



ROYAL MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Conference on Donor Co-ordination in the Western Balkans and Turkey
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Presentation to the Working Group on Education:
Norway's contribution to Vocational Education in Kosovo

Kosovo's very young population and high degree of unemployment substitutes a major challenge for the development of the country. On this background, Norway has increasingly focused its assistance on education, employment and privat sector development. The largest and most recent project is the investment in the establishment of two vocational schools in Malishevë and Skënderaj. Our aim is to provide quality education that will correspond to the needs of the Kosovan labour market. In 2008, 40 mill. NOK (4.5 mill €) of the total of 135 mill NOK was allocated to these education projects.

Donor coordination:

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) is formally co-ordinating activities in the education sector in Kosovo. MEST has pronounced high ambitions and has been able to show results. However, MEST recognises its lack of capacity to follow up all donors and donor activities, as well as implementing own plans in the sector. The high ambitions and the good intentions by the MEST combined with a lack of capacity places even more importance on good donor co-ordination.

The legal and strategic instruments for reform of vocational education are in place. A vocational training law was passed in 2006 and a pre-university education strategy for the period from 2007 to 2017 has been adopted. Both instruments are the basis for the development of quality education consistent with EU harmonisation as well as needs in the labour market.

Germany is the lead donor regarding vocational education and has provided advisory services to the vocational training division of MEST, as well as curriculum development and baseline studies.

Currently, several donors are involved in supporting the establishment of altogether seven schools of excellence in vocational education, that will be used as models for development of the sector. A Co-ordination mechanism has been put in place by the Ministry of Education to avoid duplication. Projects are managed by donors or international partners. Currently the Ministry of MEST has provided some baseline studies necessary for others to launch their activities. However, co-ordination mainly means information sharing. Duplication within this group is unlikely.

Norway actively keeps other players in the education sector informed about Norwegian funded projects to avoid overlap and create synergies. Moreover, Norway participates in co-

ordination groups to discuss the more overarching development of the sector, as well as challenges faced in practical implementation.

However, co-ordination could go beyond just avoiding duplication by information sharing; and include basket funding, co-finance agreements and sector programmes. This could mean closer involvement of MEST as a manager of projects in sector programs, or tighter co-ordination between donors and implementing agencies through co-funding agreements.

Recommendations

- Strengthen the role of MEST as co-ordinator of the education sector
- Support the implementation of the pre-university strategy (2007 – 2017) through increased co-ordination among donors and MEST
- Promote stronger co-ordination of the education sector through such means as sector programmes, co-financing agreements and basket funding.