

INNOVET ALBANIA NEWSLETTER

Let's create a culture of innovation to Albanian VET Community!

Dear readers,

We have the pleasure to introduce the sixth edition of Innovet Albania, the bulletin dedicated to the innovation and promotion of Vocational Education and Training, as well as the strengthening and expansion of activities in this prism.

My name is Gentian Likaj and I represent Communication Progress Company in the capacity of the Managing Director. CommProg was founded in 1998, bringing more than two decades of experience in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Returning to the topic, we have a long history of contribution and collaboration for the improvement of the VET field in Albania. We have long foreseen the potential that VET carries, and have done our best to help this sector bloom. Our company CSR policy has been specifically adopted on this purpose. We are proud to be one of the co-founders of Albanian Skills, supporting activities and collaborations that encourage and promote vocational education and training (VET), as well as the performing of Vocational Trainings that serve as mediators in the path of students in Schools and Centers of Vocational Training. Membership in the board of directors of one of the best VET Schools, "Hermann Gmeiner" ICT School in Tirana, is another contribution. Worth to be mentioned, Partnering with Academia, an initiative made possible thanks to collaborations with ministries, dependency institutions, career offices at Universities and Vocational Educational and Training (VET) Public and Private institutions, have brought a lot of benefits providing Lecturing, Internships and improved curricula for ICT sector. Important results and benefits for VET end users have been achieved through development of several projects and collaborations with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), within the scope of Design and Implementation of applications that centralize all the data of an educational institution, promoting efficient relationships between the educational institution and the business field. An important and very innovative step was the project for development and support for implementation of a Moodle based VLP and VTC Management Information System. The fulfilled strategic goal of the project was the realization of a digital and comprehensive infrastructure "VTC", capable of providing online support to processes and actors towards VT-oriented employment system, facilitating online interaction between broad-spectrum actors, increasing access making factors such as location, time, gender, age or disability for people with disabilities irrelevant



Gentian Likaj

Managing Director, Communication Progress

Co-founder and Executive Board Member of Albanian Skills - National Association for Skills Competitors

Many significant achievements have been made so far in the VET field in Albania, and there is still a lot to be done. A lot of challenges to be faced by all involved actors, in order to give to VET system the proper value, more specifically:

- The need for an increased role of intermediation towards labour markets, which can be achieved through the increase of contribution of Government Institution, Organizations, Associations and Chambers of Commerce dedicated to this purpose.
- A greater focus promotion and better financial support of Government programs for the VET sector.
- Needs for updating and approximation of State Curricula with current Vocational Training programs, in compliance with European dual systems, and thus creating more stable cooperation bridges between Universities and VTC/VTE.
- A better work promotion and marketing of VET benefits for and towards industry, private businesses and the private employment market.
- Increasing the investment and focus of state institutions, in organizing, coordinating, mediating, developing and applying policies in terms of vocational training.
- Creation of an updated VET state database that will serve as an accurate reflection of developments in the VET direction.
- Improving the IT infrastructure in Schools and Vocational Education Centres.

In conclusion, we thank and encourage every form of educational promotion within society, helping young students for a future bright, from schools and education centres to industry career.

Rubrics of Innovet Albania 6th Issue

Interview with Jetmir Axhami

If you dream of the future today, then your future begins today!

Meet out INTERVET WB partners!

VET through vet learners eye!

The secret of success is to be ready when your

An opportunity + project!

opportunity comes.

A success story!

This publication was prepared and edited by:

Fatma Memalli, Megi Haderi, Danja Zoto

If you dream of the future today, then your future begins today!

Interview with Albina Tocilla



1. Can you briefly introduce yourself to INNOVET Albanian readers?

I have the special pleasure and honor to introduce myself to the readers of INNOVET Albania Newsletter with my experience as an excellent former student who chose to be among the best in university studies.

2. How did your journey to ICT begin? Can you tell us something more about the course of this journey, for the challenges and achievements that have marked it?

My passion for STEM subjects is long-standing, starting from the first steps of my education. From the beginning of my childhood I had the feeling, which later convinced me that my future would be related to those subjects. Of course, choosing a field of study is not easy, nor has it been for me.

