

Western Balkans Alliance for Work-Based Learning

European Alliance for Apprenticeships
(EAfA)

Regional seminar for candidate countries

Budva, Montenegro

26th – 27th October 2017



Background information

ERI SEE (initiative of the 7 countries from the region – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia); area of education and training

Mandate:

Facilitation of regional cooperation

Supporting educational reforms at national levels through regional and international activities

Political and strategic contexts:

Memorandum of understanding

Education and training 2020

SEE 2020

Berlin process

Economic Reform Programmes and national multiannual strategies in education and training

Priorities

Deriving from the political and strategic contexts:

- **VET: modernization and connection to the labour market** (Riga conclusions, Berlin process)
- Higher education: recognition of higher education qualifications in the region (based on the quality assurance standards mutually agreed) (Yerevan communique, SEE 2020)
- Enhancement of Quality assurance aspects in the area of general education (ET 2020 WG; OMC)

Western Balkans Alliance on WBL - Establishment

1

Berlin process, Vienna 2016,
Joint Statement:

2

Called on ERI SEE and WB
CIF to:

- „explore ways of joining forces for initiating a Western Balkans Alliance for Work base learning“

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With the goal of:

- Promoting high quality, labour market relevant VET through strengthening elements of dual systems and other forms of WBL and enhancing the overall co-operation between the private and the public sector in VET

Western Balkans Alliance on WBL - Partners

- Western Balkans Chambers Investment Forum (WB CIF):

inter-chambers platform, consisting of around 350.000 (mainly small and medium) enterprises

- SEEVET Net

South Eastern Europe Vocational Education and Training Network (SEEVET-Net)

the most relevant experts in VET - ministries and agencies/centres for VET

- KulturKontakt Austria (KKA)

Expertise, support, additional funding

- Austrian Economic Chamber (WKÖ)

Expertise, contacts, networking

- ERI SEE

Coordination, facilitation, planning, implementation

Priority sectors



Potential of economic growth, employment, regional cooperation and labour mobility:

- Tourism, hospitality and catering
- Food production and food processing
- Construction
- Transport and logistics

WB Alliance on WBL focus – specific aims

- Strengthening the position of the WBL
- Defining the skills-base relevant for the whole region
- Incorporated into national standards of occupation
- Translated into qualifications and curricula (at national level)
- Cooperation between education and business sector
- Strong elements of company-based trainings for students
- Development of training programs for company mentors

- Leading to:

Increased skills-base among all the parties involved; increased employability, increased relevance of WBL, expansion potential of methodology across the region across sectors

Planned activities (1)

Knowledge-sharing and Learning
platform for WBL



- Mapping the current situation in the region in terms of the already existing formats, tools, instruments, legal practices etc. used for WBL
- Identifying gaps - what is needed but lacking, potentials for regional cooperation in the development
 - More efficient use of already developed instruments and existing expertise and experience
- Development of an on-line data-basis focusing on WBL
- WB Alliance for WBL working meeting: Vienna, 28th/29th November

Planned activities (2)

Development of standards of occupation, qualification and curricula

- Focus on 4 mentioned sectors – occupations to be defined
- Regional skills-basis – defined at regional level what core tasks/activities, skills and competences are needed on the labour market
- Development of occupational standards at national levels, ensuring strong cooperation between business and education, and ensuring mutual recognition of occupational standards among participating countries
- Translation of the occupational standards into qualification standards and curricula at national levels
- Feedback rounds with companies and private sector organisations
- Employers included in the design of the company-based trainings for students and training programs for company mentors and school coordinators

Planned activities (3)

Piloting exercise

Implementation/piloting of the curricula or curricula modules (based on the mutually recognized occupational standards) with strong elements of WBL, resulting in:

- Modernized trainings for the students, in line with the needs of the employers
- Increased skills-base of teachers in VET
- Increased skills-base of company mentors
- Increased capacities of business and education sectors to implement WBL

Additional remarks

To be
ensured:

Quality of training programmes as the WBL element of curricula

Monitoring of the implementation

Focus on development of digital competences among teachers and company trainers

Social inclusion

Thank you for
your attention

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