



Project № 2023-1-BG01-KA220-VET-000151297 Balkan WBL Cooperation
Funding programme: „Erasmus +“,
KA220 Strategic Partnerships in VET
Implementation period: 01.11.2023 –
31.10.2025 (24 months)

OBJECTIVES

- To create a toolkit to address regional challenges in the field of work-based learning
- To place a strong emphasis on the significant role of practical training in increasing the competitiveness of the workforce in the Balkan region
- To develop procedures for effective Balkan cooperation in the field of work-based learning
- To build a transnational mechanism for cooperation and exchange of experience in the sector through the establishment of expert groups
- To organize and conduct specialized seminars on key topics in the field of work-based learning
- To develop specific recommendations for policy changes towards wider and more effective implementation of work-based learning as a proven model for developing employability skills



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

PROGRESS IN 2024

On 17.04.2024, the first expert workshop on the Balkan WBL Cooperation project was held. The program of the event included the presentation of the national reports on the management of practical training systems (Governance module) by the partner countries in the consortium – Bulgaria, Greece, North Macedonia and Romania. During the meeting, the identified challenges related to the following thematic areas were discussed: selection of professions to be included in practical training; curriculum design and updating; ways to identify and promote internship positions in demand on the labour market; responsibilities of the state, educational and training institutions, businesses and students, as well as sources of funding for the effective implementation of dual education. Common challenges in the four partner countries were discussed, as well as possible solutions to overcome them.

PROGRESS IN 2024

On 30.09.2024, a second expert workshop was conducted. At the event, the partners presented the national reports they prepared with a focus on Skills (Skills module), which included a comprehensive analysis of work-based learning in the four countries, with a focus on cooperation between vocational education and training (VET) institutions and companies. The reports focused on evaluating the effectiveness of skills training and explored the challenges and opportunities outlined by stakeholders who participated in a pre-launch online survey in the summer of 2024.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

In 2025 within the next stages of the project, the collection and analysis of data on practical training in the partner countries will continue with the aim of formulating clear recommendations oriented to the real needs of the labour market, which will subsequently be presented to the relevant national authorities involved in the policy-making for VET.

A large-scale international conference will be held as the final event of the project.

Partners:

- Modern Education Foundation - Bulgaria, project coordinator
- National Agency for Vocational Education and Training (NAVET) - Bulgaria
- IEK Delta - Greece
- Macedonian Civic Education Center - Republic of North Macedonia
- Municipality of Reșița City - Romania