

Bulgaria's contribution to WT I, Panel discussion II Building Human Capital

Basic documents:

Following the Priorities and Programme of the Bulgaria' Chairmanship-in-Office of the SEEC, as approved by the Zagreb Declaration (May 11, 2007).

As pointed out in paragraph 8. of the Program of the Bulgaria' Chairmanship-in-Office, "development of fully functional relations in the triangle Education-Science-Business is a precondition for building up knowledge based economies in the SEE countries".

Reasoning:

Analyzing the state of play of the issues within the triangle we came to the conclusion that until now, the Stability Pact didn't treat all these problems in their complexity. However, with the enhanced capacity for regional ownership of the process of co-operation among the Southeast European countries marked by the establishment of a Regional Council for Co-operation the conditions are ripe for undertaking steps towards regional competitiveness, sustainable growth and knowledge based economies.

Action:

The Bulgaria' Chairmanship-in-Office is preparing to hold a Regional Conference "Towards SEE Regional Competitiveness (Contribution to the EU policy of knowledge based societies)" on 4-5 April, 2008 in Sofia.

The topics to be put on discussion:

- Building Regional Human Capital – achievements, deficiency, prospects
- Developing Knowledge Based Economies in SEE = Competitiveness
- Infrastructure of Knowledge Based Economies in SEE - Synergies among Business, Knowledge, and Policy.

Expected results:

1. Mapping of the excellent research centers (research institutes, university departments and chairs) in the region. Assessment of the level of networking among them. Evaluation of their experience and capacities to collaborate with industry;
2. Listing of some high-tech and middle tech companies including small- and medium size enterprises with interests to work on long-term bases in the region;
3. Consultations with leaders of such companies on the perspectives of establishing collaborations with the research and educational centers.
4. Assessment of the overall political and juridical background for successful collaboration Academia-Industry- Authorities.
5. Tasking the RCC to build on the results of the conference.