

EU Education SWAp Project

Launch

Speech by Permanent Secretary Mr Skender Xhakaliu (translated from the Albanian)

Dear Minister Hoxhaj,
Dear Mr. Bjornson,
Dear colleague donors and developing partners,
Dear ladies and gentleman

It is my pleasure today that in this conference for the Launch of Education Sector Wide Approach Project – a project financed by European Commission, I present to you the progress of the strategic planning process in education system in Kosovo.

The Project for Sector Wide Approach in Education is very important for the Ministry of Education Science and Technology because it will support our common goal for the improvement of education sector management in Kosovo by presenting and developing reforms through a new approach so called “education sector wide approach” or SWAp.

With the support and cooperation of Swedish agency SIDA, we are in the final phase of developing the strategic plan 2010-2015 for education sector. The process on strategic planning that was initiated with the project for capacity development and education reform supported by SIDA intends that through an inclusive approach of all key stakeholders in education sector in Kosovo to build a five year strategic plan which reflects the whole legislative framework and short term and medium term policies of education sector in Kosovo. With such an advancing approach the Ministry of Education Science and Technology intends to define its role as a public institution responsible for developing and monitoring of development policies and for supporting education institutions in their implementation.

The strategic plan 2010 – 2015 intends to present a document with a clear content on objectives of different education sectors in Kosovo, on expected results and on resources needed. This plan, by including key elements of education sectors, defines the strategic priorities of education sector in Kosovo

and reflects current MEST, donors and other development partners' investments in education sector in Kosovo.

In terms of developing the strategic plan, so far we have organized several workshops and we've established different working groups for corresponding sectors. On this occasion through a participating process, we developed short term, medium term and longer term objectives and targets in education sectors and we made a detailed costing for all activities foreseen to achieve these goals.

Following the example of the new approach that we intend to implement, the Ministry of Education Science and Technology recently started the general review of its administrative organization. We have established and presented new coordination structures within MEST such as Department for International Cooperation, Coordination of Development and European Integration, or even the Working Group in Education and Employment whose purpose is to support and coordinate on a daily basis the process of education reforms presented by MEST. Very soon the Department for Information Technology will become operational.

The Ministry of Education Science and Technology in the coming days will present the final draft of the strategic plan where we intend to confirm our common objectives and vision for education system in Kosovo. Our goal in MEST is that in the future after the common approval of this plan to have joint annual meetings where we will review the progress, achievements and difficulties in implementing this plan and to update together new objectives and activities for the following years in terms of strategic plan. In this way we will manage to ensure continual perfection in terms of effective and efficient management of national budget and funds – donations for education.

In behalf of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology I want to thank all donors and other development partners in education sector for the continual support and in the same time I invite all donors and other potential partners to direct their support in the education sector since it is a key sector for social and economic development of the Republic of Kosovo.

I would like that today on the occasion of Launching the Education Sector Wide Approach Project, as one of many projects in the education sector financed by European Commission to express the highest appreciation and to thank in my and my MEST colleagues behalf Ms. Sophie Beaumont for her continual

contribution and cooperation with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology.

In the end, please let me remind you that the development of reforms in education system initiated by the Ministry of Education Science and Technology depends a lot on the assistance provided by joint projects with different donors, including the project that we are launching today.

Thank you for your attention.