VETpreneur

NEWSLETTER

Project supporting vocational education and training in the Western Balkans

NO.1, JAN-DEC 2023.

Co-funded by the European Union

VETpreneur

The VETpreneur is a project supporting vocational education and training in the Western Balkans. It is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in VET component, in the period from January 2023 to December 2025. VETpreneur provides a series of carefully designed capacity building activities – including mobility of educators and learners from Western Balkans partner countries: Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Montenegro to the EU countries counterparts. The project addresses common regional and also country specific issues facing both youth and adults in the VET sector contexts as per the ETF assessments reports (Turin process reports) from 2020 and 2021. In doing so, the VETpreneur project mainstreams the use of EntreComp framework (entrepreneurship as a key competence) in formal and non-formal VET education and training in the Western Balkans.

In formal VET education, it will be mainstreamed through student company program and development of innovative problem-based entrepreneurial lab's, creation of toolkit and ToT training. In non-formal education and training, it will be promoted throughout VET centres for adults, through the networking events, and the creation of recognition tool.

Activity:

Kick off meting in Belgrade, ready to embark on the project's journey

On February 27-28, 2023 kick-off meeting of the VETpreneur project took place in Belgrade, serving as a pivotal moment for collaboration among project partners from the Western Balkans and Belgium. The event provided an opportunity for partners to align their goals, clarify roles and responsibilities, and establish a cohesive project timeline, creating a strong foundation for coordinated efforts. As a result of the impactful discussions and strategic planning that transpired, the partners left the kick-off meeting inspired and energized, ready to embark on the project's journey with a united front and a clear sense of purpose.

The EntreComp framework into the education and training system in Montenegro

As part of the “VETpreneur – Vocational Education and Training PRovision with ENtrepreneurial Education Uptake in the Region” project, the EntreComp introductory conference was held on 28 April 2023.

The project is supported by the European Union and aims to provide quality strategies, methods and programs that will directly affect the development and improvement of the quality of entrepreneurial education in the Western Balkans region. The structure of the Conference was based on presentations by experts in which, after the welcoming words, a review of the achievements so far was presented and at the same time an analysis of the needs for further integration of the EntreComp framework into the education and training system in Montenegro, along with teamwork and discussion.

Program for students to be involved in the development and management of their own companies at school

The training of 18 secondary school teachers in Montenegro was held from 27-28 May in Podgorica, within the VETpreneur project.

Student Company is an entrepreneurial education program that allows students to be involved in the development and management of their own companies at school, with real products and services, as well as to manage the money earned during their high school education. Therefore, the goal of the training is for teachers to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to implement the program and thus start student companies at school

The process of integrating EntreComp into the education and training system in the Western Balkans

The working document “New Momentum – EntreComp in the Western Balkans”, a description of the process of integrating EntreComp into the education and training system in the Western Balkans countries is now available on this LINK.

The document will be used as a guide for the work of the Intersectoral Working Group on the EntreComp Framework, which was formed in June 2023, and which has the task of developing a toolkit for teachers and school management, about the integration of selected EntreComp competencies in VET teaching and learning, accompanied by an instrument for recognizing EntreComp competencies.

Regional ‘’Intersectoral Working Group – ISWG’’ started

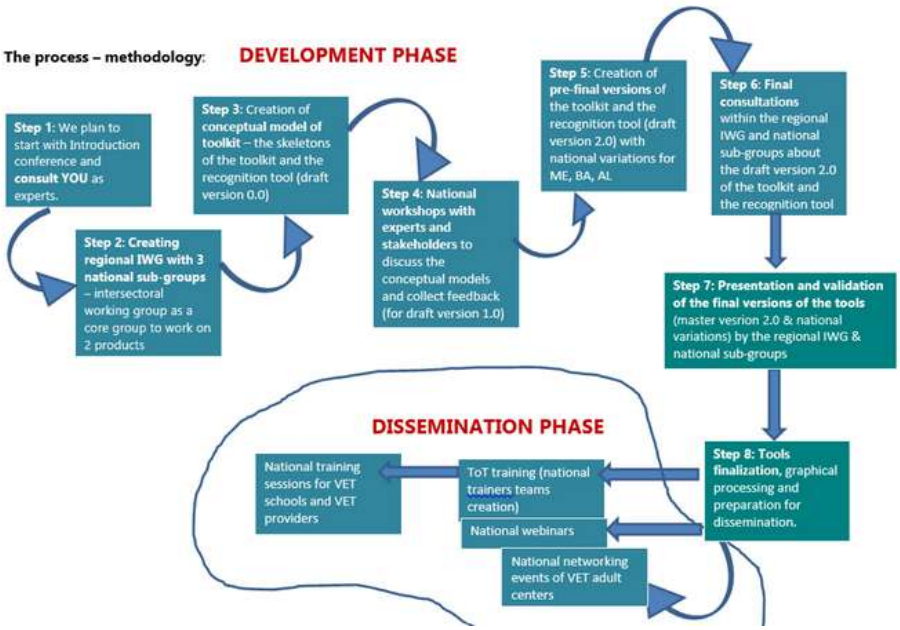
The Intersectoral Working Group for the Western Balkans has been established in January 2024 is international team of experts in VET, to carry out a mission of mainstreaming the EntreComp competencies in teaching and learning practices in the Western Balkans countries. The team has been established, and it works with the support of regional VETpreneur project.

