



"Reducing Early School Leaving"

Learning from the Netherlands

The Hague
11-13 November, 2014

Background

Each and every child in the region has the right to quality education. Yet 2.5 million children in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia remain out of primary and lower secondary school. Many more drop out before completing the compulsory school cycle, enrol late or attend so infrequently that they achieve little within the classroom. Children that are already disadvantaged from society by wider patterns of social disadvantage and discrimination are most likely to be left out of basic education and learning in Europe and Central Asia. Poverty combined with inequalities relating to gender, age, ability, linguistic, ethnic and religious minorities, statelessness, refugee, internally displaced and migrant status, mobility and place of residence, child labour, social norms and cultural practices and conflict with the law leave children unable to access and complete basic education or excluded from learning processes. The structures and practices of education systems and schools are also often at the root of their exclusion.

Ensuring that every child is in school is a priority for the realization of child rights and to ensuring that education plays its appropriate role in poverty reduction and human development. Additionally, education inclusion promotes social cohesion, encourages respect for diversity and improves health.

Urgent action is needed to ensure the inclusion and timely completion of a full cycle of basic education for all children, including the most disadvantaged. Education systems must be equipped to identify children out of school, dropping out or at risk of dropping out and to handle diversity and respond to all children's needs while respecting their identities.

The Netherlands is one of the EU's most successful examples in reducing early school leaving rate, reducing it from 15.5% to 8% during the period from 2000 to 2012. Although the Dutch education system is not very similar to the system of education in Serbia, this country was selected for the study visit as it had recognised early school leaving as one of the key problems for economy and the overall country development more than 20 years ago, that is ten years prior to the European Union's Lisbon Strategy (2001). The EU Lisbon Strategy determines the overall European perspective regarding students who leave school early, setting a specific goal (to reduce early school leaving rate from 15.5% to 8% by 2010 at the EU level²), which was reached in 2012³ in the Netherlands. Thus the Netherlands already achieved the goal of the European Union set in the above mentioned strategic document.

In follow up to the Regional Ministerial Education Conference and the launch of the Call for Action: Including All Children in Quality Learning (<http://education-equity.org/>), the Regional Office is organizing, in collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands, a Study Tour on the theme '**Reducing Early School Leavers – Learning from the Netherlands**'.

The planned Study Tour will build on the experience of Serbia, which organized such a study tour in 2013 and found it to be a very fruitful and successful experience.

Purpose and Objectives

The goal of the proposed study tour will be for countries in the region to understand in detail how the Dutch achieved this success and how our countries may learn and draw from their experiences. The study tour will include presentations on and visits to see interventions at school, community, regional and national levels. It will especially highlight the work that was done on policy reform, on capacity building at local level, on data and monitoring and on innovative techniques to identify potential Early School Leavers.

More specifically, the objectives of the study tour are to:

- 1) Promote horizontal exchange and cooperation between the Netherlands and countries in our region and to expand the network of experts and resources for our countries interested in decreasing the rate of early school leaving;
- 2) Strengthen the capacity of our countries to tackle the challenge of ESLs through improved monitoring systems and improved interventions at local level;
- 3) Identify pieces of the Dutch approach that can be replicated or adapted to work in our region; and
- 4) Reduce the hesitance in some of our countries to collect data on children out of school and to address the challenge of out of school children

Expected Outcomes

It is expected that participating country delegations will leave the seminar with:

- 1) A concrete and visual understanding of how the Netherlands achieved their success in reducing the numbers of ESLs;
- 2) Practical plans and ideas for applying the Dutch model to the challenges at home; and
- 3) New resources for supporting the work at the country level to reduce ESLs.

Participating countries

The following 8 countries and territories have confirmed their participation: Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Kazakhstan, Romania, Kosovo and Turkey.

Country delegations

Country delegations would be composed on average of 4 members and would include 1 UNICEF Education Specialist and 3 mid-level government officials having a certain degree of decision-making power and responsible for issues of dropout, including data, policy and local level interventions. These 3 mid-level government officials would typically include a representative of the Ministry of Education, a representative of the Ministry of Social

Affairs (or Labor or Social protection, as relevant) and a relevant representative of a decentralized education department (rayon department for instance).

DRAFT AGENDA

**“Reducing Early School Leaving”
Learning from the Netherlands**

**UNICEF Study Tour
The Hague
11-13 November 2014**

Monday 10 November 2014	
19:00 - 22:00	<p>Introduction and Joint dinner with all participants Location: Restaurant het Heden, Noordeinde 148, Den Haag <i>15 minutes walk from Suite Novotel Hotel to the restaurant , departure together with Dutch organisers at 18:30</i> Welcome message by Mr Bas Derks, substitute Director VET of Ministry of Education, Culture and Science Welcome message by Mr. Henry Morshuis, Director of CINOP Brief introduction to the study visit</p>
Tuesday 11 November 2014	
08:30	<p>Departure to Ministry of Education, Culture and Science <i>15 minutes walk from Suite Novotel Hotel</i></p>
08:45 - 09:30	<p>Check in at Ministry of Education, Culture and Science Location: Rijnstraat 50, The Hague <i>Passports required for check in</i></p>
09:30 - 10:00	<p>Mr. Fred Voncken, Former Director, Taskforce Early School Leaving, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture The Dutch Approach to Early School Leaving</p> <p>Ministry of Education, Science and Culture is responsible for the overall policy related to early school leaving. The visit to this institution provides an insight into public policies and approaches to the problem. The “Digital Office“, which contains the on-line system of monitoring student absenteeism is set at the central level at the Ministry.</p>

