



EU ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVO
Education for the Future







INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Kosovo's future lies in its young people. Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe with 53% of the population being under 25 years old. So, the way to ensure that future is to invest in the young people of Kosovo and, above all, that means investing in education.

That is why the EU is now helping Kosovo carry out, not just piecemeal improvements in its education sector, but a systematic modernization of the education system. The sort of modernization that will give Kosovo's children—all its children—the education they need to compete and live successfully in the 21st century.

Kosovo has the youngest population in Europe with 53% under 25 years of age

The 1999 conflict destroyed or damaged many of Kosovo's schools. Only 17% of school buildings were left undamaged. Since 2001 the EU has spent more than €3.6 million on helping build or rebuild schools in Kosovo.

This has allowed a great number of pupils to move from multi-shift schooling in old or temporary accommodation into modern, bright classrooms, and to attend nearby schools rather than travelling long distances for their education.

The effort continues: in 2009-2010 alone, seven primary schools with places for 1,500 pupils were built entirely with EU funds.

¹Under UNSCR 1244/1999



A MERIT-BASED SYSTEM IS BUILT ON OBJECTIVE STANDARDS

DEVELOPING A 21st CENTURY

To create the sort of education system Kosovo's young people deserve in the 21st century means putting in place good management and administration with a clear vision, direction and plan of implementation. That is why the EU has been putting such efforts into capacity building and strategy development.

The EU is supporting the Government of Kosovo in its efforts to upgrade Kosovo's education system and bring it into line with EU standards through a € 3 million project 'Education SWAp (Sector-Wide Approach)'. Improved systems and better trained officials will mean that the education sector, from pre-primary to higher education, is better organised and managed across all levels of government. This will lead to improved education planning, improved availability of essential education materials for teachers and students, more efficiently managed schools and enhanced quality teaching.

The new Kosovo Education Strategic Plan sets out priorities for education over the coming years. All parts of education are inter-linked and must fit together properly to achieve a well functioning education system, meaning well-run class rooms, well-designed text books, and quality teaching to provide students with the skills needed by the labour market of today.

The Strategic Plan identifies improvements needed in everything from teacher training to curriculum development, from teaching and learning materials production to assessment and examinations. It will also look at what needs to be done to improve school buildings. The EU is willing to support the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, working together with other donors to implement this new Strategic Plan.

The main purpose underlying the education reforms is to make education more relevant, via a broad range of programmes designed to promote:

- A modern curriculum and modern teacher training
- Modern technology in the education sector, and
- A modern approach to schooling for all, and to vocational education



There needs to be improved testing which measures competence in the areas the country needs.



EDUCATION SYSTEM



Today's teachers must be familiar with the needs of industry

To create a modern education system suitable to give children the knowledge and skills they will need for the future, you also need a modernised curriculum. A new Kosovo Curriculum Framework (KCF) has recently been agreed.

The EU is helping to fund this process of curriculum development, working in support of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology through the Education SWAp project. This is taking a systematic approach-developing subject curricula in accordance with the new KCF; training teachers, school directors and specialist curriculum developers of Kosovo and developing up-to-date teaching and learning materials.

TRAINING THE TEACHERS

To have a good education system you also need well-trained and competent teachers. The majority of the 25 000 teachers in the system need significant upgrading of their knowledge and skills over the next few years, especially in relation to the demands of the new curriculum.

The existing teacher training facilities, including those at the University of Pristina, are insufficient to meet demand. EU funding is supporting reform of the teacher training system which will underpin the new Curriculum.

INTRODUCING MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

School directors and teachers must also be able to use modern information and communication technology (ICT) in schools today, as is happening across Europe. They will need to know how to use computers and the internet in a confident and interactive way to make school more relevant for all students and to enliven their learning.

ICT and computer software for education can bring subjects like history or biology alive. Electronic learning materials produced for Kosovo schools will provide interactive audio-visually to show children, for example, how Kosovo looked or sounded many years ago, or what the human body looks like from the inside.



ICT AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE CAN BRING SUBJECTS ALIVE

BROADENING THEIR HORIZONS

In Kosovo, there is one computer for every 270 pupils and only 200 out of 1,135 schools in Kosovo possess a computer laboratory. Many schools have very old computers or computers which are locked in a computer room and not regularly used.

That is why the EU is funding the EU IT Education pilot project (of € 3 million) which will provide IT equipment to participating pilot schools including schools for children with disabilities.

The EU is also funding and supporting training of school directors, teachers and education sector staff in the use of ICT in education and how to use e-learning in the classroom. Altogether 2000 teachers, 60 IT technicians and at least 100 eContent developers will be trained by the project.

PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

A good education should also introduce young people to new ideas. International scholarships have been an important driving force for change and reform elsewhere in Europe.

Under the Young Cell Scheme the EU is providing scholarships and offering Kosovan graduates a chance to participate in postgraduate masters programmes in EU Universities. The aim here is to improve the professional capacity and expertise of civil servants in key sectors of the Kosovo public administration.

After completing their post-graduate studies, students return to work in Kosovo's public service bringing back sector-specific expertise. Some 80% of these graduates currently work for the Government of Kosovo at various levels and offices, both in ministries and in specialised agencies. There they are helping to create an effective, efficient and transparent public administration in Kosovo at all levels.

