

EDUCATION AND THE LABOUR MARKET IN R. MACEDONIA IN THE GLOBALIZATION CONTEXT

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- ▶ The process of globalization has great impact on the educational processes.
- ▶ If the individual has more education, they find themselves higher on the social scale. Furthermore, that ensures better social standard.
- ▶ countries in transition such as R. Macedonia, have changed the approach by making serious changes in the context of the market economy and democratization of the society.

- ▶ In the modern society today, both in our country and in the world we can witness the variety of innovation and changes in the educational system. The new world tendency is to readapt from a society that learns to a society of knowledge.
- ▶ There is a strongly established tendency today worldwide to create an enterprising society.
- ▶ It is evident that in the countries in transition, especially in our country the system of education and training is not adequately adjusted. The contemporary approach that education implements, is the investment.
- ▶ The educational institutions are facing the challenge of meeting the everlasting needs as well as the number and diversity of the target groups.
- ▶ our educational institutions are the ones which are expected to train and educate individuals to be able to cope with the challenges in the environment were they would live and work. Or would they create individual that would think as oppose to those that would remember
- ▶ Social and educational changes are moving towards a direction which puts the emphasis on individuality, peculiarities, variety and therefore the need for their acknowledging, respecting, cultivating and development is increasing. This imposes the need to modify education in that direction.

The situation of education and the labour market in R. Macedonia

- ▶ Lately, in the R. Macedonia the view of a society based on knowledge is becoming more dominant and it is often relating the educational process to the labour market. The improvements in the professional qualifications of the population in order to find employment is seen as one of the manners to reach this goal
- ▶ the globalization in economy, politics, education and ecology and the tendency of R. Macedonia to integrate in the European and world processes of cooperation are challenging the country's capacities, both human and tangible, as one of the prerequisites to accomplish them.
- ▶ The educational system, the research, the innovations, knowledge are all based on the capacities, they are actually manifested as integral parts of that competitiveness. The national and international success of the R. Macedonia is directly determined by having high standards in education, advancement and enhancement of creativity and innovations, cultivating the uniqueness of the cultural diversity and the implementation of the contemporary information and communication technologies.

- ▶ The tendency and the education in general have more clear and evident tendency now to become more available for the interests, needs, possibilities and the predispositions of every company or party. The unique social and public constellation of the R Macedonia is approaching towards this global trend.
- ▶ The active participation of the R. Macedonia in the global integration processes also implies assuming responsibility for the realization of the global policies in the education domain. As a result many amendments have been implemented commencing with the higher and to the primary education.
- ▶ The public investments are prevailing especially in the fields of science and research realized through: the project for translation of over 500 professional scientific books and course books and the project for laboratory equipment in the fields of the technical-technological sciences, medical sciences, biotechnical sciences, social sciences and humanities, all with the purpose to strengthen the applicative infrastructure of the state's higher education institutions and the public scientific establishments in the appropriate fields.
- ▶ A significant advancement was realized with the Bologna declaration. The network of the state's higher education institutions has been advanced with the introduction of a new university, new faculties with dispersed studies which made studying more available and with higher percentage. It is essential to point out that the percentage of the enrolled students in the academic year 2010/1011 is 99,3% of the students that have completed their four-year secondary education.

- ▶ In order to improve the quality of the primary and secondary education there have been certain amendments to the Law on Primary Education and the Law on Secondary Education, the Law on the Bureau for development of Education, Law on State's Evaluation Centre, Law on State Educational Inspectorate
- ▶ There have also been some changes in the nine-year primary education as well as the compulsory secondary education. The project 'Computer for every pupil' provided most of the schools (633 educational institutions) with computers. As far as the children which belong to the vulnerable groups are concerned, the following measures have been introduced: providing free course books, transportations, scholarships (800 scholarships for the students from the Roma population in 2009/2010 and 650 scholarships in 2010/11) as well as introducing tutoring.
- ▶ In respect of the integration of the ethnic communities in the educational system, there was a Strategy for integrated education passed, based on the recommendations of the High Commissariat on National Minorities. The strategy involves measures divided into five theme groups: promotion of integration through mutual curricular and extra-curricular activities, integration through learning language, teaching programs and course books, improvement for the teachers' expertise in respect of the process of integration, as well as managing the schools in the decentralization process.

- ▶ There have been amendments in primary and secondary education that refer to the promotion for the process of decentralization, improvements of the infrastructure and the technical conditions for the teaching process in the primary and secondary schools, increasing the number of students in schools from the vulnerable groups, participation in international assessments (Pisa, Timess etc.), developing e-contents for all subjects, trainings for teachers and the management team of the schools.
- ▶ With a purpose to strengthen the relationship between the educational profile and the needs of the labour market, it is planned to implement the newly adopted Concepts for post-secondary education, vocational education for crafts and for technical qualifications, based on the recommendations of the European initiatives for development in the vocational education and training.
- ▶ These concepts come as a response of the changes in the domain of the labour and social life and the increasing demands to reach an effective professional education and training which will meet these demands.
- ▶ All these amendments have the purpose to secure conditions for aquire skills and qualifications compatible to the needs of the labour market.
- ▶ The improvement of the labour market is one of the main priorities which is in the Accession partnership of R. Macedonia to EU. For that reason the improvement and the amendments of the labour market have a key aim that leads towards: accordance within the offer and the demand of the work force and creating new work positions in accordance to the needs of the labour market, increasing the employment, improvements in the legal regulations and their accordance with the EU legislative, promoting and developing social dialogue and collective agreements on all levels, etc.

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- ▶ The main challenges in the labour market is taking into account measures to decrease the structural unemployment, development of qualified work force which will meet the needs of the labour market, adjusting the system of vocational education and training according to the needs of the labour market supplemented with effective encouragement for lifelong learning, promoting social inclusion, fight against poverty and shadow economy.
 - ▶ Strengthening the capacities of the social partners is also of great importance (which are now considered to be very weak and on a low level), since they play an important role in the changes that need to be realized in the vocational education and training in order to provide a qualified work force that will meet the needs of the labour market.

- ▶ The short analysis of the implemented amendments in the domain of education and the labour market can lead to the conclusion that the R. Macedonia is intensively working on a constant improvements and advancements in these fields by constantly making adjustments to reach a point to meet the needs of the society by providing an adequate professional staff which will find their place in the labour market, not only in the country but abroad too. It is important to mention the data that the R. Macedonia is in pace with following the modern trends and policies in a global context and it is not behind with its activities and measures in respect of the education and the labour market. With the implementation of active programs and policies, the R. Macedonia is constantly making efforts to improve and put the conditions and the employment possibilities on a higher level, decreasing unemployment, improving the standard of life and strengthening the social cohesion and providing a sustainable demographic development.

