

INNOVET ALBANIA NEWSLETTER

Let's contribute towards a stronger VET Community!

Dear Readers,

I am Vera Istrefaj and as a civil society activist I have been in contact with various social groups for three decades, including young people. My activity continues for the empowerment of groups in the community, without ever interrupting the effort for the empowerment of young people. As I have thought and continue to think that the fury of youth energy, when intertwined with the experience of other ages and technological developments, bring revolutions in economics and various social fields.



What I want to achieve through this article is to encourage and motivate young people to make a more realistic assessment of the infinite potential they have within themselves. They need to explore more about what is happening to young people around the world, to 'adapt' to the knowledge and skills required by time. These acquired skills can be used in the service of vocational training, creating opportunities for employment and self-employment, to create profitable activities, which will not only affect the provision of economic needs, but above all in strengthening it. thinking about yourself.

Now is the time for innovation, and innovation is not a term related to special activities within the NASA range. Innovation means finding new ways to meet the needs of others in order to meet your own needs, personal goals. It is the use of new opportunities, new skills, adaptation to current conditions to offer the best, the fastest, the most efficient what is required by society, by people.

Humanity has come a long way in the use of science and technology, but one can never think that science and technology go beyond the human mind, as long as they themselves are products of the human mind.

Therefore, it is enough to search within the most precious and infinite asset, which is our mind. People explore the planets! Irrigation is carried out by flying vehicles, monitoring is done by cameras, many processes are carried out by robots.

Goods are not only bought in open markets, but online marketing is done, sales are made online, consulting is done online. A Chinese man works online for American companies or vice versa. Almost all the needs of people nowadays are met, it is enough to gain some knowledge in technology and professional training to achieve success. Not for every case a high level of education is needed or required. This is a proven thing! They can be combined, but do not exclude each other.

So, dear young people, explore yourself, the world around you, look for opportunity. If you are a seeker of knowledge and skills, you will soon find job opportunities, but not only that! Your work can meet your needs and desires at the same time, be attractive, keep you electrified, push you towards new explorations and achievements. It can engage you in such an intense and motivating activity that you realize that life is really an opportunity to show how good you are!

IN THIS ISSUE:

INTERVET WESTERN
BALKAN PROJECT
ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

STUDENT'S MOBILITY
POLAND

TEACHER'S JOB
SHADOWING FRANCE

ETF LAUNCHES ITS
COMMUNITY OF
INNOVATIVE
EDUCATORS
BOOSTING TEACHING
INNOVATION THROUGH
KNOWLEDGE SHARING
AND COLLABORATION

NEW YOUTH CAREER
ACADAMY

OPENING OF THE OFFICE
FOR INFORMATION AND
CAREER ADVICE IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF MAT

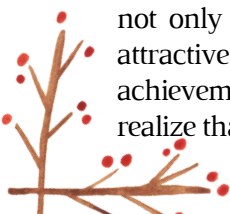
SKILLING THE ENERGY
TRANSITION IN ALBANIA

VET THROUGH VET
LEARNERS EYES

SELFIE

EUROSKILLS 2021: RECAP

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
AND EVENTS 2022



INTERVET WB PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND NEWS

Student's Mobility WROCLAW, POLAND

INTERVET WB Project, approved in 2019 by European Commission, will allow 360 students from VET Schools in all over Western Balkans countries to do a one-month professional internships abroad. This October 11 students from VET schools in Albania traveled to Wroclaw, Poland and are hosted by MODE Organization. The project allowed the selected students to follow a full English language course so they can further develop their communication skills and be prepared for an international environment.

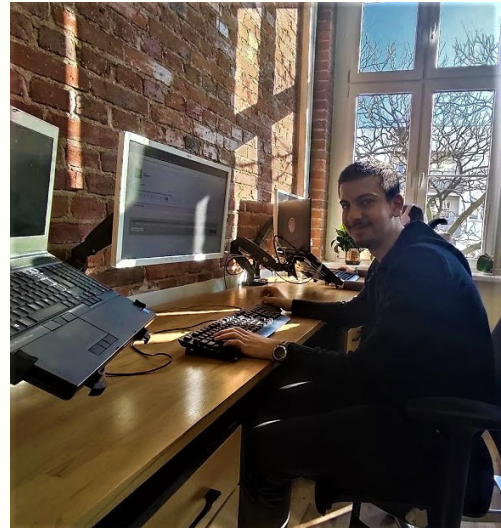


After the trip to Poland they settled in the respective companies when they developed the internship for a month. Meanwhile four other students, part of the long-term mobility are continuing the quarterly internship and will return during January. These practices were very successful for the students, receiving very positive reviews from the companies where they worked. Below you can read some of their testimonials.



