

ERASMUS+ HEREs Seminar

Higher Education and Vocational Education & Training in the Erasmus+ Partner Countries neighbouring the EU: Partnership for socio-economic development, Istanbul 10-11 March 2015

REPORT

As the member of Montenegrin delegation and chair of Montenegrin HERE team, I have participated in the Istanbul seminar. This seminar was a great professional challenge for me because of the fact that the topic presented is one of the topics that has never been a high priority on political educational agenda in Montenegro before, although positioning of the Higher Education in the context of Bologna reforms and developing of National Qualification Framework has focused a link between academia and VET.

As I have expected the seminar has reached its basic goals: to encourage reflection and discussion among HEREs from the countries concerned. We have obtained a comprehensive picture of state-of-the-art in the different partnering regions. The opportunity to discuss on different topics, make comparison between the solutions in different countries, and to get the idea how to define the holistic approach based on effective partnership between these two components of educational systems in our countries was of utmost importance for me.

According to my opinion the workshops were chosen to put a comprehensive light on the problem of VET and its position toward the labor market as well as its link with the Higher education.

Many of the countries present at seminar, including Montenegro, have developed VET education but without consistent permeability toward HE, without clear positioning on the labour market and post-secondary education.

We have faced a very similar situation in most of the countries concerned thanks to the excellent presentations: lack of attractiveness of VET for young population and parents, lack of real information for target population, lack of practical education or dual education system in VET as well as lack of the links with the real needs and demands of employers. Besides that low permeability toward HE, lack of the interest of HE toward VET and complete absence of strategic approach on behalf of HE toward the creation of sustainable links with VET was evident. One of the most intriguing findings was the fact that most of the students from secondary VET education do not go to post secondary VET, but continue education at the universities mostly in the fields that are not in line with their previous education, thus compromising the idea of post-secondary VET education.

The proposed approach of the seminar where we have begun our discussion with the role of HE in the education process of VET teacher, through the partnering for developing of post-secondary intermediate level and creation of permeability among education and training was very welcomed by Montenegrin delegation. It reflects the holistic system we should try to establish in our environment for the sake of local development. As the university professor I have realized how we can position ourselves

toward the enrollment policy, recognition of prior learning, re-defining of our curricula, especially applied once to make them different, distinctive, but compatible with VET curricula.

This is so broad and complex topic and we appreciate a lot the possibility to discuss to exchange the best practices and to find the common guidelines for further activities.

The level of agreement between different countries about the proposed hot topics was excellent.

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