



Task Force Fostering & Building Human Capital

of the Regional Cooperation Council

PLAN OF ACTION 2011-2012

In efforts to meet its objectives of enhancing the development of human capital in Southeastern Europe, the Task Force Fostering and Building Human Capital of the Regional Cooperation Council agrees to adhere to the following Action Lines in 2011 and 2012:

Action line 1: To maintain and improve coordination between regional stakeholders and initiatives in the field of Human Capital Development

- a) Close cooperation with the RCC through their Building Human Capital and Cross-Cutting Issues Unit and coordination of activities.
- b) Consolidation and further development of current regional networks (in cooperation with ETF, RCC, OECD, Council of Europe) with the aim of more effective collaboration and participation in mutual activities pertaining to HCD in SEE.
 - Specific activity: Supporting and strengthening ERI SEE as a sustainable platform
 - Specific activity: Identifying synergies with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in order to gain wider visibility.
- c) Exchange knowledge, experiences and best practices on policies, and tools designed to promote regional cooperation in the HCD field
 - Specific activity: administering the Task Force FBHC web site (www.taskforcehumancapital.info) in order to ensure the coherence and intensification of actions aimed at HCD in SEE. Regular updates of event calendar entries concerning regional events, as well as regular updates on news on regional cooperation and events relevant for the SEE region. Publication of meeting/conference conclusions in view of improved information exchange.
- d) Exchange information on relevant funding sources and encouraging submission of HCD project proposals under EU funding programmes
- e) Identify regional mechanism for the promotion and initiation of partnerships among stakeholders, as well as identify and implement regional cooperation activities to enhance the capacity of operational staff.
 - Continued implementation of Capacity Building Mobility Programme for Regional Cooperation in view of stakeholder empowerment and capacity building, as well as strengthening already existing and creating new regional partnerships. Promotion of the Mobility Programme (via newsletter, web site, word of mouth) in view of increasing the number of applicants and hosting institutions, as well as the overall quality of the programme.

Action line 2: To foster regional cooperation around common areas of interest

- f) Support of existing mechanisms for sustainable cooperation and dialogue, with an accent on associating and harmonizing regional initiatives, projects, and events with “EU 2020”, “ET 2020” and “Western Balkan 2020”.
- g) Promote the mobilization of ministries and regional partners around “Clusters of Knowledge” (CoK)
 - Specific CoK activity 1: Brokerage event, as initiating CoK event following the “Sarajevo workshop” with the aim of creating cooperative networks and identifying concrete project proposals which will subsequently contribute to creation of knowledge, support policy development, competitiveness on labour market etc. together with “Evidence based policy making in education: Turning research into practice – Learning from PISA” under Serbian leadership.
 - Specific CoK activity 2: “Modernising the VET system – improving performance, quality and attractiveness of VET” under Romanian leadership, in which four specific sub-topics are to be dealt with and cooperated around: Qualification development, Matching VET supply with labour market demand, Evidence based policy in VET, and Quality Assurance in VET.
 - Specific CoK activity 3: “National Qualification Framework Development” under Croatian leadership with the aim of enhancing expertise and identify partnerships around three subtopics: Self-certification process, Recognition of prior learning—RPL, and comparability of qualifications.
 - Support possible creation of new regionally owned Clusters of Knowledge

Action line 3: To promote Human Capital Development as the essential factor in sustainable economic development, social cohesion and inclusion, as well as innovation

- h) Align TF goals and activities with the “Europe 2020” strategy in consideration of regional, national and local needs and concerns.
 - Specific activity: Participation at RCC regional coordination conference “Western Balkans and Europe 2020 – Supporting Convergence and Growth” with the aim of demonstrating the relevance of TF activities in contributing to regional growth in accordance with “EU 2020”
- i) Joined lobbying with the aim of increasing awareness about and maximizing support for the Human Capital Development issues in the SEE. The goal is to involve not only public administration, but also business sector and civil society.
 - Specific activity: EU Parliament Informational Discussion on Human Capital development in SEE at the invitation of Members of the European Parliament
- j) Contribute towards inclusion of SEE region in the EU cooperation framework and networks (ex. Open Method of Coordination, Eurydice, Lifelong Learning Programme, Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training)
- k) Organization of follow-up event to the 2009 Bucharest Conference for furthering the developments of concrete regional projects within the framework of Clusters of Knowledge. The event envisages supporting a bottom-up process for future regional cooperation while harmonizing project goals with wider EU educational trends.