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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

20 October 2017, Hotel Tara Becici, Montenegro

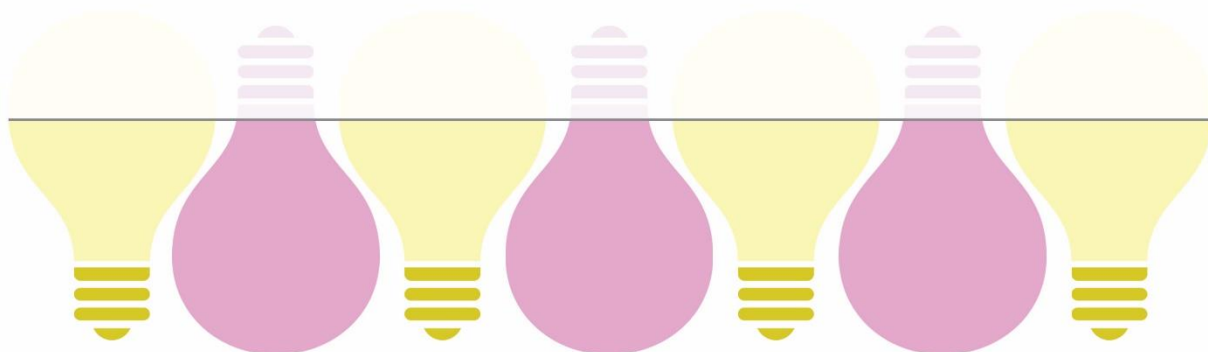
Six countries, members of the [EU-REPARIS Program's Education Community of Practice \(EduCoP\)](#), participated in an [Accountancy Education Benchmarking Study](#) over the period March 2015 to May 2016: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. The Study was a comprehensive assessment of the countries' 14 universities and Professional Accountancy Organizations (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 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 will review practical approaches how these opportunities can be achieved and [good practices](#) will be shared.

Participants will also be familiarized with the outcomes of the recently completed World Bank funded project aiming to establish an Effective Oversight and Quality Assurance System in Montenegro. Next steps in the ongoing in country accounting and auditing reform process will be discussed.

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Agenda

10:00	Conference Opening [Introductory Speeches and Presentation of Sponsor]
11:30	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.
12:30	Key Opportunities for In Country Accountancy Reforms
Speaker	Piotr Pyziak Consultant, CFRR, The World Bank
Description	The speaker will share the key findings of the Accountancy Education Benchmarking Study for Montenegro, including the challenges and opportunities for in country accountancy reforms at both university and professional levels.
13:00	Exploring Future Accountancy Education Reforms
Panellists	Mladen Vlahovic Senior Adviser, Ministry of Finance Prof. Milan Lakicevic Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro Vinko Nikic President, Institute of Certified Accountants of Montenegro (ICAM) Budimir Raickovic President, Association of Managers of Montenegro Mirza Muleskovic Head of Department for International Relations and Projects, Montenegrin Employers Federation
Moderators	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: <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

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.

14:30 Lunch

15:30 Targeted Assistance for Montenegro: Public Oversight & Quality Assurance

Speakers

Stoja Rocenovic

Council for Audit and Head of Department for Internal Audit Harmonization

Katerina Bulatovic

Partner at Deloitte Montenegro, Project Implementation Leader

Description

A program for targeted assistance focusing on developing a Public Oversight and Quality Assurance system over the statutory audit function in Montenegro was recently completed. The program was funded by the World Bank. This session will provide an overview of the targeted assistance program, discuss its key features, outputs, outcomes and the next implementing steps in the reform process.

16:15 Focus on Audit Quality

Panellists

Branko Ljusic

Educator, Institute of Certified Accountants of Montenegro (ICAM)

Borislav Atanasovski

President of the Institute of Certified Auditors of the Republic of Macedonia (ICARM)

Zdenko Balen

President of the Croatian Chamber of Auditors

Moderator

Kalina Sukarova

Senior Financial Management Specialist, CFRR, The World Bank

Description

This panel discussion will cover the important area of audit quality. The panellists will provide examples of how the profession in Macedonia and Croatia is contributing towards enhancing confidence and public trust in the quality of the external audit function as well as the role the profession in Montenegro is performing in this area.

17:30 End of Day