10:00 - 10.15	Questions and discussion
10.15 - 10.30	Short break
10:30 - 11:00	Dennis van Gessel, Senior Advisor, Statistics and Analysis Getting your figures right A technical presentation about the data in function of the policy
11.00 - 11.15	Questions and discussion
11:15 - 11:30	Short coffee / tea break
11:30 - 12:00	Femke de Geus, Senior Policy Maker Early School Leaving and Quality Management Vocational Education and Training The Golden Triangle: The role of the ministry in monitoring and stimulating the cooperation in the regions.
12.00 - 12.30	Questions and discussion
12:30 - 13:15	LUNCH at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
13:15 - 14:30	Maurice Crul, Coordinator of the ELITES Pathways to Success project. Maurice Crul is coordinator of the TIES and Pathways to Success Project. In his talk he will show the importance of the differences in educational systems by comparing the school careers of the Turkish second generation in seven European countries.
14.30 - 15.00	Departure by bus to Ingrado
15:00 - 17:00	Ingrado Location: VNG - Nassaulaan 12 The Hague Pieter Schoenmakers, Director and Strategy Policy Maker Ingrado is an association of local authorities dealing with education (out of 418 municipalities in the Netherlands, 412 are members of Ingrado) and it is specialised for early school leaving. Ingrado's mission is to protect the right of children and youth to education.

17.00	Departure to the Suite Novotel hotel (20 minutes walk)
Wednesday 12 November 2014	
08:15	Pick-up at Suite Novotel Hotel
08:45 - 09:45	Travel to Amsterdam by bus
10.00 – 13.00	<p>Amsterdam - ROC van Amsterdam (VET School), Brood en Banket (Bakery) Elandstraat 175 10:00 – 10:45:5 Reception and guided tour 10:45 – 10:55 Walk to Hospitality School of ROC van Amsterdam - Da Costastraat 36 10:55 – 12:00 Presentation Dick Huibers and Miriam Leus ESL and non-attendance, guidance of students within the ROC - ExPo (measures of ROCvA on drop out and inclusion of disabled youngsters) 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch at Hospitality School (served by students of the ROC)</p>
13:00-13:30	Travel by bus to vmbo Calvijn met Junior College (preparatory secondary education) Schipluidenlaan 12
13:30- 15:00	<p>Programme Amsterdam – vmbo Calvijn met Junior College 13:30-14:30 Reception / welcome / presentations on educational and architectural concepts / presentation teacher / mentor / student on non-attendance approach Calvijn 14:45 – 15:00 Questions</p>
15:00-15:30	Travel by bus to Municipality Amsterdam Stopera, Amstel 1 Amsterdam
15:30-17:00	<p>Municipality Amsterdam Presentation ESL and non-attendance</p> <p>Henk Krauwel, Head of Compulsory Education Office</p>
17:00 - 18:00	Travel back to The Hague
18:30 - 19:30	<p>Group Joint Meeting Location: Hotel Novotel Den Haag City Centre, Hofweg 5-7, The Hague</p> <p><i>5 minutes walk from Suite Novotel Hotel</i></p>

Thursday 13 November 2014	
08:30 – 08.45	Walk to Hotel Novotel Den Haag, Hofweg 5-7, The Hague
08:50 - 10:30	<p>Ministry of Justice Location: Hotel Novotel Den Haag Hofweg 5-7, The Hague</p> <p>08.50 - 09.00 Welcome and introduction Joël van der Andel Advisor on International Relations at Ministry of Security and Justice</p> <p>09.00 - 09.25 Anja Frowijn, Senior Policy Advisor. Presentation Child Protection Board</p> <p>The Child Care and Protection Board has several tasks, including child protection. It can become involved with the family in cases where other forms of assistance have insufficient or no effect. The Ministry for Security and Justice is responsible for the Child Care and Protection Board.</p> <p>9:25 – 9:50 Presentation Youth Probation by Marius van der Klei</p> <p>Youth probation service is provided for juvenile offenders. Youth probation is a kind of counselling and/or supervision in the context of the juvenile criminal law. The goals of youth probation are to stop or reduce criminal behaviour and to realise a behavior change in juvenile offenders in order to promote participation and integration in society.</p> <p>09.50 - 10.15 Carlo Dronkers Youth Committee of the Public Prosecution Service</p> <p>The Public Prosecution Service decides who has to appear in front of the judge and for which offence or crime. It is the body that can decide to prosecute someone.</p> <p>10.15 - 10.30 Questions and discussion</p>
10.30 - 10.45	Short coffee / tea break

<p>10:45 - 11:30</p>	<p>Project Feight Location: Hotel Novotel Den Haag Hofweg 5-7, The Hague</p> <p>People to meet: TBC</p> <p>The project “The 8 solutions for fighting early school leaving in VET” is intended to give a strong and visible signal to European VET schools and to research and propose some possible solutions for reducing the number of early school leavers in VET. The main aim of the project is to identify the main factors of early school leaving in VET, in order to reduce drop-outs by increasing the motivation of VET students and helping them to adapt to the Lifelong Learning Society. The project focusses on teachers working with VET students, including groups at increased risk of early school leaving such as children with a socio-economically disadvantaged background, a migrant background or special educational needs.</p>
<p>11:30 - 12:30</p>	<p>Project Mentoring Location: Hotel Novotel Den Haag Hofweg 5-7, The Hague</p> <p>Ms. Szilvia Simon, Project Manager, Mentoring Project Friesland</p> <p>Mentor Programma Friesland provides additional guidance to young people in vocational education.</p> <p>The programme relies on the voluntary contribution of socially successful citizens, youngsters and adults, men and women who have personally experienced how to find their way in social life, in education and in career. In other words, people who can be seen as role models.</p>
<p>12:30 - 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch – Hotel Novotel Den Haag Hofweg 5-7, The Hague</p>
<p>13.30 – 14:40</p>	<p>Plenary Session /Closing remarks</p>

End of study visit