

TEACHERS IN KOSOVO

The 'ECDL for Teachers' Project
in the Republic of Kosovo –
Dramatically Improving the ICT
Skills of Teachers at National Level

Background and Policy Context

The Republic of Kosovo has many human resources that form the basis for the development of society. One of the key challenges in using ICT for societal development is the support and stimulation of qualified staff in order to motivate them to work more effectively in the education system.

The Ministry of Education (MEST), focusing on increasing its human resources capacity and skills within the education system, has defined the development and promotion of ICT skills at a national level as a special priority. In relation to this priority, the goal has been set that all teachers become equipped with necessary competences to operate successfully within their profession and to enable personal development through an improved skills set.

Through the Kosovo Education Reform Programme, the government has set the priority to develop an environment where the quality of education, inclusiveness, diversity, lifelong learning, and continuous human resource development are substantially increased.

Key elements of this Education Reform Programme are to:

- Train and certify teachers and school administration staff in using ICT
- Enhance skills of teachers and staff
- Equip all schools with computer labs and broadband internet connectivity

ECDL's Role in the Project and Why it was Chosen

Because of its international recognition as a quality certification, its proven ability to be rolled out on a national scale, and the relevance of the skills that it certifies, the ECDL programme was chosen by the Government of Kosovo to address the ICT skills deficit of the country's teachers, under the name of the 'ECDL for Teachers' project. No other ICT skills certification programme was considered as ideally suited as the ECDL programme to the needs of Kosovo's government in its aim to substantially improve the ICT skills of its educators as they harness technology and prepare today's school-goers for the job market of tomorrow.

Delivery Details and Impact

The project is being implemented in phases. The first phase was launched in December 2009, targeting 5,000 primary and secondary school teachers across different regions of the country. More than 70% of the target group achieved ECDL Start certification, with more than 50% gaining full ECDL certification¹. The 'ECDL for Teachers' programme in Kosovo is being implemented by the American University of Kosovo (AUK), and by the date of its completion (2012), more than 27,000 will be obliged to have passed it.

¹ For a detailed explanation of the ECDL certification programme and the modules offered, please visit: www.ecdl.org

Funding

The project is jointly financed by the Ministry of Education and international donors, including the World Bank. The total cost of the project will not exceed €10 million.

In his address to the participating teachers at one of the project's certification awards ceremonies, the Minister for Education, Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, stated:

“The century that we are living in cannot be thought of without theory, technology, and the Internet. We are not going to build an education system just for the sake of it, but build our education system because of the (improved) economic situation that we have now. For us education has always been and remains the economy, and vice versa.”



Minister Hoxhaj awarding Ms. Luljeta Gashi (average result in all seven modules 97%) the Best Result Award and a laptop donated by ECDL Foundation



Over 750 teachers participating in the certification ceremony