



International Dimension of Erasmus+: **EU Policy & Cooperation with Partner Countries**



Helene SKIKOS

Policy Officer

DG EAC, International
Cooperation Unit



Policy Dialogue on Education

- ❖ **Bilateral**: annual meetings with national authorities in context of annual sub-committees meeting under:
 - ✓ **Stabilisation and Association Agreements**
 - ✓ **Association Agreements**
 - ✓ **Partnership and Cooperation Agreements**

- ❖ **Multilateral**: meetings between EU and partner countries in:
 - ✓ **Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training**
 - ✓ **Eastern Partnership, Platform 4 People-to-people**
 - ✓ **Dialogue with Southern Mediterranean**
 - ✓ **Dialogue with Central Asia (supported by DEVCO)**



Cooperation & Support in Education

Cooperation & Support:

- Policy dialogue (bilateral & multilateral)
- TAIEX, Twinning activities, etc.
- Technical assistance projects (IPA, ENI, DCI instruments)

Programmes:

- ERASMUS+
 - Degree mobility (EMJMDs)
 - International Credit mobility
 - Capacity-Building HE
 - Jean Monnet
 - Youth projects & mobility
 - Policy support (networks and electronic platforms)
- Marie Skłodowska–Curie

EU & Partner Country Cooperation



Erasmus+



Bilateral Policy Dialogues

WB PET



Regional Policy Dialogue





Regional Policy Dialogue

- ❖ **Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training** (AL, BA, MK, ME, RS, XK) (EAC/NEAR) since 2012
- ❖ **Eastern Partnership Platform 4 Contacts Between People** (EAC/EEAS/NEAR/RTD/CNECT) since 2009
Eastern Partnership (AM, AZ, BY, GE, MD, UA)
- ❖ **Dialogue with Southern Mediterranean Countries on Higher Education Policies and Programmes** (DZ, EG, IL, JO, LE, LY, MO, PS, TN) (EAC) since 2012
- ❖ **Central Asia Education Platform** (DEVCO/EEAS) since 2012
(KG, KZ, TJ, TM, UZ)



Policy Dialogue with Central Asia



Central Asia: EU Strategy

- ❖ **EU Central Asia Strategy (updated June 2015) includes three 'initiatives'**
 - ✓ *rule of law,*
 - ✓ *Environment/water*
 - ✓ *education*
- ❖ **Each initiative is led by two MS**
 - *for education, since June 2015, **Poland leads for higher education and Latvia for VET***

Central Asia: Activities 2015

- ❖ June 2015 **Council conclusions:**
Region of strategic importance to EU

- ❖ Riga, June 2015 **Ministerial Meeting**, under LV Presidency
Aimed to:
 - intensify policy dialogue – leading to better links with European strategies & programmes

 - encourage further participation in the Torino Process and progress in vocational education and training

Central Asia: Activities 2016-17

❖ Oct 2016 **Ministerial Meeting**, Brussels

Focus on

- common threats and challenges, stability, migration, economic growth, including job creation and enhanced employment opportunities, support to private sector development, **youth and education**

❖ June 2017 **Ministerial Meeting on Education in CA**

❖ 2017: **Review of implementation of EU-CA strategy**



Central Asian Education Platform

- **DEVCO project since 2012, which aims to:**
 - *intensify policy dialogue – leading to better links with European strategies & programmes*
 - *encourage further participation in the Torino Process and progress in vocational education and training.*
 - *main content areas: Interaction of VET and HE, Teacher Education and Training as well as Quality of Education.*
 - *Support "education initiative" of EU-CA strategy*
- ❖ **Riga, April 2016:** Regional conference on National Qualification framework in Central Asia
- ❖ **Cracow, 15-18 November 2016:** Regional conference on Higher Education

More information at: <http://www.caep-project.org/>



European
Commission

Policy Dialogue with Southern Med





Dialogue with Southern Mediterranean Countries on Higher Education

- ❖ Launched in 2012 on the basis of the **Communication** "*A Partnership for Democracy and a Shared Prosperity*"
- ❖ Meetings every 2 years with HE stakeholders
- ❖ Aims to:
 - Provide a regional platform for **dialogue**
 - **Share good practice**
 - Take stock of EU support and **identify further needs**
 - Promote **regional cooperation** in higher education



South Med Dialogue

3rd policy dialogue in July 2016

Themes discussed:

1. Recent **trends and challenges** facing higher education systems
2. Integration of newly arrived **migrants and refugees**
3. University **autonomy**
4. **National qualifications** framework
5. Integration of **digital technologies**

Further information and meetings reports at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/international-cooperation/southern-mediterranean_en.htm