For me it was really an experience not only beautiful, but also unexpected that at such a young age to face a new work experience in a foreign country, even independent of family. Every working day I gained new knowledge, learned the rules of work and felt responsibility and satisfaction in the work that was assigned to me. I felt motivated and the work I was doing made me feel more grown up and professionally trained, from the very surprises that awaited me at work.

I also suggest to my peers these mobilities and do not hesitate to apply as they will gain knowledge, skills and culture from European countries.



**Joan Rafti, Vocational High ICT School
Fan.S.Noli**

This was one of the most beautiful and valuable experiences, which overcame many fears and opened many new doors for me

Staying there has helped me to face the challenges of taking care of myself in every aspect, professionally helped me to know the culture of working in another country and the way they executed the recipes (in the kitchen the term execution is used for making a recipe)

The first week was difficult until the moment I met each other, that we settled in the dormitory and until I got to know the city, then these challenges turned into skills.

I would suggest to any person to apply, every minute was worth it, it passed so quickly and so beautifully that it seemed like a euphoria. Now after returning I realize how lucky I am to have been selected.



**Klevis Musai, Technological
High School Hysen Çela**

The experience I gained in Poland I believe will be very valuable for my future in the profession I have. During my internship and stay in Poland I learned many new things like: I knew the job market what it requires, I gained new skills in some areas of computer science which I can now use when I start a new job. when I create my projects for creating an online business etc. In addition to the skills for my profession, I have learned many new things in terms of lifestyle and income management, to achieve a normal life in every country where I live. I have suggested this experience to my peers, as I am sure that I and they will benefit a lot from these experiences.

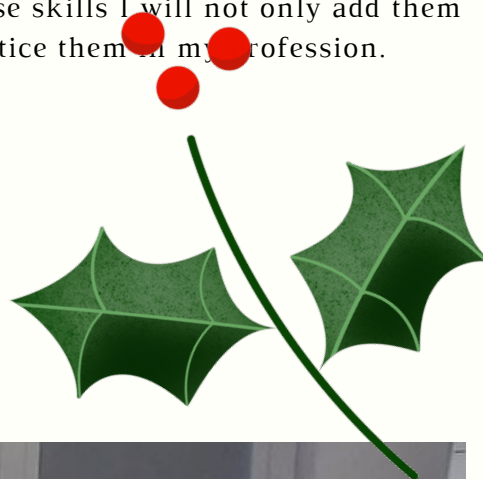


**Nebion Kashari Vocational High
School Hasan.D.Gina Lushnje**



**Eneriko Stavre, Electrical Technical
School Gjergj Canco**

The internship in Poland was an experience on another level. As long as I was there it gave me the opportunity to practice my talent and learn new things. The main reason I went to Poland was to learn more about Web Development, but I also learned Digital Marketing. But in addition to the professional side, I learned how to manage time and money. Which was necessary in a place where you could do different activities. Wrocław was a very beautiful city both in terms of culture and nature. And my experience there has helped me a lot. And I'm thinking he will apply again for these kinds of experiences. As they are valuable both for professional construction, as well as for building communication and socializing with other people. So I would suggest this experience to other students. And with these skills I will not only add them to my CV but also practice them in my profession.



Klaudia Meha and Baklina Cecja, "Herman Gmeiner", VET School.



Teacher's Job Shadowing LION, FRANCE

Besides multiple student's Mobilities abroad, INTERVET WB Project will also allow 54 teachers/administrative staff from VET Schools across Western Balkans to do a professional exchange in one of the project's European countries. On November 14-21, 3 teachers from Albanian VET schools were hosted by Centre for Professional Formation in Lyon, France.



Mrs Julita Bimbli from ICT Vocational High School of Korca together with Mrs. Alma Biti from Antoni Athanasi School and Mrs. Zamira Shehaj from Shkolla Tregtare Vlorë had the opportunity to be part of this unique experience.

This job-shadowing exchange allowed them to experience new practices of Vocational Education and Training in their respective pedagogical structure as the wish of SEPR hosting organization is to provide the teaching staff the possibility to discover and share, on international basis, other working methods and teaching practices.

On the other side, the selected teachers are more than happy for this activity and they are patiently waiting to create a strong friendship and partnership for common future projects with their fellows.

Below you can read their testimonials about Job Shadowing.



Zamira Shehaj, Shkolla Tregatre Vlorë, Teacher an Responsible for Work Based Learning

Intervet Job shadowing in Lyon proved to be meaningful and important to me both professionally and personally. At the professional level, the event gave me the chance to witness how processes of teaching and learning are carried out in a Vocational education school in a different cultural, social, political, and economic background than the one in Albania. This was of great importance to me as a teacher because it made me think of ways I can contribute to improving teaching and learning in my school.



