



NB: proposals to be sent to <mailto:euroinst.lsee@lse.ac.uk>

LSEE Research Network on Social Cohesion in SEE

Workshop on “Vocational Educational Training and Inclusive Education in the Western Balkans”

**Friday 30 May 2014
Skopje, Republic of Macedonia**

Call for Papers

Background

Over the last two decades the countries of South Eastern Europe (SEE) have been undergoing lengthy structural reforms as a consequence of the combined processes of economic transition, social change, administrative reform, post-conflict reconstruction, state-building and preparations for accession to the EU. Educational reform is of critical importance in the context of these transformative changes. Yet the education systems in these countries have remained largely unreformed since the collapse of the former socialist systems.

The education systems in the Western Balkans are among the most selective system in Europe with a clear division between secondary ‘grammar’ and vocational schools. They therefore provide a strong testing ground for the impact of selection and school experience on social exclusion. This workshop is intended to contribute to these debates by identifying the nature and extent of exclusion in vocational schools in the enlargement countries, the causes of such exclusion and present evidence-based policy proposals for improvement in the educational policy and practice.

Aims

The workshop aims to provide a forum for the presentation, dissemination and discussion of the latest research on vocational education and training and inclusive education in the Western Balkans among researchers and key stakeholders. After the workshop the papers which will be submitted for

publication as a special journal issue. Researchers are invited to submit abstracts of their papers **by May 5, 2014**.

Workshop Themes

- The institutional and policy framework of VET education
- Choice of and entry into school
- Experience at School
- Transition into work or further education
- VET education and the challenge of social inclusion
- Education attainment, exclusion and inequalities of opportunity

Important dates

- 5 May 2014: Deadline for submission of abstracts
- 8 May 2014: Notification of acceptance
- 26 May 2014: Delivery of full conference paper and circulation to discussants
- 30 May 2014: Workshop, Skopje, Macedonia

Abstracts

Abstracts of no more than 400 words should contain the title, author(s) name and affiliation, and contact details. Abstracts should clearly state the aims of the paper, the methodology used and the workshop theme to which the paper is addressed. Abstracts should be submitted by 5 May 2014 via email to euroinst.lsee@lse.ac.uk

Travel, accommodation and catering

There is no fee for participation at the workshop but conference participants will have to cover their accommodation and travel costs themselves. Coffee/tea and buffet lunch will be provided on the day of the workshop.

Organisers

The workshop has been organised by the *LSE Research on South Eastern Europe (LSEE)* in conjunction with the University American College Skopje. LSEE which is based within the European Institute of the London School of Economics and Political Science benefits from financial assistance from the National Bank of Greece, for whose support we are extremely grateful. We are also grateful for the support of the American College of Skopje and the World Bank office in Skopje whose organizational and financial contributions have made this workshop possible.

About LSEE

LSEE (LSE Research on South Eastern Europe) is a research unit established within LSE's European Institute. It was officially launched at the start of the 2009-10 academic year. Drawing on the strength of existing and new academic expertise at the LSE, and complementing the work of the Hellenic Observatory and the Contemporary Turkish Studies Programme, LSEE aims to provide a significant platform on which to build high quality, independent research and facilitate public dialogue and dissemination of information on the region. LSEE provides a forum for research collaboration not only within the LSE and the UK, but also with external partners in South Eastern Europe and beyond. Under this aegis, LSEE will organise a series of public events related to its research - lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences - both at the LSE and in the region.

About UACS

University American College-Skopje (UACS) is an international university operating in Macedonia. In keeping with its mission, UACS aims at creating a community for higher education and professional and research support to the industry. Through carefully designed programs and innovative learning methods, UACS attracts local and international students who aspire for professional knowledge and skills that make them ready to enter the global labour market. UACS is recognized for the teaching and research excellence of its faculty and the multicultural student setting. It is the only higher education institution in Macedonia to have international accreditations, to have endorsed the European Charter for Researches, and it is also proud of its established international cooperation.