

## Briefing notes for KBjornsson

The EU Education SWAp Project is an ambitious and challenging project. Ambitious because it will assist government, and in particular MEST, to take control and ownership of the education sector. Challenging as for the first time the provision of education at all levels will be prioritized as part of a complete plan for the sector. The plan will also identify the costs involved so that can be clear priorities. Also, donor contributions will play a part in delivering the whole plan, not just some parts, perhaps at the expense of others.

We use the term SWAp as that is the acronym for Sector-Wide Approach, a term used in many countries which are reforming their education system. The term indicates that everything in the sector is brought together in one over-arching plan which is related very closely to what the government's policies are for the education system. This differs from traditional approaches which are *ad hoc* and piecemeal. Till now, specific parts of the system are planned for and provided without enough careful attention being paid to other elements which relate to it. Such an approach can result in very serious gaps in provision. For example, it is not enough for a sufficient number of teachers to be employed in the system if they are not well trained and very professional. Similarly, the quality of education will be below what is needed if children spend too little time in class because they are in a multi-shift system because there are too few schools. There are of course many other elements –textbooks and learning materials, good tests and examinations, good management, strong quality assurance mechanisms etc, which have to be included. For quality education **all** the various parts of the system must be planned for together so that no components are overlooked. It is only when all these parts are contributing well together that good education can be delivered.

In the past, donors have provided much assistance to particular parts of the system, so by providing school and college buildings, some by funding teacher training, other textbooks and so on. These contributions have been very helpful but they were not always well connected to each other, nor sufficiently linked to Government of Kosovo policies. Now, with this project, donor coordination and cooperation will be strengthened and donors will be encouraged to come into line with the overall plans and strategies of the government. Their contributions will fit into the government plan. Their funds will be used to help government provide for a whole education sector while neglecting others. Instead the whole sector will be developed according to clearly established priorities which help the government to achieve its overall goals for the country.

At the same time, the Project will support the important new initiatives in curriculum development and teacher development. Kosovo has decided to introduce a very forward looking new curriculum, which will focus much more on the needs of young people entering the world of work in a modern democratic society. This will enable

them to have much more relevant knowledge, a clear understanding of major issues in this modern world; and help them to develop new and important skills for life and work. The project will help in **the development of subject syllabuses and in making sure that all students can have equal access to the curriculum.**

Another key element of the project will be the support the Project will provide to the new arrangements for teacher licensing. The government is determined to have a fully qualified, licensed, professional teaching force as soon as possible and the project will assist with achieving this goal. To help with this the Project will assist MEST to **develop a comprehensive in-service teacher training structure and system, and to improve the way teachers are trained and monitored.**

**In all of these activities the project will work closely with MEST, its agencies, MEDs and other donors.**

All of this new provision will be made available to all of the people of Kosovo, regardless of creed or ethnic background or whether they are boys or girls, men or women.