



**Support of Educational and Employment Development in Albania, Kosovo and Serbia**

## Quarterly Newsletter 4

October – December 2014

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The fourth quarterly period of 2014 started with overall updating on the project so far implementation and forthcoming work plan. In this regard, Volkshilfe represented by SEED Programme Manager Ms. N.Hechenberger conducted the monitoring visit in Albania, followed by capacity building visit of TARA Consultancy Int. In the frame of recent developments in Albania, SEED reconsidered the position of project as opportunity to boost its outcomes. An inception report was produced and took into account changes into administrative map of territories covered by the project under the Law on Territorial and Administrative Reform, inclusion of new stakeholders of private sector and increase of SEED beneficiaries as per assessment on sectoral needs and resources of SEED regions.

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During this period, SEED finalized the Assessment on Sectoral Needs and Resources of three Regions.

This assessment, by focusing on the needs and resources at the local level, provides a novel way to counter unemployment among youth and women that incorporates local based solutions centered at the unemployed and considering local government and civil society as joint actors that cooperate with businesses to develop jobs and trainings.

This assessment was carried out by a group of experts including key actors from the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, local government experts dealing with employment and VET under the organization of SEED project managed by CDC-TFF. The combination of the skills in this team, including experience dealing with employment, women and youth issues as well as statistical research helped in identifying and documenting characteristics of unemployment among women and youth that were not captured by national statistical data and studies carried at the national level.

Another important component of SEED Programme is the Capacity Development. In this approach, a three-day Advocacy and Lobbying Training was organized in Rogner Hotel with the support of partners: Volkshilfe Solidarität and Tara Consulting Int. The latest political developments in Albania including the formation of a new left-wing government and acceleration of the process towards EU joining have created new opportunities to reconsider and make better public policies to address the issue of women and youth unemployment. The SEED program is in the forefront of the move to find solutions closer to people. Engagement related to unemployment at the central and local level of government provides an excellent opportunity for customized solutions and innovation. Advocacy Training has given insights on advocacy know-how, used to measure the level of adequacy of developing an advocacy plan in actual SEED Albanian context.

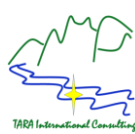
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High priority of SEED Albania is evaluation of tendencies in the labor market and concrete demands and needs on employability. In this regard, CDC-TFF took part in the “Work and Study” National Fair of October 2014, and offered a wide range of support through SEED Albania. A high interest was shown by Minister of Education and Science, Ms. Lindita Nikolla, Head of Tirana Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Nikolin Jaka and General Director of VET, Employment and Migration Policies, Ms. Silvana Banushi. More than 100 applications for VET training and employment mediation were received.

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At the SEED Partners’ Meeting organized in December 2014 at Peja, Kosovo, partners discussed the implementation during 2014 and work plan of 2015.

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