I am Albina Toçilla, Computer Science Program Coordinator and at the same time an IT lecturer at Polis University. I studied telecommunication engineering at the Polytechnic University of Tirana and currently I continue my doctoral studies at U_Polis & the University of Ferrara, in the field of Smart City.

Although an excellent student and with the opportunity to choose from the many opportunities offered to study at home and abroad (with scholarships), I did not find it easy to make a choice that would have an impact on my future. The dilemma was too great. I had to make not one but two choices, whether I should study at home or abroad or which branch I should choose for studies, medicine or information technology!

I want to emphasize that in those years the exposure to technology was not as it is today and therefore the choice became even more complicated. Sharing thoughts and opinions with peers, students who had passed this moment some times ago, but also teachers, professors and higher education experts made me finally appreciate the suggestion of my parents who told me if I would become a doctor I could not help technology and if I studied technology I could help in medical developments as long as technology is already an important part of modern medicine.

I did not know if I made the right choice but I decided to study in the faculty of electronic engineering, profile Telecommunications, as a new branch and with a lot of perspective, a choice that today I can be proud of without the slightest doubt. I think that sharing opinions and consulting with people in the field and above all with the family (moreover when there were three teachers in my family) is a choice that everyone has to make when faced with such a dilemma.

3. You have already managed to build a successful professional career in the field of ICT. What would you pick out as the most challenging moment of this journey and how did you manage to overcome it?

I think I have a lot of work ahead of me in order to realize a successful career, even though the road is long and I am walking on the path I have chosen to achieve the goal set. The most challenging moment for me was when I had to choose between industry and academia.

On the one hand it was the applied character of engineering and on the other hand the great passion I have for teaching. For a period of time I engaged in both the applied and the teaching part, a load which did not favor me in my doctoral studies. This time, unlike the first time I had the opportunity to choose, I was already forced to choose by setting temporary priorities (I chose to give up the industry, temporarily).

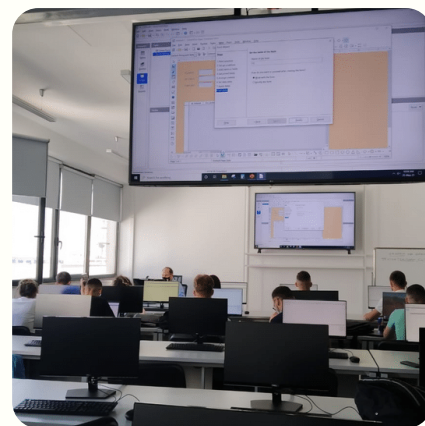
It is worth noting that nowadays and moreover in the situation of Covid-19, the ICT world offers innumerable online / remote work opportunities (from home), which gives you the opportunity not to be permanently disconnected but to have the opportunity to you are dedicated to the practical part even a few hours a week.

4.What is it like to be a successful young girl/ woman in the field of ICT. Do girls face barriers or obstacles related to their gender status in the field of STEM and how can the number of girls who choose to pursue careers in these fields increase?

I think there has always been a mindset that ICT is a field that belongs to boys, but thankfully in recent years this has changed. If before it was more difficult for a girl to make a career in ICT, today presents another panorama. There are many successful girls and women in managerial positions today in the field of ICT and this trend is growing even more day by day. Very often we encounter graduates who are a little hesitant about choosing a branch, considering engineering or computer science branches more suitable for boys, etc., but the examples and models of success that come today from women in the field of technology, are enough arguments to tell you: Yes, you can and do it even better than the other gender!

5.What opportunities does "Polis University" offer in general and in particular in the board profile of ICT? What differentiates "Polis University" and why should young people decide to study there?