South Med Dialogue

2017 follow up activities

- Specific seminar on the **integration of refugees** in South Med countries' higher education systems
- **Erasmus+ contact seminar** gathering universities from European and South Med countries



South Med Dialogue

Policy priorities

2015 ENP Review main principle = **differentiation**

→ **Different Partnership priorities** currently negotiated with partner countries

BUT Main trends:

- *Economic stability, **quality** education and **job creation***
- ***Democratic** governance, rule of law and **human rights***
- *Regional stability, security including **counter-terrorism***
- *Managing **migration flows and mobility***
- ***Energy** security and **environment***



European
Commission

Policy Dialogue with Eastern Partnership





EaP Platform 4

« People-to-people contacts »

Policy dialogue: reinforce EU and regional cooperation with Eastern Partners, share good practice and improve capacity to reform

Reinforced participation in EU programmes: Erasmus+, Creative Europe, H2020, Marie Skłodowska Curie, eTwinning

Two meetings per year and specific events at ministerial and/or experts level

Covers broad range of issues: education, training, research and innovation, youth, culture and information society (eInfrastructure)

EaP Platform 4

❖ Recent activities

- 2016 Jun: 15th Platform 4 meeting on Skills development in Higher education and VET, Brussels
- 2016 Jul: Validation seminar on the Study on Film Industries in EaP, Odessa Film Festival
- 2016 Oct: EaP Civil Society Forum conference Youth for Rights, Bratislava
- 2016 Nov: EaP Regional Torino Process conference, Tbilisi
- 2016 Nov: Informal Partnership Dialogue on Research and Innovation, Yerevan

EaP Platform 4

❖ **Planned activities 2016-2017**

2016 Nov: Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions National Contact Points training

2016 Dec: Panel on Research and Innovation, Brussels

2016 Dec: Platform 4 meeting with focus on youth, Brussels

2017 Spring: Moldovan National Forum on Creative Cities

2017 Jun: 3rd EaP Youth Forum, Warsaw

More info at: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/international-cooperation/eastern-partnership_en



Policy priorities in EaP countries

Overall goal: increase stabilisation and resilience of the region

Key priority areas:

- **governance** of reforms to boost economic growth and societal developments
- economic diversification, which creates **jobs** in new sectors and supports quality education, skills development, fostering in particular **youth employability** and SMEs development
- **transport** interconnections; **energy** and **climate action**
- **security cooperation** on conflict resolution, crisis prevention, new threats and civil protection

2015 ENP Review main principle = **differentiation**



European
Commission

Policy dialogue with Western Balkans



Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training

❖ Multilateral cooperation on Education and Training

- ✓ Annual Ministerial meetings between EU and WB Ministers and staff; to define priorities, identify gaps, agree on projects
- ✓ Stakeholder consultations; evidence gathering / surveys; sharing good practices; regional cooperation
- ✓ Aims to support reform efforts, link with EU strategies and programmes, prepare for EU membership (acquis, programmes)

Info on meetings and studies at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/international-cooperation/western-balkans_en



WB Platform on Education

Activities 2012-2016:

- 5 Ministerial Meetings => priorities, needs, plans
- 2 mappings studies (Teacher Training; HE and Labour Market)
- 5 regional conferences/stakeholder consultations (100-350)

Results:

- ✓ Sharing best practice, discussing common challenges
- ✓ Recommendations (bottom-up / experts)
- ✓ Reporting on implementation of reforms
- ✓ Ministerial conclusions => 11 regional projects till 2020



WB Platform on Education

Planning Ahead

2017: **6th Ministerial Meeting**

- Follow-up to be given HE/LM study?
- Back to back with RTD platform; building capacity for research?
- Update on Alumni Association and TIMMS participation

2016-2020: **11 Regional Projects**

- ❑ Evidence-gathering & analytical information
- ❑ Regional Networks and Support for Reforms
- ❑ Capacity-building for Education and Research Programmes

http://ec.europa.eu/education/events/20160627-western-balkans-platform_en



Enlargement Strategy/Priorities

❖ Fundamentals First

- ✓ Rule of Law
- ✓ Public Administration Reform
- ✓ Economic Governance and Competitiveness

❖ Examples:

- ✓ Improve judiciary, assure independence, improve efficiency and accountability; freedom of speech, etc.
- ✓ Good governance and management, transparency, meritocracy, depoliticalisation, professionalism
- ✓ **Upgrading skills**, economic reform, job creation, fiscal consolidation, investment climate, good management



SEE 2020 Strategy

❖ Priority Sectors

- ✓ Education and competences
- ✓ R&D and Innovation
- ✓ Digital Society
- ✓ Cultural and Creative Sectors
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Transport
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Health



WB Platform on Education

❖ Priorities set by Ministers:

- ✓ **Teacher Training (methods; competences)**
- ✓ **Higher Education (relevance; quality)**
- ✓ **Research & Innovation (build capacity)**

❖ Impact:

- ❑ ***New laws, strategies, action plans in countries***
- ❑ ***Influencing strategies and reporting***
- ❑ ***Strategic use of EU support***



European
Commission

WHY?