Looking at the interaction teacher-student, the facilities and activities that were contributing to ameliorating this relationship gave me food for thought on how to apply this knowledge in my classroom. At a personal level, this experience connected me to other teachers from the region of the Western Balkans and Europe which helped me not only create meaningful relationships with people from different cultural backgrounds but also a network of colleagues united by the same professional goals which was really inspiring.

What impressed me the most during the project, was the school's library, the way it was managed and used. Not only was the library highly digitalized providing students with infinite resources, but also available to students at any time of the day. Moreover, it was well structured in sections tailored to students' needs and the students had a yearly budget allocated to them to use the library's services throughout the year.

Another thing that impressed me and I would like to see it happening in my school, was the school cafeteria which students and teachers could use to lunch. I saw this as important not only to healthy and affordable eating but also to having more safety and order in the school since students would not need to go out of the premises to get food. I plan on incorporating some of the interactive methods of teaching in the classroom with my students, which would help them acquire more soft skills as well, making learning less rigid.

Moreover, as the head of projects for the school, I plan on getting students more involved in international exchange programs by encouraging them. In addition, I plan on making recommendations to our supporting partners on investing more in the school's library and remodel it around student's needs. Lastly, considering that our school's main focus is gastronomy, I will suggest the creation of a cafeteria where the food would be cooked by gastronomy students as part of their classes. Our school is located in a distance from food providers so this solution would be welcomed by both staff and students and it would provide more healthy eating and cheaper prices.

I hope for other experiences like this. It was everything just amazing!

ZMs.Julita Bimbli,
ICT Vocational School of Korça, Director

This was for me the first experience, to live and share information with colleagues from the Balkans within the environment of an elite vocational school in Western Europe. We saw during a week how a school functioned with about 4000 students, who studied in several fields, from technology to tourism and hospitality.



From left to right Ms. Zamira Shehaj, Shkolla Tregatre Vlorë, Teacher and Responsible for Work Based Learning, Ms.Julita Bimbli,ICT Vocational School of Korça, Director

During this week we had conversations and exchange of experience with colleagues from the Balkans, as the time of the Workshop was very interactive, with questions, answers and discussions from all present.

I was particularly impressed by the way the school was organized and the many projects that this school had with schools in different countries, which was reflected in the way our group was received, how all aspects of the functioning of the school became known to us. this school, as well as the connection of this school inseparably with business. We met and had contact from school leaders, teachers and students, as we became part of different classes. Definitely a special impression was made on us by the city of Lyon, which we visited in its most special centers, thanks to the well-thought-out guide of our hosts.

Already, after this experience I have a clearer vision for school management. As far as possible, I will try to apply the way the school is organized, the planning of activities, the cooperation with business, etc.

I wish that these types of collaborations and visits are more frequent and are offered to you as teachers and leaders of vocational schools, as the benefits are great. Encourage everyone to apply to be part of such study groups, as the information they will receive will be an added value to their career, but also to the school where they work.

The school had many departments, with respective directorates, which covered part of its administration.

The tasks were well defined and each directorate, based on an annual plan, but also medium-term, developed its activity such as: in cooperation with business, in school connections with various international projects, the school library fund, student support with low income or disabled, the Incubation center, where young people expressed and implemented their innovative ideas.



ETF LAUNCHES ITS COMMUNITY OF INNOVATIVE EDUCATORS BOOSTING TEACHING INNOVATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COLLABORATION

Innovation in teaching and learning is a key topic of interest for the European Training Foundation (ETF), the agency of the European Union supporting countries surrounding the EU to reform their education, training and labour market systems. To address this complex and dynamic issue, the ETF Creating New Learning initiative aims to encourage the development, implementation and dissemination of innovative teaching and learning practices in the ETF partner countries



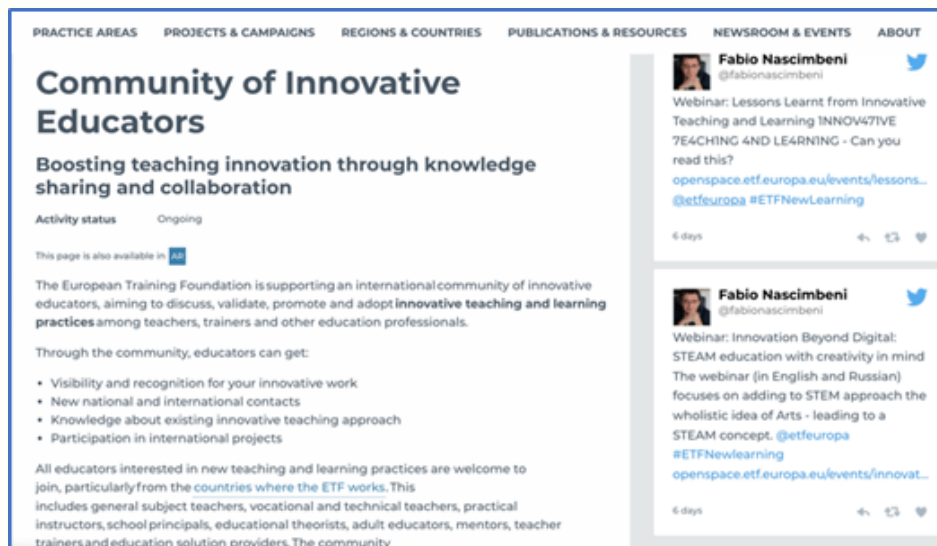
Within this project, in September 2021 the ETF has launched its Community of Innovative Educators, as a way to empower innovative educators from different countries to help each another innovate, by sharing and discussing new teaching approaches as well as challenges and incentives to innovation.

