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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

27 June 2017, Vodenica, st. Mitropolit Teodosij Gologanov br.69, Skopje

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 analysed 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 particularly discuss opportunities for future in country accountancy education reforms. Panel discussions and working groups will review practical approaches how these opportunities can be seized and good practices will be shared. The discussion will focus on solutions how the collaboration between university, professional associations and business community can be enhanced while developing relevant education programs for competent accounting and auditing workforce. Following the event key suggested actions will be shared among participants.



Agenda

08:30	Registration and welcome coffee	
09:00	Opening Remarks	
Speakers	Dragan Tevdovski Minister of Finance Marco Mantovanelli Country Manager	
09:20	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	Atanasko Atanasovski Consultant, CFRR, The World Bank	
Description	This session will share the key findings, challenges and opportunities for in country accountancy reforms as discussed in the study relevant for Macedonia. 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.	
10:30	Professional Education System of ICARM	
Speaker	Nenad Randjelovic Institute of Certified Auditors of the Republic of Macedonia (ICARM)	
Description	The Institute of Certified Auditors of the Republic of Macedonia (ICARM) took part of the study and this session will showcase the professional education system of ICARM, at both initial and continuing education levels. Present challenges and future plans to reform the system will be discussed.	
11:00	Coffee break	

11:30 Exploring Future Accountancy Education Reforms	
Panellists	Violeta Stojanovska Petreska Ministry of Finance Zorica Bozhinovska Lazarevska Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Faculty of Economics-Skopje Borislav Atanasovski Institute of Certified Auditors of the Republic of Macedonia (ICARM) Marjan Bojadziev University American College Skopje Lence Papazovska Institute of Accountants and Certified Accountants (IACA) Darko Dacevski Macedonian Council for Advancement and Oversight of the Audit (SUNR)
Moderator	Kalina Sukarova Senior Financial Management Specialist, CFRR, The World Bank
Description	The Study identified several opportunities, that represent significant areas having an important impact, that can be explored in future in-country accountancy education reforms: • 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 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.
13:00 Lunch	
14:30 Working Groups - Sharing Views on Future Reform Action	
Moderators	Piotr Pyziak Consultant, CFRR, The World Bank Atanasko Atanasovski Consultant, CFRR, The World Bank
Description	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.

16:00	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.

16:30	End of Day
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