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Commission

Erasmus+ National Policy Reviews 2024 Sierra Leone

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Sierra Leone

Contributor

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This national policy review provides a detailed analysis of Sierra Leone's educational policies and their alignment with the Erasmus+ programme. It offers official, first-hand information into the country's engagement with Erasmus+ from 2021 to 2024, highlighting opportunities for improvement and identifying strategies to enhance integration and outcomes. Prepared and submitted by the Erasmus+ National Focal Point, this review contributes to ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation and to maximise the benefits of the Erasmus+ programme in Sierra Leone.

Reviews of policies, initiatives, projects, and/or stakeholders

Radical Inclusion Policy

This policy aims to provide education and training for all learners in basic education. This includes:

- **Pre-primary children:** Ensuring access to early education.
- **Pregnant schoolgirls:** Supporting them to continue their education.
- **School children:** Making sure all students can attend school.
- **Children with disabilities:** Providing special support so they can learn.
- **Nursing and lactating mothers:** Helping them balance education and childcare.
- **Marginalised communities:** Reaching those who are often left out or underserved.

The goal is to ensure that everyone, no matter their situation, can access education.

<https://www.mbsse.gov.sl/>

School Feeding Policy

The School Feeding Policy focuses on providing locally produced, nutritious meals to students. Its goals are:

- Improve children's nutrition and health.
- Support their education by helping them stay in school and succeed.
- Encourage more children to attend, stay, and complete primary school.

By offering healthy meals, the policy helps improve learning outcomes and promotes better access to education.

<https://www.mbsse.gov.sl/>

Free Quality School Education

The Free Quality School Education Policy ensures that education is free and of high quality for both Primary (including Junior Secondary) and Senior Secondary (High School) students. It was created to uphold the legal right to education. The policy covers:

- **Tuition and school fees:** Education is provided without cost.
- **Teaching and learning materials:** All necessary books and resources are supplied.
- **Examination fees:** Costs for both national and international exams are covered.

This policy aims to remove financial barriers and make sure all children have access to quality education.

<https://www.mbsse.gov.sl/>

School subsidy

The School Subsidy is part of the government's plan to support free quality basic and senior secondary education. It aims to:

- Ensure all students can access free education from primary through senior secondary levels.
- Strengthen higher education by providing support for tertiary institutions.

This initiative is designed to remove financial barriers and improve access to education at all levels.

<https://www.mbsse.gov.sl/>

Basic Education Act

The Basic Education Act focuses on restructuring and improving the Basic and Senior Secondary Education system. Its key aims are to:

- Make education compulsory, inclusive, and rights-based for all students.
- Ensure the education system is more relevant to students' needs.
- Improve the governance and management of schools.
- Address other related issues to strengthen the overall education system.

This act is designed to create a more effective, accessible, and equitable education system for everyone.

<https://www.mbsse.gov.sl/>

Technical and Vocation Education Training (TVET)

The Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Policy aims to guide the provision and management of TVET in the country. The key focus areas are:

- Developing a relevant, flexible, effective, efficient, accessible, and sustainable TVET system.
- Ensuring that TVET is an integrated part of Sierra Leone's overall education system.

This policy is designed to improve the quality and availability of vocational and technical training to meet the needs of both learners and the job market.

<https://mthe.gov.sl/PDF/News/Approved%20TVET-Policy.pdf>

Dual Apprenticeship

Sierra Leone needs this policy to enhance the skills and job prospects of young people. It aims to boost their contributions to the workforce and support national development through practical learning and training in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions.

<https://www.mthe.gov.sl/>

National Qualification Policy

The National Qualification Policy was created to categorise qualifications in the country at various levels. Each level is defined by specific learning outcomes and includes considerations for salary scales based on education level. Hard copies of the policy are available, but it has not yet been officially launched.

Post Secondary Inclusive Disability

The National Policy on Inclusive Post-Secondary Education aims to foster an inclusive environment in post-secondary education by integrating and addressing disability issues. Hard copies of the policy are available, but it has not yet been officially launched.

Education Sector Analysis 2019/20

The Education Sector Analysis 2019/20 is a detailed report that evaluates service delivery within the education sector. It offers evidence-based insights to promote meaningful discussions among the ministries of education, government agencies, and development partners. The aim is to identify effective policy and operational interventions to improve service delivery in education.