In less than 2 months, the community has reached the number of 400 participants. These are primarily educators (both innovative and interested in new teaching approaches) but also experts, curriculum designers, policymakers and developers of innovative education solutions.

By bringing together educators in such a community, the EF aims for example to see successful experiences developed in one country taken up by teachers in another, or the latest ideas from academia and industry tested in real-life classrooms settings. We aim to do this in a bottom-up perspective (starting from the inputs of educators and practitioners), through multilingual activities (to allow input also from those participants not fluent in English) in an international fashion (complementing and not competing with national networks, bringing you useful expertise, experience, information and peers from neighbouring countries and from across Europe), and by building on national initiatives (connecting these among each other and promoting them at the international level).

The community, which is hosted on OpenSpace, the ETF's knowledge sharing platform, is organising regular online meetings in different languages (English, Russian, Arabic) to discuss the most burning topics related to teaching innovation, such as digital teaching approaches, gamification, STEM teaching, soft skills development.

Also, through the community we aim at collecting teaching innovation practices. The most interesting ones will be selected and educators will be supported to produce high-quality learning videos called Teacher booster, that will be widely disseminated internationally. Finally, a competition for Innovative educators that will be launched in 2022.



At the ETF we believe that communities of practice have great value, since they can help participants to find one or more peer who has experience and know-how about some particular improved practice – which is relevant to the particular problems that they are trying to solve. The idea is that we do not need a general theory of change or pedagogy to be made relevant to a particular context, rather we can learn directly from individual teachers. We plan that this community will give each and every member the opportunity to learn from many other innovative teachers – and indeed that it will provide some professional companionship for educators who, either by choice or necessity, are having to change the way they work.

If you are an educator or an education practitioner and you want to increase the visibility and recognition for your innovative work, to build new national and international contacts, to gather knowledge about existing innovative teaching approach, and to explore how to participate in international projects, you are welcome to join the community by registering at the following link: [join the community](#).



YOUTH CAREER ACADEMY

It is a project funded by the US Embassy Program for Democracy, from July 2021-February 2022, implemented by Albanian Skills in close cooperation with three municipalities of Kukës, Mat and Diber in the Northern part of Albania. The purpose of this project is to support these three respective municipalities in empowering young people, girls and boys with the necessary skills for the labour market, promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship and business awareness for youth employment. To provide all the above services, the Center/Office for Career Information and Guidance will be opened in each of these three municipalities in close collaboration with them.

In the municipalities of Dibër, Kukës and Mat live a large number of unemployed young people or entering the labor market at a young age. Young girls and boys in these areas need a lot of encouragement, motivation and support to develop themselves and their community. Due to the lack of attention in these areas, youth development activities are not numerous. Through this initiative the project aims to equip young people with some knowledge that can serve them wherever they want to develop their professional life. Also the creation and maintenance of an active and sustainable practice of linking between businesses-youth-institutions will be with a special focus for this project.

The target group for this project are 45 young people from each municipality who are in a transitional phase of their lives such as finishing high school, graduating from university and who are looking for a job. Gender representation will be of particular importance for the activities because it is important for girls to face the labor market and have the opportunity to develop gradually, being represented up to managerial levels, in order to bridge the social gap. The target group will be achieved through cooperation with municipalities, schools and local employment offices.



Akademia e Karrierës

Bashkia Mat 15-17 Tetor 2021

Bashkia Dibër 22-24 Tetor 2021

Bashkia Kukës 29-31 Tetor 2021

Në kuadër të projektit "Një vizitë larg nga karriera juaj e ardhshme" së bashku me Bashkitë Mat, Kukës dhe Dibër me qëllim krijimin e një serie shërbimesh për informim, orientim dhe zhvillim karriere për të rinjtë punëkërkuar, do të mbahen Akademitë e Karrierës për të rinjtë në këto tre bashki. Akademitë e Karrierës përfshijnë një seri modulesh trajnimi për zhvillimin e aftësive dhe mundësi për punësim dhe vetëpunësim, sipërmarrje, biznes social dhe zhvillim komunitar.