The working group has 22 members and 3 project partner representatives representing various VET actors in Western Balkans and EU partner countries, such as national and provincial ministries and agencies responsible for VET, schools, chambers of commerce, employers, CSOs, adult VET providers, etc. The work of ISWG is focused on the development of 2 key products which will be presented to education institutions in the VET system: ž

- Toolkit for EntreComp framework integration into VET programs and practices,
- Recognition Tool for entrepreneurial competencies acquired through the VET program;

Coordinating institution of the ISWG is Western Balkans Institute from Belgrade. More details about the ISWG, members and work plan, you may find here.

The ISWG will be working in 2 phases, in accordance with the following work plan:



For more information about the Intersectoral Working Group in the Western Balkans, and contribution to VET sector through innovative tools promotion, please follow us on Instagram @vetpreneur.project and Facebook page VETpreneur project.

30 teachers from BiH were trained for Student Company program

Student Company program training for teachers from Bosnia and Herzegovina was held on September 26-27 in Sarajevo. The training was organised by Social Innovation Incubator Munja, Redah Association for Economic Development and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Republic of Srpska in the scope of the VETpreneur project.

The training was prepared and successfully implemented by a pair of teachers who come from Serbia: Marija Urošević and Milan Nikolić.

The evaluation of the training showed that the topics and contents provided for in the program were implemented, the trainers were prepared and knew the area well program relates that the professors plan to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the training in work with to their students at school and to recommend the training to their colleagues.

Professors from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania attended 3 online sessions

The first Zoom session took place on November 7.2023. The teachers were introduced to the students of the EkoLim company. In the first year of the "Bora Stanković" High School from Niš, these students founded a student company that managed to produce solar panels from collected cans. They were very noticeable at the national competition, and through their education they continued to develop their entrepreneurial story. The geography teacher, Ana Veljković, guided them through the entire process.

After the success stories from Serbia, we had the opportunity to hear the success stories that came from the organization Junior Achievement in Albania. At the second Zoom mentoring session on December 7, we were introduced to:

Anxhela Zeneli - president of the Junior Achievement Albania Alumni Network
Oriana Çekrezi - founder of Dora Kreative
Denis Alizoti - program coordinator of JA Albania and alumni of the program

November 23 at the third Zoom mentoring session we listened to a successful story about entrepreneurial education told by Miodrag Savović, educational advisor at the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia.

Until a few years ago, Miodrag Savovič led the Student Company program at the Fourth Gymnasium in Belgrade. A mathematics teacher who saw the importance of extracurricular activities for the development of student's personal and professional skills contributed to the formation of a team of teachers in the school who led the entrepreneurial section.
Since 2018, Miodrag Savović has been working at the Ministry of Education and the School Administration in Belgrade, where he monitors the work of high schools and teams for entrepreneurship and cross-curricular competencies in schools. Thanks to his perseverance and the work of his colleagues at the Fourth Gymnasium in Belgrade, that school won the European title of The Entrepreneurial School in Istanbul in July 2023.

The Zoom sessions were attended by professors and students from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania.

Next to come

· During April-May 2024 we will identify and collect methodologies and practices of teaching and learning units leading to mastering entrepreneurial competences – call for participation to be published;

· We are developing call for learning mobility of students and adult learners, and job-shadowing for VET school management, teachers and adult VET providers – calls for applications to be published;

· We are developing problem-based learning labs in virtual setting for VET schools – blueprint to be presented in 2024;

· Developing concept for establishing regional community of practice in VET – call for interest to be published in 2024;

· Training opportunities for teachers and VET school management – calls for participants to be published in 2024;

Stay tuned and follow the VETpreneur project for more information and opportunities!

Project Summary

Project name: Vocational Education and Training Provision with Entrepreneurial Education Uptake in the Region

Project acronym: VETpreneur

Project starting date: 1 January 2023
Project end date: 31 December 2025

FUNDED BY: EU through the Erasmus+ Programme, Capacity Building in VET.

Consortium:
DOSTIGNUCA MLADIH U SRBIJI (Junior Achievement Serbia) – project coordinator
WESTERN BALKANS INSTITUTE (WEBIN)
IZOBRAZEVALNI CENTER GEOSS
CSI CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION LTD
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT MONTENEGRO
ZAVOD ZA SKOLSTVO PODGORICA (BES)
INKUBATOR DRUSTVENIH INOVACIJA – MUNJA
ASOCIJACIJA ZA EKONOMSKI RAZVOJ REDAH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF ALBANIA
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT EUROPE

Funded by the European Union. Viewss and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Follow us for many more activities to come

Vocational Education and Training PRovision with ENtrepreneurial Education Uptake the Region

www.vetpreneur.info
@vetpreneur.project
VETpreneur project