<https://www.mthe.gov.sl/>

Education Sector Plan 2022 - 2026

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) and the Ministry of Technical and Higher Education (MTHE) in Sierra Leone collaborated to create a unified Education Sector Plan (ESP) that addresses the key priorities of both ministries. The plan ensures that all interventions and activities are fully aligned. Central to the plan is a focus on all learners, which is evident throughout the document, including its monitoring and evaluation framework.

<https://www.unicef.org/sierraleone/reports/sierra-leone-education-sector-plan-2022-2026>

Sierra Leone Grant-in-Aid (SLGIA) Policy

The Sierra Leone Grant-in-Aid (SLGIA) Policy aims to provide scholarships to support deserving students in technical and higher education who are in need. The policy particularly focuses on specific groups, including:

- Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)
- Children of teachers with over 30 years of service
- Women and girls pursuing studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Mathematics
- Men and women serving in the military, police, correctional services, and fire force.

The policy emphasises inclusivity and support for these targeted categories of students.

Open And Distance Learning (ODL) Policy For Tertiary Education Institutions

The Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Policy for tertiary education in Sierra Leone aims to create a coordinated approach to planning, developing, delivering, and evaluating ODL programmes. Its primary goal is to enhance access to high-quality tertiary education and training throughout the country.

<https://tecsl.edu.sl/>

Legislative reforms and/or policies that have been put in place in the past three years or that are still being discussed

Tertiary Education Commission Act 2001

The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is an official organisation created by an Act of Parliament in 2001 to oversee tertiary education institutions in Sierra Leone. This Act is currently being reviewed and is pending ratification by Parliament.

<https://tecsl.edu.sl/>

Universities Act 2021

On 8 July 2021, the Parliament of Sierra Leone enacted the Universities Act, 2021, which replaces the previous Universities Act from 2005. This new Act established Milton Margai Technical University, Eastern Technical University, and Kono University of Science and Technology, while allowing the University of Sierra Leone and Njala University to continue operating. It also includes provisions for the Ernest Bai Koroma University of Science and Technology. Notably, the Act removes the President's role as Chancellor of all public universities, enabling each university to have its own Chancellor appointed by the President.

www.mthe.gov.sl

NCTVA 2001

The National Council for Technical, Vocational and Other Academic Awards Act of 2001 (NCTVA Act 2001) allows only tertiary institutions to award certificates and diplomas. This Act is currently under review and is pending ratification by Parliament.

Sierra Leone Loan Scheme Act 2021

The Sierra Leone Loan Scheme Act of 2021 establishes the Sierra Leone Students' Loan Scheme Fund to offer financial assistance to students in tertiary institutions. The aim is to increase enrollment in higher education and promote the right to education for all Sierra Leoneans, along with addressing related matters.

https://www.parliament.gov.sl/uploads/bill_files/THE%20SIERRA%20LEONE%20STUDENT%20SCHEME%20FUND%20ACT.pdf

Polytechnics 2014

The Polytechnics (Amendment) Act of 2014 modifies the Polytechnics Act of 2001. It aims to establish polytechnic institutions and corresponding councils, while also providing guidelines for the management and supervision of polytechnic institutions across the country, along with addressing related matters.

<https://www.parliament.gov.sl/search-engine.html?search=polytechnic+act>

Initiatives and/or programmes that have been launched in the past three years

Annual celebration of the Education week

The Ministries of Education in Sierra Leone, covering both Basic and Senior Secondary as well as Technical and Higher Education, will join other countries in celebrating the International Day of Education on January 24, 2024, with the theme "Learning for Lasting Peace." This year, the celebration will take place during the Annual Celebration of Education Week, running from January 22 to 26, 2024.

<https://mbsse.gov.sl/sierra-leone-joins-the-world-in-celebrating-6th-international-day-of-education/>

Absorption of the Academic/Administrative staff in government payroll

Capacity building of Lecturers/TVET Instructors

To enhance the skills of lecturers and instructors in universities, polytechnics, technical institutions, and colleges, the Ministry has proposed a plan to hire 5,000 teachers. A Cabinet paper seeking approval for this initiative has been submitted, which also includes plans to provide these teachers with national and international scholarships.

www.mof.gov.sl

Orientation for Chancellors

The Universities Act of 2021 has removed the President's role as Chancellor of all universities, leading to the installation of Chancellors for the first time. An orientation was conducted to help these Chancellors understand the Universities Act of 2021 and their core responsibilities, enabling them to effectively promote higher education in Sierra Leone.

www.mthe.gov.sl

ECOWAS Regional Workshop for the Equivalence of Certificates

The ECOWAS Regional Workshop on the Equivalence of Certificates was organised to inform experts from member states, university regulatory bodies, and partner organisations about the ECOWAS Programme for the Recognition and Equivalence of Certificates. The workshop specifically focused on the benchmarks and framework documents related to this programme.