Të rinjtë pranë këtyre bashkive mund të regjistrohen për pjesëmarrje në akademi duke plotësuar një formë regjistrimi.

Vendet janë të kufizuara prandaj regjistrimet do të jenë të hapura deri në plotësimin e numrit të pjesëmarrësve.



Me mbështetjen financiare të Zyrës së Marrëdhënieve me Publikum të Ambasadës së SHBA në Tiranë



Projekti



Për bashkëpunim me



Zbatuar nga



Youth Career Academy in Mat Municipality

On October 15-17, 2021, the "Career Academy" took place in the city of Burrel as part of the activities of the project "A visit away from your future career". From the Municipality of Mat participated about 45 young people out of 58 registered online, job seekers, students, high school students, and employees who were in a transitional phase of their lives as finishing high school, graduating from university or looking for or changing a job. The Career Academy included three training modules related to the development of skills and opportunities for employment and self-employment, entrepreneurship, social business and community development elaborated through the following topics: *Self-knowledge skills, Integrity and work ethic, Digital Skills, Soft Skills, Job Search Skills, Legal Knowledge, Entrepreneurial Behavior, Social Business, Community Development and Volunteering, various games and exercises by field coaches and professionals.*



The first day opened with the greeting speech of the Deputy Mayor of Mat *Mr. Myslym Zeneli* and the Executive Director of Albanian Skills *Mrs. Ana Zacharian*. The guests were *Mrs. Valbona Bojni* Director of Credins Bank and *Mr. Shaban Disha*, specialist of the Employment Office Mat, who introduced the young people of the academy with different information about the requirements that employers have, why a new graduate should register at the employment offices, what Employment offices provide services for all categories such as jobseekers, employees, students, students and the unemployed. These conversations resulted in a high interest for young people.

The second day started with a visit by the Mayor of Mat *Mr. Agron Malaj* and a conversation interesting with the academy youth. The Mayor of Mat praised the current project and the organization of this academy, confirming the support given to this project. Until the end of this project, but also *Mr. Malaj* confirmed that career services for him young people will be assigned as a functional task to the Youth Office and there will be a dedicated person who will be in the permanent service of the citizens of the Municipality of Mat.

The third day was visited by the Director of the General High School "28 November" Burrel, *Mr. Lorenc Leka*. The Academy was moderated by the Project Coordinator, *Mrs. Alma Shkreli*, in support of the Local Coordinator *Mrs. Elisabeta Qerimi* and Specialists of the Integration Unit at the Municipality of Mat, *Mrs. Lumturije Gjoka*. The body of trainers and facilitators of the sessions were: *Mrs. Vera Istrefaj, Mrs. Dorina Islami, Mr. Edison Biba, Mr. Alma Shkreli, Mrs. Ana Zacharian, Mr. Entela Gjyla and Mr. Ajorda Ciba.*



Youth Career Academy in Peshkopi Municipality

From October 22-24, 2021 took place in the city of Peshkopi "Career Academy" within the activities of the project "A visit away from your future career". From the Municipality of Peshkopi participated about 35 young people registered online, job seekers, students, high school students, teachers and employees who were in a transitional phase of their lives as finishing high school, graduating from university or looking for or changing a job. The Career Academy included three training modules related to the development of skills and opportunities for employment and self-employment, entrepreneurship, social business and community development elaborated through the following topics: *Self-knowledge skills, Integrity and work ethic, Digital skills, Soft Skills, Job Search Skills, Base Knowledge Legal, Entrepreneurial Behavior, Social Business, Community Development and Volunteering*, games and various exercises by lecturers and field professionals.

During the three days of the academy, representatives of businesses, Regional Employment Offices and Civil Society were invited as motivational speakers to bring young people closer to them.



The first day opened with the greeting speech of the Executive Director of Albanian Skills *Mrs. Ana Zacharian*. Also the staff members of the municipality, *Mr. Ardit Vraniçi*, Head of Integration Structure and *Ms. Valbona Kaloci* and Head of Youth Structure. A session was then held with the young people to get to know themselves better and to find out more about the goals and plans for their careers. The second day started with a visit by the Director of the 'Said Najdeni' School, *Klodian Datja* together with some other teachers of this school. During their visit an interesting conversation took place with the young people of the academy. The Academy was moderated by the Project Coordinator, *Mrs. Ana Zacharian*, in support of Local Coordinator *Mr. Denis Lushi*. The body of trainers and facilitators of the sessions were: *Mrs. Vera Istrefaj, Mrs. Dorina Islami, Z. Edison Bib, Mrs. Ana Zacharian, Mr. Entela Gjyla*.

