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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN ACCOUNTANCY EDUCATION: SHARING GOOD PRACTICES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFORM

Achieving Excellence in Accountancy Education: Sharing Good Practices and Opportunities for Reform

5 July 2017, Swiss Diamond Hotel, Pristina

Six countries, members of the EU-REPARIS Program's Education Community of Practice (EduCoP), participated in an Accountancy Education Benchmarking Study over the period March 2015 to May 2016: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The Study was a comprehensive assessment of the countries' 14 universities and PAOs, which together provide 25 academic and professional accountancy education programs to around 4,120 enrolled students. Curricula content, learning outcomes and proficiency levels from these accountancy programs were analyzed using international benchmarks. The Accountancy Education Benchmarking Study was undertaken with four key objectives in mind:

- The EduCoP enabled members to engage in a peer learning and regional exchange process whereby universities and Professional Accountancy Organizations (PAOs) share good practices and develop solutions to shared challenges through a collaborative process;
- Exploring synergies between academic and professional accountancy education as a prerequisite for developing adequate accountancy education systems and ensuring effective use of country level education resources;
- Implementing a "learning outcomes approach" in accountancy education promulgated by the revised content based International Education Standards (IESs) and international good practices as more effective learning experience; and
- Enabling a diagnostic that aims to assist members of the EduCoP to engage in a process of international recognition and accreditation of national programs.

This working conference will present the findings of the Study and discuss opportunities for future accountancy education reforms in the country. Panel discussions and working groups will review practical approaches how these opportunities can be achieved and good practices will be shared. Following the event key suggested actions agreed among participants will be shared.

Participants will also be introduced with the targeted assistance program that is currently being launched in Kosovo aiming to build the capacity of the Kosovo Financial Reporting Council (KFRC) to perform effective oversight and quality control.

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Agenda

08:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00	Opening Remarks
Speakers	Agim Krasniqi Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
09:10	Accountancy Education Benchmarking Study
Speaker	Kalina Sukarova Senior Financial Management Specialist, CFRR, The World Bank
Description	This session will provide key highlights from the EU REPARIS Regional Accountancy Education Benchmarking Study and its findings, cross-cutting issues, good practices and particularly the five identified opportunities that can be explored in future accountancy education reforms.
10:00	Key Opportunities for In Country Accountancy Reforms
Speaker	Arber Hoti Faculty of Economics, University of Pristina Lulzim Zeka Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo (SCAAK)
Description	The session will share the key findings of the Accountancy Education benchmarking Study for Kosovo, including the challenges and opportunities for in country accountancy reforms at both university and professional levels. Connections will be made to observations discussed in the A&A ROSC Update with a particular focus on future challenges for the audit and accountancy education sector.
11:00	Coffee break

11:30 Exploring Future Accountancy Education Reforms

Panellists	<p>Kosum Aliu Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Gem Maloku Kosovo Financial Reporting Council (KFRC)</p> <p>Ardiana Bunjaku Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo (SCAAK)</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Driton Balaj Faculty of Economics, University of Pristina</p> <p>Vlora Mehmeti Assistant to the Auditor General for the Division of Performance Audit and Public Owned Enterprises</p> <p>Hysen Cela Institute of Authorized Chartered Auditors of Albania (IEKA)</p>
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Moderators	<p>Kalina Sukarova Senior Financial Management Specialist, CFRR, The World Bank</p>
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Description	<p>The Study identified several opportunities, that represent significant areas having an important impact, that can be explored in future in-country accountancy education reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrating academic and professional accountancy education• Achieving greater international integration of programs• Expanding the offerings of public sector education• Enhancing CPD systems and training programs• Improving practical experience requirements and workplace assessments <p>The panel will discuss these and other key opportunities and highlight potential implementation challenges. Experiences will be shared how these opportunities can be achieved and what implementing actions may be required.</p>
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13:00 Lunch

14:30 Working Groups - Sharing Views on Future Reform Action

Moderator	<p>Atanasko Atanasovski Consultant, CFRR, The World Bank</p>
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Description	<p>Participants divided into table groups each consisting of a diverse stakeholder group (representatives of universities, PAOs, policy makers) will have a task to discuss and suggest actions to address some of the education challenges in the current system. Each group's findings will be discussed and included into the Future Reform Actions.</p>
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16:00 Coffee break

16:15 Targeted Assistance for Kosovo: Public Oversight & Quality Assurance

Speaker **Kalina Sukarova**
Senior Financial Management Specialist, CFRR, The World Bank

Description A program for targeted assistance focusing on equipping Kosovo Financial Reporting Council (KFRC) with key structural elements and tools that enable a sustainable Public Oversight and Quality Assurance System over the statutory audit function in Kosovo is now effective. The program is funded by FIRST Initiative and will be implemented till December 2018. This session will provide an overview of the targeted assistance program, discuss its key features, outputs and expected outcomes.

16:45 Next steps and Closing Remarks

Speaker **Kalina Sukarova**
Senior Financial Management Specialist, CFRR, The World Bank

Description The session will provide a high level summary of the working conference and discuss proposed next steps.

17:00 End of Day