Between 2004 and 2010 some 177 Kosovans have completed scholarships on relevant subjects in some of Europe's best universities.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IS A MUST

PROVIDING ACCESS FOR ALL



Almost 20% of the RAE minority have not even completed one year of education

A good, modern education system also means one that gives all children a decent education including children from minority communities and disadvantaged groups such as children with disabilities.

MAKING EDUCATION MORE RELEVANT FOR SERBIAN MINORITIES

At present, public primary and secondary schools in Kosovo which teach in the Serbian language use the curriculum and textbooks produced and approved by the Ministry of Education of Serbia.

The learning materials are not necessarily tailored to the needs of Serbian communities living in Kosovo. Furthermore the structure of the curriculum followed by students of Serbian communities is completely different from that of the majority community living in Kosovo. It therefore does not facilitate inclusion or employability of persons from Serbian communities in Kosovo.

The EU is committed to promoting an inclusive education system and supporting the Ministry of Education and the Government of Kosovo to make this happen. Through EU funded projects, training of teachers, students and education professionals is being delivered for Albanian, Serbian, Bosniak and RAE communities.

The EU-Council of Europe project "Education in Kosovo: Inter-Culturalism and the Bologna Process" (€1.4 million) is, for example, supporting activities with the University of Mitrovica-working with Serbian law students to facilitate their work with local schools and local school children in promoting their understanding of children's rights and civic rights.

Through the EU TEMPUS Programme the EU is also funding the work of the University of Mitrovica to promote quality assurance standards of its study programmes.



BRINGING RAE CHILDREN INTO SCHOOLS

Almost 20% of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) minority have not even completed one year of education, only 4% have had the statutory nine years, and 33% of school-age RAE girls don't go to school. Furthermore, Roma students have little possibility to be educated in the Roma language in Kosovo.

EU funding provides training for 150 teachers, including RAE teachers, and education policy makers about how to promote RAE community inclusion in education. The EU-funded project, implemented by the Council of Europe, is training and working with 10 pilot RAE mediators. These mediators, working with local partners, facilitate the communication between the school and RAE community and work to increase school attendance by RAE children as well as help to prevent drop-outs.

The EU is also supporting a project entitled "Enrolment and Registration of RAE Children in Primary Education in Kosovo". Launched in 2010 this project aims to increase awareness among RAE communities about the importance of education and increase the enrollment of RAE children.

Furthermore, the EU is providing €1 million for implementation of the RAE Strategy of Kosovo which is supporting the creation of 6 learning centres for RAE children and scholarships for RAE students for secondary and tertiary education.

MAKING SCHOOLS MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Most children and students with disabilities are excluded from mainstream schools. This is because the buildings and learning materials are largely not accessible and awareness about promotion of inclusive education is lacking among school directors, teachers, students and parents.



PROVIDING RELEVANT SKILLS



*The EU is helping
Kosovans get the
education and training
they need*

EU funded projects are seeking to address this. The EU provides funding for the construction of mainstream school buildings which must comply with disability access standards, thereby facilitating access of disabled children to such schools.

It is also adapting the teaching process and adapting ICT equipment to special needs schools in Kosovo. And it is promoting mainstream disability access to education through design and development of an accessible, inclusive new curriculum, plus training modules for the 'core' qualifications.

UPGRADING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Vocational training is vital to any education system. An up-to-date vocational education and training (VET) system is vital to ensure that Kosovo's workforce has the skills needed for the Kosovo economy to compete in Europe and internationally. 50% of the upper secondary student population in Kosovo go to vocational training schools.

The EU has been helping to reform and modernize the system. With EU support the Ministry of Education Science and Technology and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare are working to promote up-to-date practical as well as theoretical training in VET schools and VET centres.

*50% of children are learning to master
vocational education skills*

EU funding is also going towards developing a quality assurance system for VET education and qualifications that will enable Kosovo VET qualifications to be recognized by employers both in Kosovo and in the EU member states.



IMPROVING THEIR JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The EU has spent over €10.5 million in support of the work of the MEST, the MLSW, and the Chamber of Commerce.

This has contributed to developing and implementing new VET curricula for business, ICT and electronics; to training vocational teachers and trainers according to EU standards; and to improving systems for gathering and analysing labour market information (including sector skill needs).

It has also supported the development and implementation of the Qualifications Framework of Kosovo and the establishment of the Kosovo Qualifications Authority.

On a very practical and successful level, EU funding over the last three years has delivered vocational and in-company training to over 3000 unemployed job seekers and company workers. It has also funded the building of a new VET Centre.

And it has provided support to the Chamber of Commerce to develop and implement a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) service for companies in Kosovo.

LOOKING FORWARD

Education has come a long way since 1999. It has a long way to go, but it is a journey it will not make alone. In the future as in the past it can count on strong support from the European Union.



CONTACT

European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo

A. Kosovo Street 1 (P.O. Box 331)
Pristina, KOSOVO

T. +381 38 51 31 200

F. +381 38 51 31 304

E. delegation-kosovo@ec.europa.eu

W. www.delprn.ec.europa.eu