At the end of the academy an extended evaluation session was held where all participants gave their impressions and benefits from this Career Academy. Some of the most valuable knowledge for them from the trainings were: writing a CV, conducting the job interview, emotional intelligence, digital skills, social entrepreneurship, communication skills, development of volunteerism etc.



Youth Career Academy in Kukës Municipality

From October 29-31, 2021 took place in the city of Kukës "Career Academy" within the activities of the project "A visit away from your future career". From the Municipality of Kukës participated about 70 young people registered online, job seekers, students, high school students, teachers and employees who are in a transitional phase of their lives such as finishing high school, graduating from university or looking for or changing a job. The Career Academy included three training modules related to the development of skills and opportunities for employment and self-employment, entrepreneurship, social business and community development. The first day opened with the greeting speech of the Project Coordinator Mrs. Alma Shkreli. Also Emiriola Velia, Director of Projects and Youth of the Municipality of Kukës, gave her contribution to the activity by holding information and motivational sessions for the young people present. The other staff members of the municipality gave their help for a better realization of this academy. A session was then held with young people to get to know themselves better and find out more about their career goals and plans.



During the three days of the academy, representatives of businesses, Regional Employment Offices and Civil Society were invited as motivational speakers to bring young people closer to them. Director of the Office of Labor Kukës Mr. Shani Kastrati shared with young people information about the many opportunities offered by this office and how young people can access them. The second day started with motivating guests from important businesses and actors in this city. Mrs. Albiona Thaçi (artisans, traditional handicraft costumes), and Mr. Sokol Ollomani (owner of two businesses in photography and gifts) shared with young people their experiences. The Academy was moderated by the Project Coordinator, Mrs. Alma Shkreli, in support of the Local Coordinator Mrs. Vera Istrefaj. The body of trainers and facilitators of the sessions were: Mrs. Dorina Islami, Mr. Edison Biba, Mr. Denis Lushi, Mrs. Ana Zacharian, Mrs. Entela Gjyla.



Opening of the Office for Information and Career Advice in the Municipality of Mat

On Wednesday, December 15, in the premises of the Municipality of Mat, the opening activity of the Office for Information and Career Counseling, ZIKK Municipality of Mat took place. The opening of this office is part of the project "A visit away from your future career" funded by the Public Relations Office of the US Embassy in Tirana and implemented by Albanian Skills in cooperation with the Municipality of Mat.



ZIKK Mat will be open to young people and the general public where it will assist young people and those seeking information or furthering their careers through services as well as directly involved in the implementation of the functional plan of this office. Information on information services and on the official website of the Municipality of Mat, www.bashkiamat.gov.al/zikk.

career counseling as well as various activities that can be developed by it but also locally, nationally and abroad. Invited to the opening ceremony were the young participants of the Career Academy, held in this municipality from 15 to 17 October 2021, representatives of local and central institutions and representatives of businesses in Mat. During the event was held the greeting speech of the Mayor of Mat Mr. Agron Malaj who reiterated the importance of career services for the youth of the Municipality of Mat that are starting within the implementation of the project "A visit away from your future career".

On this occasion, the official website ZIKK-Office for Career Information and Advice was released, as well as the presentation of the functional plan of ZIKK-Mat, by Mrs. Lumturie Koka, Coordinator at the Integration Unit and specialist at ZIKK. Research Specialist Mrs. Entela Gjyla at Albanian Skills presented: Some findings on the needs for information and career counseling in the Municipality of Mat. The activity was accompanied by discussions by the participants and the distribution of certificates to the participants academy.



Skilling the Energy Transition in Albania

With the state of the world's environment, countries and its citizens all over the globe have been pushing to make a more conscious effort to protect the environment on our planet as well as curb and limit any further harm that could be done from human factors.

One of the ways that we are trying to achieve this is by shifting towards a greener energy source as opposed to the less environmentally friendly sources which have negative effects such as pollution or damaging of green spaces. With this shift in Greener energy the labor market is seeing a change in the energy sector as greener jobs are raising in demand and less greener ones are slowly starting to fall.

Green Energy Jobs are seeing an increase in demand and the demand will keep rising as the years progress as the world is seeing a shift towards sustainability and a focus on environmental protection due to the effects of global warming and pollution that the human population has caused. With that being said these green energy jobs will have to be filled by workers who possess the right skills in order to fulfill them properly. With all that said, will the demand be greater than the supply when it comes to jobs in the green energy sector and if so how will countries and governments act towards getting these positions filled.