Polis University offers the Computer Science program at the Bachelor and Master level, as well as the vocational school Computer Network Maintenance, in the field of ICT. Innovation has been and remains one of the main strategic objectives of U_Polis, as well as the interaction between the study disciplines and the opening of these branches came as a gradual and careful expansion. Being the coordinator of these branches, I can say with full conviction that Polis has all the necessary infrastructure to provide these branches with maximum quality. Our computer science students are excellent and the talents we select to have and I am so happy to work with them. When graduates ask me 'Why Polis?', I say just one thing: We offer it differently and we are special in what we do; We are space for thought. The U_Polis curriculum is a different curriculum, a curriculum based on market demands, which is constantly updated depending on them. We select and stimulate the best, such is Computer Science at Polis.



6.What would your last message be to all the readers of the newsletter and to all the youngsters in Albania?

Facing the dilemmas of age and the challenge of making the right choice in terms of education make us stronger in facing the future. If you dream of the future today, then the future begins today. Everything you do today you do for the future, so do not stop at choosing and doing what your future will be tomorrow. Try to do your best today and tomorrow will be easier for you, for all of us.



Meet INTERVET WB project partners!

Article written from Tanja Radusinovic



CHAMBER OF
ECONOMY OF
MONTENEGRO

The Chamber of Economy, Industry and Crafts of Montenegro, back in 1928 in Podgorica, was formed by Montenegrin visionaries - prominent businessmen of that time, with a significant social reputation. They needed the voice of the economy to be heard and respected by the creators of the social and political environment. It's the same today.

Chamber of Economy of Montenegro (CEM) is a business association with rich tradition, independent, professional, creative, inventive and above all authoritative, represents interests of all businessmen for the economic and overall development of the state of Montenegro. The CEM encourages economic activities based on free and open market, freedom of entrepreneurship and competition, autonomy of economic entities and their liability for obligations assumed in legal transactions.

Today, we are a respectable association that unites all business entities in the country, and represents their common interests. Confirmation of our credibility is the respect and partnership with national and local decision makers as well as EU institutions. Currently we are partners in 19 EU Projects that are implemented in different areas of economy thus creating a business environment with equal conditions for all, providing assistance and support to companies and entrepreneurs and contributing to the growth and stability of the economy and society as a whole.



We were a reliable support to the Montenegrin economy even in the difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic, which endangered public health and significantly slowed down economic flows. We were a respected partner in creating state measures to support the economy and citizens, and through intensive communication with regional chambers we contributed to the uninterrupted supply of market and cross-border flow of goods, while encouraging solidarity between businesses and the health system.

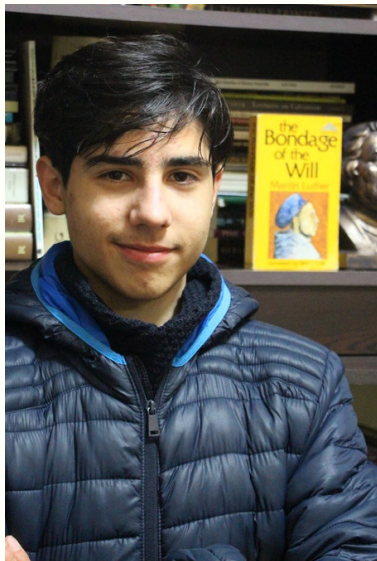
Vocational Education and Training through VET learners eye!

Hey, my name is Eldri Mezini. I am 16 years old and I live in Tirana. I study at "Hermann Gmeiner" Vocational School, currently in the second year, in the field of IT. To be honest from the experience of school, in the beginning it had its difficulties because it was something new. But after some weeks I adjusted well in school. In the aspect of practice, the school offers a fair share of activities which have had good results from both sides. In the aspect of difficulties, I would say that online school has been challenging, but from the hard work of both the students and teachers, it has been possible. I think the INTERVET WB project is a fantastic chance for me to learn more and to work in the sector I'm studying for. I'm excited about this opportunity that has been given to me



Eldri Mezini

I choose this type of education because since I was 6 years old I've worked with computers and also because my family business is in this sector. And so far it has been a great educational experience. In Albania, a lot of things have changed in a very short time and I'm hopeful innovation is going to be to an important part of our economy. In my opinion, schools have been adjusted well in the innovation sector, but need a lot more work in the way how the system functions and all that. In the future, this union between innovation and schools may be improved. In the future, my plan is to work in the IT sector directly or indirectly, and my recommendation is for every teen who has a passion for technology to join this type of education.



