



CARDS 2002

Country

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementation period

2002-2004

Funding (€)

€2.4 million

Results

Updated vocational education and training systems in accordance with labour market needs to ensure better lifelong learning and job opportunities for both teachers and pupils

Contact details:

Federal Ministry of Education,
Science and Culture
Obala Maka Dizdara 2
71 000 Sarajevo
Tel +387 33 444 932,
Fax +387 33 444 931
E-mail: eu-vet@open.net.ba
www.euvet.org

Training for the job market

Lifelong learning

Adequate and relevant education and training measures are critical for sustainable social and economic development and job creation opportunities. Although crucial to all those involved in education and training, such measures are of the utmost importance to refugees, displaced persons and other special groups hoping to be reintegrated into the community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main objective of the 'EU Vocational Education and Training programme (EU-VET)' was to answer the needs of the labour market in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the provision of a flexible and high-quality system based on lifelong learning principles.

Bridging the gap

The European Union has supported the modernisation and reform of vocational education and training (VET) in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1998. A Green Paper, a document aimed at stimulating informed debate on the subject of reform of VET in the country, was published in close coordination with relevant constituencies and key actors. In 2001 this was transformed into White Paper, a government report, offering a framework for the implementation of the operational recommendations.

The current EU-VET programme aimed to adapt the VET system to the country's socio-economic needs and contribute to developing a lifelong learning perspective in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Theory into practice

The project took a three-pronged approach. First, it produced coherent and real reforms, including mechanisms for inter-entity and inter-ethnic co-operation. Secondly, it promoted activities involving curricula development, teacher training and partnerships with other EU vocational schools and enterprises relevant to the new labour market requirements in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The third aspect concerned the implementation of education and training measures for the reintegration of refugees, displaced



persons and other special groups. This component demonstrated the urgent need for a transparent system of adult education and retraining, with clearly defined paths and accreditation between youth and adult education.

First-hand experience

Across the country, 25 schools collaborated in developing and implementing a methodology for a new curriculum, and in co-operating with 25 employment services to better adapt VET to labour market requirements. Some of the staff involved in the current project had also participated in previous schemes and used their experience in the training of 60 people, including teachers and personnel working with pedagogical institutes.

Based on labour market surveys carried out during the project, agriculture and food processing were identified as two occupational clusters to be included in the programme. The pilot schools in these sectors were invited to participate in wide ranging programme including a teacher-training programme, co-operation with EU partner schools, joint development of modernised and rationalised VET curricula, and the procurement of VET teaching equipment for the implementation of curricula.



Working in groups

EU-VET will continue the reform process by overseeing the actual implementation of a series of recommendations. A group comprising 23 key actors from cantons, ministries, social partners and VET schools are preparing a legislative framework for VET in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Divided into five working groups, the participants collaborate with international experts during a series of seminars and take part in a study visit. And as the project draws to a close it is clear that it has had a big impact on VET in the country, helping to modernise training, curricula development and content.