Outcomes of Policy Dialogue Platforms

- More balanced, direct and reinforced dialogue
- Help identify priorities and needs
- Help strengthen participation in EU programmes
- Feeds into EU strategies (ex. ELARG strategy, ENP review, etc.)
- EU more reactive to needs (increased budgets, future assistance)
- Learning/sharing experience: EU-PC and PC-PC
- Healthy competition / ignite appetite for reform
- Regional cooperation / participation (difficult political situations)

Policy Dialogue to:

- ❖ Continue and intensify
- ❖ Be linked more with EU strategies & programmes (assess impact)
- ❖ Become more interactive
- ❖ Improve communication among PCs
- ❖ Improve coordination among EC services

Overall Objective of EU Assistance

- ❖ **Facilitate growth, development of economy**
- ❖ **Build capacity for competitiveness**
- ❖ **Increase employment (youth)**
- ❖ **Knowledge of EU /
Convergence with EU acquis**
- ❖ **Prepare for EU membership /
increase cooperation with EU**

Horizontal Priorities for Partner Countries

Increase **quality** of educational provision

- Quality assurance **implementation**
- **HE rigorous, transparent accreditation of institutions and programmes; evaluation of schools; Skills not Just Diplomas**
- Fight corruption in education; **culture of meritocracy**
- **Transparent recruitment of staff, de-politisation, measures to combat conflict of interest**
- Long term approach, targeting **impact** on society and link to economy and country's growth
- **No quick fixes in education. Steering large ocean liner**
- Holistic approach: **purpose of education** (VET, HE?); relevance to labour market, employability of graduates

SO WHAT?



Strategic use of Erasmus+

- ❖ **Mobility of staff and students in priority sectors = help build capacity of future professionals**
- ❖ **Mobility of staff and students according to PC university's strategic priorities = strengthen weak programme or build excellence in strong programme**
- ❖ **Capacity-building projects in priority sectors for economic development = train and educate new professionals in priority sectors; improve governance issues; strengthen development of research (PhD prog); prepare teachers, etc.**
- ❖ **Jean Monnet can respond to understand EU and acquis**



Strategic Use of Erasmus+

- Logical sequence of actions based on country's level of preparedness and capacity:
 - **ICM** (mobility flows are easy, raises awareness)
 - **CBHE** (prepares capacity for future coop)
 - **JM** (needed for EU integration and trade)
 - **EMJMD** (once ready and quality/trust is built)
 - **KA** (where there is added value to contribute)



Developing Erasmus+ Projects

What we look for:

- ❖ Building on past results / support to reform efforts
- ❖ More demonstrated plans for sustainability
- ❖ Impact of project results (re strategies / stakeholders)

Why?

- ❖ Help PC countries on reform process; efforts to increase quality and relevance of HE
- ❖ Help make EU support to PC countries count; have more impact
- ❖ Contribute to economic development



Developing Erasmus+ Projects

What can you do? Read published strategic documents

❖ **Enlargement Strategy and country reports**

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/countries/package/index_en.htm

<http://www.rcc.int/files/user/docs/reports/SEE2020-Strategy.pdf>

❖ **ENP Communication (ENP East & South)**

https://eeas.europa.eu/enp/documents/2015/151118_joint-communication_review-of-the-enp_en.pdf

https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/european-neighbourhood-policy-enp/8398/-enp-action-plans_en

❖ **EaP Strategy**

https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/eastern-partnership/12269/eastern-partnership-key-documents_en

❖ **CA Strategy**

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/central-asia/eu-support-education-and-research-cooperation-central-asia_en



Education:

- ❖ **Foundation for all development:** personal, social, cultural and economic; builds capacity in all sectors
- ❖ Provides basic and **transversal skill needed in all jobs** and for flexible and changing labour markets

Higher education:

- ❖ provides most advanced skills and qualifications in response to identified needs:
 - ✓ Education of teachers, managers, engineers and other professionals in priority sectors;
 - ✓ Education of public officials, health workers, leaders;
 - ✓ Building research capacity and innovation;
 - ✓ Internationalisation, modernisation, democratisation, etc.

EU & Partner Country Cooperation



Erasmus+



Bilateral Policy Dialogues

WB PET



Regional Policy Dialogue





Thank you!

