
Swiss expert advice on dual education

The SDC supports Serbia to reform the VET system

Serbia is the only country in the region that has adopted the Law on Dual Education. The new profiles will be created in secondary schools, in line with European standards. These were some of the messages at the closing academy of the Education Caravan "The Spirit of Youth". The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development invited Dr. Ursula Renold, Head of the Department for the Research of Educational Systems of the Swiss Economic Institute in Zurich, to take part at the event as a special guest. Serbia is amongst 20 countries to which this Swiss Institute provides advisory support in education reform processes.

Dr. Renold presented a thorough SWOT analysis of the Serbian Law on Dual Education during a separate event at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Renold explained that it is a great advantage that the Serbian education system already has a relatively good permeability permitting students to transfer to additional training programs and careers. The education system needs to offer different pathways. Another plus is that Serbia introduced a two-year transition period to test the new Law.



The photo is from the closing academy of the Education Caravan "The Spirit of Youth".

Dr. Renold recommended to the Serbian counterparts to clearly define roles and responsibilities of all involved actors. The development of by-laws, identification of targets and introduction of a monitoring system are essential. As the commitment of companies is crucial for a successful reform, Dr. Renold suggests a simulation of cost-benefit analysis, prior to the introduction of new VET programs. This way the companies assess their potential benefits.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has already supported the development of a dual education program in the wood industry in Užice, through its Private Sector Development program. SDC will remain committed to support the Government of Serbia to successfully implement the adopted Law on Dual Education through a new project with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. The project will include support to the regulatory framework, the introduction of the Monitoring & Evaluation and law promotion with continued advisory backstopping through Dr. Ursula Renold.

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