training;*

Policy recommendations for inclusive education in primary, secondary and VET developed using 360 degree approach;

***200** inclusive education initiatives from SEE presented at Expo for Inclusion;*

*Web platform enabled web discussions among **600** Project stakeholders, and over **1,000** people follow activities via Facebook*

***13,330** participants directly involved in **44** Project activities.*

The final conference

The conference is hosted by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and is organised in the framework of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

The objectives of the Conference are to highlight the stakeholders' achievements towards inclusive education and to outline and promote the regional policy recommendations upon which action plans were developed by and for the seven beneficiaries.

The regional conference will bring together members of the TeacherNet, SchoolNet and PolicyNet from seven beneficiaries in South East Europe, as well as regional and international experts and educationalists.

Thursday, 5 November 2015

09:00 – 10:00 **REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

09:30 – 10:00 **PRESS CORNER**

10:00 – 10:30 **OPENING ADDRESSES**

Mr Adil Osmanović, Minister, Ministry of Civil Affairs
Mr Bo Caperman, Programme Manager, Directorate-General for
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Western Balkans Regional
Cooperation and Programmes, European Commission
Ms Mary Ann Hennessy, Head of Office, Council of Europe Office in
Sarajevo

10:30 – 11:30 **SESSION I: REMOVING BARRIERS**

Chair: Ms Sarah Keating, Head of Unit for Regional and Bilateral
Co-operation in South East Europe and Turkey, Education Department,
Council of Europe

No barriers for joint action

Ms Vesna Atanasova, Senior Project Officer, Education Department,
Council of Europe

No barriers for mutual learning

Ms Gordana Nestorovska - psychologist, primary school "Joakim Krcoski",
Skopje

Mr Darko Kmezić, teacher, General secondary school "VII beogradska
Gimnazija", Beograd

Ms Nataša Borović - teacher, primary school "Blažo Jokov Orlandić", Bar

11:30 – 11:45 **GROUP PHOTO**

11:45 – 12:15 **COFFEE BREAK**

12:15 – 13:15 **SESSION II: RAISING AWARENESS**

Chair: Ms Jadranka Mihić, Programme Manager at the Delegation of the
European Commission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Raising awareness of the benefits from inclusive education

Mr David Addis, Communication expert

Raising awareness campaign

Ms Ena Maglić, "Inclusive day" coordinator for Production Company
"Dokument"

Mr Suad Masleša, Class teacher, General secondary school “Srednjoškolski centar Hadžići”, Sarajevo

13:15 – 14:30

BUFFET LUNCH

14:30 – 16:00

SESSION III: CHANGING APPROACHES

Chair: Ms Lana Jurko, Executive Director, Network of Education Policy Centres

Changing School Cultures, Policies and Practices

Mr Matko Guštin, Student, Vocational secondary school “Ekonomska I upravna škola”, Osijek

Ms Rozeta Hoxhallari, NEPC, Albania

Mr Ramo Kolašinac, Center for Vocational Education, Podgorica

Ms Sabine Rohmann, Head of Unit for European and International Relations (in-service training), Pädagogisches Landesinstitut – Rheinland-Pfalz

16:00 – 16:30

COFFEE BREAK

16:30 – 17:30

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Ms Zorica Lešić, Project Officer, Council of Europe office in Sarajevo
EuroNews documentary “No barriers at school”

Ms Marijana Todorović, Project Officer, Council of Europe office in Belgrade

Ms Delina Cici, Project Officer, Council of Europe office in Tirana

20:00

RECEPTION

The Reception will be held at the National Museum of BiH hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

09:30 – 10:30

SESSION IV: PLANNING THE FUTURE AND SUSTAINING THE RESULTS

Chair: Ms Snežana Vuković, Head of Department for Strategy and Development of Education, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia

Planning the Beneficiary Actions on Inclusive Education

Ms Tatjana Vuçani, Senior Specialist, Directorate of Pre-University Education, Ministry of Education and Sport, Albania

Ms Nada Jakir, Head of Division for minorities and Students with Special Needs, Directorate for Standard, Strategies and Special Programmes, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Croatia

Ms Lida Kita, Specialist in VET and Social Inclusion – Country Desk Israel and Turkey, European Training Foundation

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

10:30 – 11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30

SESSION VI: STEERING THE PROJECT

Ms Vesna Atanasova, Senior Project Officer, Education Department, Council of Europe

Closing remarks

Ms Sarah Keating, Head of Unit for Regional and Bilateral Co-operation in South East Europe and Turkey, Education Department, Council of Europe

12:45 – 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 – 14:30

PARTICIPANTS DEPART