

Zagreb, 24 March 2014

Subject: Expression of interest for partnership on projects for higher education reform and development

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Institute for the Development of Education (IDE) would hereby like to express its interest to participate in projects for higher education reform and development within the framework of the EU's programmes and funds, especially through Erasmus+ , Horizon 2020 and the European Social Fund.

IDE is a Croatian non-governmental and non-profit organisation established in 1999, whose mission is to contribute to the development of higher education policy, provide expert support to institutions, connect domestic and international experts and enable individuals in Croatia and the region of Southeast Europe to achieve their educational goals. We would hereby like to invite potential applicants to Erasmus+ , Horizon or other EU programmes/funds to consider IDE as a project partner in their project proposals. IDE can provide expertise in a number of policy areas in higher education, as well as in management and coordination roles, and can also assist countries in developing project proposals.

An overview of IDE's policy focus-areas and ongoing projects is provided listed below. For all further information about cooperation possibilities, please contact us by email at iro@iro.hr.

Policy focus-areas

- **Equity in higher education:** IDE has expertise on the range of factors that influence access to higher education and success in higher education. IDE has issued 6 publications related to equitable access to higher education (including the EUROSTUDENT report for Croatia), was a member of the Bologna Follow-Up Group's Working Group for the Social Dimension of Higher Education (2010-2012) and is currently a partner on a Europe-level project for developing peer-learning in the area of the social dimension of higher education (2012-2015). IDE also wrote a national report on educational inequalities in Croatia for the Network of Experts on Social Aspects of Education and Training (NESET).
- **Higher education funding:** IDE has expertise on European trends in both higher education funding and student financial support in Europe. IDE led an international consortium (23 institutions) under the TEMPUS project ACCESS (2009-2013) to define recommendations for the reform of the higher education funding system in Croatia, based on European best practices. IDE published two studies commissioned by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of higher education funding policies in Croatia and in EU countries and is working on a feasibility study for student loans in Southeast Europe.
- **Internationalisation and academic mobility:** IDE has expertise on global trends in academic mobility, on European policies for developing academic mobility and on the factors that influence participation in mobility programmes. IDE has administered 7 international academic mobility programmes and has 14 years of experience in advising students and academic staff on mobility opportunities. IDE led a national project to develop an action plan for Croatia's entry into the ERASMUS programme. IDE is also a member of the Croatian National Working Group for Removing Obstacles to Educational Mobility (2010-2014).

- **Quality assurance in higher education:** IDE participates as an associate member of the Accreditation Council of the Agency for Science and Higher Education (Croatia), which since 2011 is implementing the process of reaccreditation of all study programmes in the Republic of Croatia.
- **Qualifications framework:** IDE was a partner on a European-level LEONARDO project aimed to prepare policy recommendations for introducing recognition of prior learning at universities in Poland and Croatia (2011–2013). IDE also participated in the National Committee for the Development of Croatian Qualifications Framework (2010–2012).
- **Student services:** IDE has 14 years of experience as an educational advising centre for international mobility and financial aid opportunities in Croatia, Europe and the USA. IDE has also led a project to create a feasibility study and action plan for launching career advising services at Croatian universities (2006–2007), which resulted in the launch of such services at three Croatian universities between 2008 and 2010.

Ongoing projects

- **Linking quality and social inclusion in higher education in Croatia (2013–2014):** the project aims to develop socially inclusive quality assurance procedures at higher education institutions in Croatia. IDE is the coordinator and the project is funded by the European Commission (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance). www.ipa-equality.eu
- **Peer-learning initiative for the social dimension of higher education (2012–2015):** the project aims to provide policy-makers and practitioners in Europe with resources to develop effective measures for improving the social dimension of higher education. The project is led by the Institute for Advanced Studies (Austria) and IDE is one of four project partners. The project is funded by the European Commission (Lifelong learning programme, ERASMUS Multilateral projects). www.pl4sd.eu
- **Croatian catalogue of knowledge, skills and competences for Mechanical Engineering studies (2013–2015):** the project aims to create a catalogue of qualifications in the field of mechanical engineering in Croatia and to educate students, teachers and the general public about the benefits of applying the Croatian Qualifications Framework. The project is led by The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Slavonski Brod and IDE is one of five project partners. The project is funded by the European Commission (Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance). <http://me4catalogue.sfsb.hr/>
- **Feasibility study for higher education finance in Southeast Europe (2013–2015):** the project aims analyse the feasibility of developing a regional facility for providing student loans and other financial instruments for students in Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. The project is led by KfW–German Development Bank and is funded through the Western Balkans Investment Framework.