Alehandro Aliaj

Howdy! My name is Alehandro and I study Economics/Tourism at the Vocational School "Hysen Çela" in Durrës. I'm a Senior now and I can say that it has been a wonderful journey. When I finished 9th grade, I needed to think whether I'd follow general studies and go after my friends, or vocational studies. And I am very glad that I choose to #GoVocational. Applying to INTERVET WB mobility was amazing.

I was very glad to know that such call existed and I felt the urge to apply. I am a person that seeks to know more about working methods and applying those in the near future and be grown professionally, and also be enriched culturally, exchanging with people from different countries and backgrounds, and I am very delighted that I'll get to experience it. Following vocational studies, now that I graduate, I can start a job as an accountant immediately, without having to wait to finish my bachelor studies. Many of my friends that chose a general high school, are left jobless or work as waiters.

I have had opportunities to work as an apprentice through my school to sharpen my skills. Furthermore, we learn the ethics of business at school, get familiar with all the documents and also work digitally through the designed programs. We discuss a lot of what we can add or reform on our class and school. We carefully examine different situations, and come to a joint decision and then present it to our teachers. We've reached that in classwork, teaching methodology sensibilization and more. Of course, the struggles exist and are real. The innovation methods didn't work always, and had the tendency to be forgotten. Breaking the "taboo" and moving out from a "traditional rotten" mind where the passion of teaching (on the teachers' side) and learning (on the student's side) fades, it's indisputably rigid, and it takes a fairly long time to see the first fruits of change.

Students often see school as a burden, and this definitely discourages the teachers also. The blending of theory and apprenticeship together is one thing that ONLY a vocational school can do. Friends, vocational schools foster a million of opportunities to learn, grow, experience and enjoy the beauty and love of #Vocation and #Work.

24-29

MAJ 2021
MAY 2021JAVA SHQIPTARE
E AFTËSIVEALBANIAN
SKILLS WEEK#asw2021
#greendigitalfair
#albanianskillsweek
#wepromoteskillsalbanian**skills**
we promote skills

Co-organized by:



Life Is On

Schneider
Electriccommunication
progress

LeeTc



School project "An opportunity +"



The secret of success is to be ready when your opportunity comes.

This quote by Benjamin Disraeli inspired the idea in me as a coordinating teacher of school projects that in this unusual school year to implement according to the school conditions and possibilities the project "An opportunity +"

The working groups of each department drafted the module plan in accordance with the skills that the students would acquire. In the first hours of the project in the eyes of the students it seemed as much the insecurity in the actions they performed as their insistence on acquiring "skills +".



This project aims to give students extra skills in addition to the professional skills they receive as part of the school curriculum. The idea of the project was initiated in a meeting with the School Directorate, the Development Unit, the Heads of Departments and the coordinating teacher of the students' government.

At the beginning, ideas for extracurricular modules were put forward by the heads of departments. Several modules were proposed, but three of them were selected. All three selected modules are related to the hotel-tourism direction as this is the field that is developing rapidly and faster in our region. The Department of Hotel-Tourism, which I lead based on the employment opportunities of young people in the field of tourism, especially during the tourist season, proposed the module "Services in restaurants and bars". This module would train students as support staff in the restaurant service.

The Department of Business Economics led by teacher Jorida Mano proposed the module "Documents that accompany the goods at the point of sale" which aimed to train students in completing physical and electronic documents.

The Textile Confection Department proposed the module "Handicrafts in the decoration of traditional restaurants" to further develop the tradition of our area.

The project was strongly supported by the Student Government and the coordinating teacher Lorena Morava who informed the students of the school about its progress and benefits. They conducted a questionnaire where the students chose the module they preferred. 50 students selected the preferred modules.



Director Tatiana Mero has encouraged and supported us in our initiative as teachers of professional subjects and has followed the progress of students according to the modules selected by them. She says: - It is really wonderful when you watch the students of economic management profile performing as waiters or those of the hotel management direction to sew the x of the restaurants.

