



## Work Plan 2005

### 1. Background

The Task Force Education and Youth/Enhanced Graz Process actively promotes education and youth issues in the region recognising the crucial role those issues play for CEE and SEE countries on their way to becoming member states of the European Union.

The Ministries of Education and Higher Education in South Eastern Europe and the Task Force Education and Youth/Enhanced Graz Process have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, an initiative aimed at supporting education reform implementation in South Eastern Europe, taking into account both country specific needs and demands in education reform as well as present trends in the development of the envisaged Wider European Area of Education, as outlined in the EU "Detailed Work Programme on the follow-up of the objectives of education and training systems in Europe", the "Bologna Process" and the "Bruges-Copenhagen Process".

The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) is serving as an interface between ongoing SEE education reforms at national level and European trends in order to promote common European standards in education.

As decided by the Senior Officials of the signatory countries and the Governing Board members, the Secretariat of ERISSEE will be responsible for the implementation of the annual programs adopted by the Governing Board within the overall objective of integrating SEE countries into the evolving Wider European Area of Education through networking, exchange of information and experience, dissemination of good practice, organisation and delivery of seminars, training, workshops etc.

The Secretariat of ERI SEE will act as a platform for facilitating communication, cooperation and networking between experts and institutions within the SEE region.

### 2. Activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat of ERISSEE in 2005

The Governing Board members, in the meeting on 26 November 2004 in Zagreb, Croatia, have decided the following objectives:

- ***Collecting relevant document on education reform and dissemination of information-INDOC***

*Educational reform actions in the SEE Europe collection of relevant documents:*

The Governing Board members will support the collection of information on the educational reform under implementation in the signatory countries, such as: legislative acts on education and vocational training, strategies, policies etc. to be collected and disseminated on the website.

*Update on European decisions and debates:*

The main documents prepared and issued at European level in the context of Detailed Work Programme on the Follow-up of the Objectives of Education and Training Systems in Europe”, the “Bologna Process” and the “Bruges-Copenhagen Process” will be collected by the Secretariat and become available for the experts in the SEE.

*Dissemination of information via the Southeast European Education Co-operation Network:*

The Secretariat will cooperate with the Southeast European Education Co-operation network using jointly the website <http://www.see.educoop.net> , which already hosts ERI SEE in a specific section of the website.

*Dissemination of information via an electronic Newsletter:*

An electronic Newsletter will be developed by the Secretariat twice a year containing information about the activities undertaken within ERISSEE framework, as well as information about the debates at the European level. The Newsletter will be distributed to the Governing Board and Consultative Board members, experts and institutions active in the region.

▫ ***Preparation of participation in the Lifelong Learning Community programme by capacity building measures***

Participation in the new lifelong learning programme is an important step towards the European integration of the countries from the Western Balkans. In this respect, preparatory measures are extremely important in order to build the necessary administrative capacity requested by Community acquis.

The ERISSEE Secretariat will promote the following measures:

*Creation of a network of contact persons designated by each Ministry of Education:*

Each Ministry of Education will designate a contact person in order to establish a regional network of experts. Information regarding the structure of the new programme, update information on the status of legislative framework at EU level, stipulations of the financial regulation and other information will be provided to the network regularly. An electronic discussion list/forum will be opened and moderated by the Secretariat in order create a platform for discussion of the issues related to the programme. To this end, close cooperation with the National CEEPUS Offices will also be encouraged.

*Training of the contact persons:*

The Secretariat will organise two training seminar/s with the support of experts from the European Commission/EU member state and candidate countries participating in Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programme.

*Training of experts:*

CROSS (Netherlands) and in cooperation with the Secretariat will organise two training seminar/s on EU affaires issues, project cycle management (to be discussed with Bureau CROSS). The results of the training will be published on the website. The ERISSE Secretariat will issue certificates attesting the training followed.

▫ ***Cooperation with the OECD on the project „Education Development for Disabled and At Risk Students”***

The OECD has developed a project financed jointly by World Bank, Norway and the Flemish Community on „Education development for Disabled and At Risk Students”. The ERI SEE will offer upcoming Meetings of Senior Officials from Southeast Europe to exchange information on this topic and include an OECD seminar on the dissemination of respective reports in its 2005 work programme.

▫ ***Cooperation with European Training Foundation on dissemination of the Copenhagen Process***

The ETF has developed a project financed jointly by the Italian Ministry of Education on „Dissemination of Copenhagen Process to SEE Europe”. The ERISSE Secretariat will back the activities of ETF in the region co-organising some activities and will support participation of experts from Moldova, not covered by the project (to be agreed).