<https://www.ecowas.int/ecowas-holds-a-regional-sensitization-workshop-on-the-equivalence-of-certificates-in-the-region-8th-to-10th-december-2022-lome-republic-of-togo/>

ENAAMS Pilot programme

The ENAAMS Pilot Programme is a Professional Immersion initiative designed for young graduates in ECOWAS institutions. It is one of four components of the ECOWAS Nnamdi Azikiwe Academic Mobility Programme (ENAAMS). The main goal of this Programme is to help young people gain practical skills and work experience, enhancing their knowledge for better employment opportunities. Sierra Leone participated in this programme for the first time in 2023.

<https://www.ecowas.int/?s=Nnamdi+Azikiwe+Academic+Mobility+Programme+>

Projects which are examples of good practice that have been launched in the past three years

Promote Early Childhood Care Education ECCE

The World Bank, through its Early Learning Partnership Grant Programme, is supporting the enhancement of college instructors' skills in both content and teaching methods to effectively train Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) educators. The main objective is to develop a qualified workforce of instructors prepared to train future ECCE educators.

Sierra Leone's education system is structured into four stages: six years of primary education, three years of junior secondary education, three years of either senior secondary education or technical vocational education, and four years of university or tertiary education. The government is now promoting foundational learning by introducing a pre-primary stage, making the education system 3-6-3-3-4 instead of 6-3-3-4.

Skills Development Fund SDF

The Skills Development Fund (SDF) project supports Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in both public and private institutions. This initiative aligns with the Ministry of Finance's emphasis on creating a demand-driven skills system that contributes to the country's economic development and poverty reduction strategy.

Systems strengthening for Tertiary institution

The Ministry of Technical and Higher Education partnered with Sierra Leone Cable (SALCAB), the agency responsible for the country's internet gateway, to enhance internet connectivity in tertiary institutions by increasing bandwidth.

Key players and networks (stakeholders) at the national level (or at the regional level with a national component)

Ministry of Finance (MoF)

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) is a branch of the Government of Sierra Leone responsible for developing and implementing effective economic policies and managing public finances. Its role includes ensuring the efficient allocation of public resources to foster stable economic growth and development within a stable macroeconomic environment.

<https://mof.gov.sl/>

Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary School (MBSSE)

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE) in Sierra Leone aims to create opportunities for both children and adults to gain knowledge and skills while fostering good values and attitudes to support economic growth.

www.mbsse.gov.sl

Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, MoPED

Local Education Group, LEG

Local Education Groups (LEG) consist of key development partners, including multilateral agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and private foundations, all working under the leadership of the government. They collaborate to develop strategies aimed at ensuring that the greatest number of children receive quality education. The collective expertise of these partners helps achieve better and more sustainable educational outcomes.

Civil Society Organisations

Non-profit, voluntary citizens' groups which are organised on a local, national or international level, who are working with and for the education sector.

Higher Education Institutions

Higher Education Institutions encompass universities, colleges, and various professional schools that prepare students in fields such as law, theology, medicine, business, music, and art. This category also includes teacher-training colleges, government and non-government technical institutions, and institutes of technology.

<https://tecsl.edu.sl/category-a>

Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)

The Tertiary Education Commission is primarily responsible for advising the government on tertiary education matters. It serves as a liaison between the government and other stakeholders in the tertiary education sector, ensuring that graduates from these institutions maintain a standard of quality.

<https://tecsl.edu.sl/>

TVET Coalition

The TVET Coalition is made up of governmental institutes, international organisations, companies, the private sector, donors, and NGOs that are involved with Sierra Leone's youth and technical vocational education and training (TVET). This coalition supports the Ministry and other government agencies in fulfilling their mandates related to TVET and developing the country's technical workforce.

<https://tvetcoalition.wordpress.com/about/>