Step by step now we are in the last modules of the project and when it ends we will distribute Certificates of Participation to all the students who participated.

The results of this project are encouraging for continuing it as a tradition in the next school years.

I would give this message, not only to the students of our school but to all the students in VET schools:

-All of you have within you desires, passions and the strength to fulfill them. Follow their path to always be successful!

TESTIMONIAL ON "AN OPOORTUNITY+" PROJECT FROM JULIANA BLOKU



Juliana Blloku

Hello! My name is Juliana Blloku and I am 19 years old. I study at "Isuf Gjata" Vocational School, in the profile of business economics and I am in the first year. As a student of this school, I have been offered new opportunities in addition to the profile I have chosen to study. Our school has undertaken a very nice initiative that helps us develop new skills outside our profile. The "An opportunity +" project has made me realize that I can try new skills in other directions, develop myself and gain new knowledge and experiences, which will be extremely helpful for my future. Inside this project,

I chose to take the restaurant services module because I find it interesting and I like it in general. It is a beautiful experience for me and I am continuing it with pleasure. I learned new things about the restaurant service from teacher Valbona who helps and teaches us a lot. These opportunities are very good for all students who want to see themselves ever higher. ***The message I want to give to young people is that they should use every opportunity given to them because in that way they develop their knowledge, skills and talents to have a better future and to feel useful in society.***



INTERVIEW WITH JETMIR AXHAMI -VET SCHOOL IN KUKES

Since 2014 I am a teacher of theoretical subjects and practical modules in the ICT teaching direction at the Vocational School Havzi Nela Kukes, Since 2020, I am the head of the school Development Unit. Graduated from the Polytechnic University of Tirana with a Master of Science in Computer Engineering. I have 14 years of work experience in the field of Information technology.

Also, in 2011-2014 I worked as a lecturer at the University of Tirana, Kukes Branch and in 2007 as an Information and Communication Technologies Specialist in the Kukes Regional Council. Also from 2016 I established my own business, offer services and consulting in Information and Communication Technology. I am married, and I have three children.



How has your journey in VET been and referring to your many years of experience in this regard, how much has the situation in the field of Vocational Education and Training in Albania changed over the years?

I have my beginnings in VET since 2010 when the ICT teaching department was opened in Kukes for the first time, at that time I worked as a part-time teacher. Vocational education during these years has seen developments, but it has also gone through difficulties. In my opinion, the difficulty has been the transition from one ministry to another in the years 2014-2018, although this transition has brought the current state of education and vocational training.

Today, vocational education in Albania is consolidated thanks to the policies and priorities of the Albanian government, the logical framework, the Law on Vocational Education, and other laws and bylaws, which well define the functioning and organization of vocational education in Albania. AKAFP has done and is doing a very good job in creating the National Qualifications Framework

The establishment of the AKPA has brought the revitalization of education and vocational training in Albania at an admirable pace.

Partnering with business and developing internships in business has greatly facilitated providers of education and vocational training, as the Regulation on the Development of Business Internships has formalized and well defined this process.

The partnership with national and international organizations and agencies which are very active has given a European spirit to education and vocational training in Albania.



How can we encourage young people in general and girls in particular to not be "afraid" of studying in vocational schools? Can you briefly tell them about success and inspiration from your school students?

Vocational education is a very good opportunity because through it young people enter the labor market for two or four years. Entering the labor market through the university school requires 3 to 10 years, as it takes 3 years of bachelor, two years of master, one year of internship, one year of license, one year of portal and again students face more difficulties.

Why should young people be directed towards professional skills and more specifically why young people in Kukës should choose to study at the Vocational School 'Havzi Nela'?

For the advantages offered by vocational education and especially ICT direction is a very good opportunity for the boys and girls of Kukës as it is a very attractive direction and offers endless opportunities. ICT employment opportunities increase every year, it also offers very good opportunities to work from home, there is no need for rented space or office. The cost to start a business in the field of tech is insignificant, just a laptop, a computer, internet. To open a business in the field of automobiles or a workshop, you need an investment of at least 10 thousand euros. You can start working and offer services for only 500 euros. Also, the locals of Kukës by nature are inclined to the exact sciences so it is very easy for them to dedicate themselves to ICT.