▫ ***Cooperation with the Central CEEPUS Office for supporting the implementation of Bologna Process***

CEEPUS programme, opened for the majority of the countries is an excellent instrument for implementing the objective of Bologna Process such as: applying ECTS, promoting Joint Degrees programmes, encouraging mobility and ensuring quality of education within the established Central European University Network (Action 1 of the CEEPUS II Agreement). In this respect, the ERISSE Secretariat together with the Central CEEPUS Office will be able to jointly organise training session for the experts/contact points in order to support the future participation in the Erasmus action under the LLL programme (to be discussed with Central CEEPUS Office).

- ***Organising the Thematic Expert Seminars***

At the proposal of the Governing Board members, the Secretariat will organise two Thematic Expert Seminars on the topic of higher education with the support of EUA (to be discussed).

- ***Organising Senior Officials, Governing Board and Consultative Body Meetings***

Two meetings will be organised in 2005 jointly with the Ministry of Education from the region in April/May and November 2005. The Draft Agenda and documents for discussion will be submitted by Secretariat to the Governing Board and Consultative Board members, one month prior to the meetings.

- ***Technically Supporting the programmes developed by the international organizations***

The Secretariat will technically supporting the programmes developed by the international organisations in the field of education and training

- ***Increasing visibility of the activities developed under ERISEE framework***

A series of meetings with representatives of the European Commission, EU Member States and other international organisations will be organised with the support of the Task Force Education and Youth and the Stability Pact Office in order to increase the visibility of the activities undertaken under the framework of ERISEE and continue lobbying with donors.

In order to assist the process of educational policy-making in the SEE region the Secretariat will provide a forum for discussion of matters of common interest.

### **3. Budget**

The budget of the Secretariat for 2005 is about 110.000 EURO (covering costs for infrastructure and activities) and will be ensured through the contribution of several donors. So far financial contributions have been made by Switzerland, Norway, The Netherlands, Italy and Austria, both for infrastructural costs and activities as described above.

**SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ERISSE 2005 WORKING PROGRAMME**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Target group</b>
<b>January 2005</b>  <b>21 January</b>  <b>27-29 January</b>  <b>end January</b>	<p>ETF workshop on the project "Disseminating Copenhagen Process to SEE"</p> <p>International Conference "<i>Governance and Education for Sustainable Development and European Integration</i>", Graz, Austria</p> <p>Letter to GB members to contribute to the provision of relevant information on education reform in each education system</p>	<p>Contact persons designated by the ministries of education/labour from the SEE countries</p> <p>Representatives of the ministries of education, economy/finance, experts, parliamentarians from EU member state, SEE countries, international organizations</p> <p>Governing Board (GB) members Consultative Body (CB) members</p>
<b>February 2005</b>	<p>Collecting data and strategy papers on reforming the education system from the SEE countries as well as relevant papers at EU level</p> <p>Issuing the first number of the electronic Newsletter of ERI SEE</p>	<p>Experts in education, ministries of education from the SEE countries</p> <p>Experts in education, ministries of education from the SEE countries, international donors</p>
<b>April 2005</b>	<p>Relaunch of the ERI SEE website – collection of relevant documents using the Southeast European Cooperation Network (<a href="http://www.see-educoop.net">http://www.see-educoop.net</a>)</p>	<p>SEE ministries of education, experts in education, international organizations, international donors</p>
<b>May 2005</b>	<p>Workshop on Community programs on education and training, Bucharest, Romania.</p> <p>The workshop will be organized by the ERISSE Secretariat in cooperation with the Romanian Agency for implementing the Community programs in the field of education and training - Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci and with the support of experts from EU Member States and Candidate Countries.</p>	<p>Representatives of the ministries of education from SEE countries with responsibilities in EU affaires/international relations.</p>
<b>May 2005</b>	<p>Senior Official and Governing Board/Consultative Body Meetings</p>	<p>ERI SEE GB and CB, Senior Officials from SEE</p>

<b>June 2005</b>	Thematic Seminar on Higher education, following Bergen conference	Representatives of the ministries of (Higher) education from SEE countries,
<b>September 2005</b>	OECD "Youth at Risk" dissemination conference	Representatives of the ministries of education from SEE countries
<b>October 2005</b>	Training seminar on the new Community integrated lifelong learning program	Experts from the ministries of education
<b>November 2005</b>	Thematic seminar on <i>investment in education</i>  Senior Official and ERI SEE GB/CB Body Meetings  Issuing the second ERI SEE Newsletter	Experts from SEE countries, international organizations ERI SEE GB/CB, Senior Officials from SEE
<b>December 2005</b>	Issuing the first ERISSEE annual report	