Dorina who herself is a founding and board member of Albanian Skills is a graduate from University of Tirana in Sociology & Philosophy as well as attaining a masters in Marketing & PR from the University of Sheffield, UK.

She has been working in the energy sector since 2006 in different roles and positions at Schneider Electric, lately in leadership coaching and sustainability projects. She also dedicates her time to skills promotion and VET learning promotion as indispensable tools to skill/upskill/reskill the new generations.

The following is taken from a recent Webinar between Dorina and the European Training Foundation:

Can you tell us about the energy sector in Albania and what action is it taking to improve sustainability and reduce environmental impact?

The energy sector in Albania. According to Eurostat, total primary energy production of Albania in 2019 was 1.7 million toe where 89% of it from renewable energy (hydropower). Our country is a net importer of energy; almost 1/3d of the total energy consumption is been imported and 37% of it derives from renewables (mainly hydroelectric power).

Is interesting to know that Albania has outstanding sun irradiation within most of its territory. Our country has the highest number of sunshine hours per year in Europe. On average, there are around 286 days, with up to 2700 hours of sunshine per year. Therefore, it is an ideal place, where every hectare of land used can generate up to a quarter of a million euros yearly.



Skilling the Energy Transition in Albania

Now, related to sustainability and reduction of environmental impact, I would like to mention that the "World Energy Trilemma Index" ranks Albania 43rd out of 108 countries this year for energy sustainability and first among the region, while positioned fourth worldwide in terms of environmental sustainability, ranking behind Switzerland, Sweden and Norway. But all mentioned so far does not mean that we're done with our mission to reduce carbon emissions and bring about a greener society. Since 2016 Albania is part of the Paris Climate Change Agreement and reports its developments to UN sticking to the committed to reduce CO2 emissions by 11.5% till 2030.

Our country is working to align with the EU energy policies on supply, infrastructure and distribution, liberalize the internal energy market, diversify energy production sources including renewable energies and increase energy efficiency. Some progress is made in preparing the legal framework for renewable energy after a long time of discussions. Despite the prediction of The National Renewable Energy Action Plan that 38% of the gross final energy consumption will come from renewable sources, with the rapidly climate change the need to further develop renewable resources projects like photovoltaic and wind is higher. Recent years, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy signed several agreements with foreign and local companies, for the construction of photovoltaic sites and parks located in North, central and south Albania. Some of them has already started the production and distribution of green energy inside the Albanian grid.



How do you see the role of companies and the education and training system in responding to the needs of upskilling and reskilling of young people and adults for the sector?

In my opinion, for a greater impact and capillarity of the skilling process several stakeholders should be considered, not only industry and academia, but:

- Academia
- Civil Society
- Government
- Industry

We are headed towards a common global goal and therefore we should be all in it and do our best to make it efficient.

Of course, Companies are the source from where all this demand for skilled people comes from and should be echoed in real time by universities, VET schools and training centers by offering updated and innovative formation but at the same time government should be present in the process as a facilitator and the civil society as a skills and values promoter.

Skilling the Energy Transition in Albania

I can share here the example of a close collaboration between Schneider Electric and our partners with Albanian Skills. For many years we have been partnering to define the needs for know-how and offered on a regular basis webinars, seminars, training, workshops to young engineers, students, technical staff of our field. We also provided them free access to our technical materials and software so they can put their hands on the actual technological and digital changes happening.

I can proudly share with you that at Schneider we aim to foster learning, upskill, and develop each generation to pave the way for the next. There are many initiatives we take in support of this commitment, such as: increasing the number of opportunities for interns, apprentices, and fresh graduate hires inside the company; training underprivileged young people; or helping students to innovate through our #GoGreen program Schneider Electric.

What advice would you give young people in Albania who are interested in working in green economy?

My piece of advice to Albanian Youth and not only is to approach this global goal towards the green economy as the top priority for our existence and to achieve it they should not stop learning new skills by following the trend setters and innovators to make it happen, to take bold and noble steps towards our sustainable and green future

What gaps do you see between the emerging skills needs of the industry and the skills that people entering the labor market bring with them? How are companies in the sector addressing these gaps?

Skills needed for every sector of the economy are being defined by the technological changes that are rapidly happening. If we see the big picture by checking the actual conditions and thinking about steps to be taken for the future, this won't work, as the speed of technological and digital transformation is so high that we are already in the future and there's no time left any more.

Major factors of the skills gap we have identified so far in our sector are due to highly theoretical and not updated curricula also lack of decent technical labs in the universities , here I'm mentioning the most tangible ones like:

- lack of implementation of knowledge through practical
- intervention on sites
- missing technical & engineering skills
- missing project management skills
- Basic sales transactions skills , and so on



I must also add that young engineers and young hires in general, do come with very good IT skills and agility to adapt to new environments and this helps a lot in learning the processes and applications as soon as they are onboard in the company.

