Workshop 5- "Promoting Empowerment, Smart Skills and Inclusive Growth"

Skills development is at the core of Europe's future. In order to be prepared for the changes and challenges ahead, capacity-building and new approaches in initial and continuing education and training are needed to empower and equip citizens with more and better skills and competences. Improving the attractiveness and relevance of vocational educational training (VET), increasing the participation in adult learning and providing innovative training opportunities for disadvantaged groups are of particular importance in this regard. This workshop will explore how to foster smart skills and competences in the Danube Region, through better lifelong learning opportunities and at every level of education and training. It will link this to the demands of the labour market, with a view to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Danube Region.

Moderator:	**Mr Ognjen Mirić,** Deputy Director SEIO, EUSDR National Contact Point, Serbia
Discussant:	**Mr Mauro Novello,** INTERACT Point Vienna
Rapporteur:	**Mr Predrag Lažetić,** Director, Center of Education Policy, Interim Secretariat of the Education Reform Initiative of SEE in Belgrade, Serbia
09:00-09:30	**Welcome and introduction** **- Mr Ognjen Mirić,** Deputy Director SEIO, EUSDR National Contact Point, Serbia **- Mr Roland Hanak,** Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, EUSDR PAC 9- People and skills, Austria **- Mr Jürgen Schick,** Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture, EUSDR PAC **9,** Austria **- Mr Ion Gumene,** State Chancellery, EUSDR PAC 9, Republic of Moldova
09:30-10:00	**Key note addresses:** - "Responding to Europe's skills challenge" by **Ms Eleonora Schmid,** Assistant to the Director, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) **- "**Skills for the future - The view of a global player" by **Mr Walter Huber,** Corporate Human Resources, Siemens
10:00-10:15	**Questions & Answers**

10:15-10:30	**Presentation of projects** "Pilot project Empowering Young People - Connecting Europe", by **- Ms Monika Mott,** KulturKontakt, Austria "Austrian-Moldovan and Serbian-Croatian VET Cooperation Projects", by **Mr Walter Reiter**, L&R Institute for Social Research, Austria
10:30-11:45	**Panel discussion and debate with the audience**
Participants:	**- Mr Karl Holmeier,** Member of the German Bundestag **- Mr Stelian Victor Fedorca,** State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Romania **- Ms Zornitsa Roussinova,** Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy; Bulgaria **- Ms Katarina Ivanković Knežević,** Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Croatia **- Ms Ulrike Damyanovic,** Head of the Western Balkans and Turkey Unit, European Training Foundation **- Mr Johann-Jakob Wulf,** Chairman, Young Citizens Danube Network