How do you see innovation in your perspective? Can you briefly share with readers some projects / activities / initiatives that have recently been undertaken at your school or that are still ongoing, that focus on innovation?

Today ninth graders are very familiar with ICT. Our school is focused on ICT teaching direction, during these days we have taken an initiative to encourage 9-year education students to work with ICT, we have opened a competition which finances up to 300 euros the best project in the field of ICT, which can be Application, website, or game.

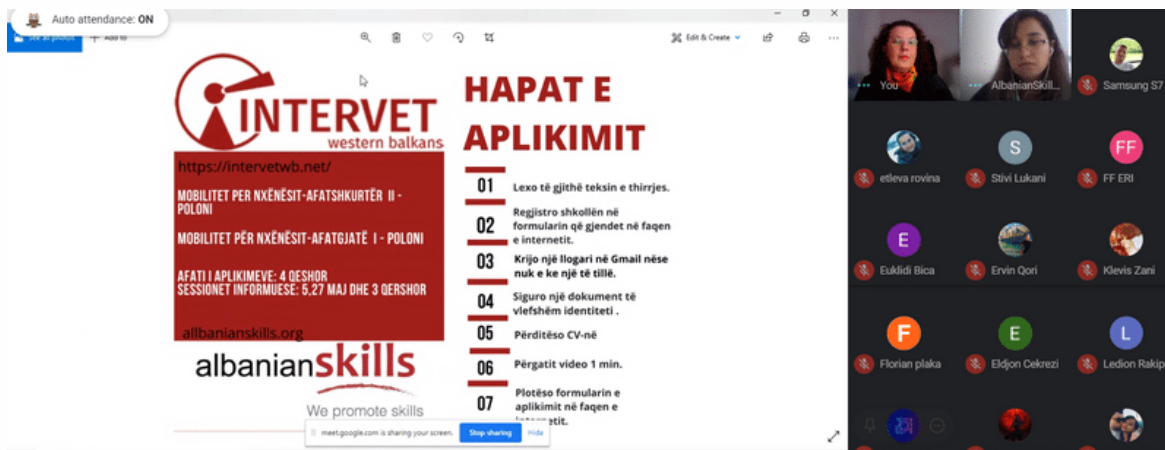
What would be your last message to all the readers of the newsletter and to all the young people in Albania?

Albania is a wonderful country, with a lot of natural and human potential. I invite young men and women to focus their energies on their cultural, intellectual and professional development, as in this way they will guarantee their future and beyond. I also invite them to use information technologies as much as possible for education. Once you had to go to the library or bookstore to make ends meet, today thanks to technology and the internet this possibility is endless.



INTERVET WB ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

INTERVET Western Balkans project activities will hopefully continue its activity with physical meetings, mobilities, thematic teams, job shadowing and summer school during 2021. Despite the difficulties that have arisen with the pandemic situation, each of the project leaders and implementation partners are doing their best to ensure the continuity of the project as well as its positive impact in the respective countries of Western Balkans. The predicted activities of Intervet WB for 2021 are as follows:



- Completion of English language training - VET learners
- Selection of VET staff for Job Shadowing and Summer School
- Applications for Second Group of students for short and long term are completed
- Second Transnational meeting - June 2021 in Sarajevo
- First round of mobilities for learners - June 2021 in Forli, Italy
- Round 2 of Thematic Teams – Dordrecht (May 21 – June 4)
- Round 1 of Job Shadowing - Dordrecht (May 21 – June 4)
- Round 2 of Summer School – July 2021 in Seville

Next Issue

ALBANIAN SKILLS WEEK 2021

FINALLY FIRST MOBILITY OF VET LEARNERS
WILL TAKE PLACE TO ITALY
25 June -25 July 2021

Follow us on social media - AlbanianSkills