Our company, as I suppose most of the companies meet the skill needs through internal training of new recruits, being these soft and technical skills. We have a very broad pack of introductory training for the new hires and then dedicated ones for the specific roles they will cover and these trainings vary from e-learning, online and physical, supported also by regular coaching and mentoring from the senior staff. Additionally, linked with the specific mission Schneider brings to the global table we do organize onsite visits at our smart factories, where our innovative approach is revealed, and our active role of CO2 emission reduction is being applied. And to top off, learning new skills is an ongoing process linked with new rules, applications, softwares, for internal and commercial purposes as well. It is a never ending story of the quest to adapt ourselves to climate change and mitigate the risks it brings.

VET Through VET Learners Eyes

I am Eneriko Stavre, 16 years old, I currently study at the Gjergj Canco school for ICT (Information and Communications Technology). I choose this branch so I can continue with Programming, as it is something I like and I see it as something very innovative as well as the achievements and qualification the program and the school that are offered to me. My parents were also very supportive of me in my choice.

I could have chosen a normal high school, but the Gjergj Canco school gave me the opportunity to study professionally! The teaching staff is fantastic, understanding and highly qualified. My teachers motivate and support me and also the equipment and the labs are fantastic.

Looking back, I think vocational education was among one of the best choices I made. The certification and qualification I get here, I could not get anywhere in Albania! And the most beautiful thing is that in addition to the certification that the vocational school gives, it also allows you to continue university! I too have seen this as an opportunity to continue after vocational education.

Anyone who has decided on the profession that wants to work, a vocational school is a very good choice. Especially if you have decided on the profession you will pursue before the 10th grade, so it can fit the school better, and be perfected in your branch!



EUROSKILS 2021: RECAP

The latest edition to the Euroskills competition has taken place this month and it went fantastically. The events took place over four days from September 22 to the 28th in the city of Graz, Austria. Teams from over 30 countries competed in skill based competitions and battled hard against their competition to prove that they were the most talented in their category.

AlbanianSkills had the pleasure of being present at the event as two of our own proudly represented The team was comprised of Arilinda Gera and Ilda Koçi, who were the winners of the national competition for Entrepreneurship and Business Development in Albania. Arilinda and Ilda represented us with dignity, showing professionalism, discipline and creativity for each task given during the competition.

AlbanianSkills and more importantly our country was the first time able to send a competition team to EuroSkills.

As well as being part of the competition the AlbaniaSkills team was also there with a team of volunteers who were ready and willing to help out in various ways during the event. A special thanks goes to Gjergji Llushkaj, Hysen Ndrejoni, Nerion Bino, Xhesika Lleshi and Kilton Pisli, who participated in the Volunteer Corps to help out during EuroSkills 2021.

Besides the events there was also the chance to meet people from different nations and create relationships and partners that could become long lasting. All countries involved showed hospitality and warmth as they interacted with one another during the competition, even giving each other mementos from their respective country to their competitors as an act of friendship.

All in all it was a great and fun experience for everyone involved and one that will not be forgotten anytime soon.

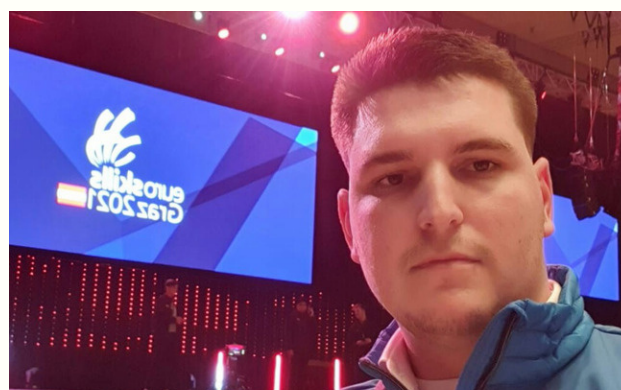


GJERGJ LUSHKAJ,
WINNER 1ST PRIZE
GRAPHIC DESIGN, 2020

For me, participating in Euroskills as a volunteer was a very impressive adventure and experience. I had the opportunity to experience an activity of great proportions and discover how this final result was realized by a collaboration and coordination of so many participants. It was a pleasure to watch Graphic Design professionals in my field work, their unique styles and routines, and the way the jury specialists judged.

The surprise was to see the variety of categories that Euroskills includes giving young people from all over Europe the opportunity to represent their skills. I would encourage any young person to aim to be part of AlbanianSkills and EuroSkills in the coming years for the whole package that this opportunity offers, from professional development and international experience to adventure and new friends you will meet along the way.

Euroskills for me has been the most beautiful experience so far. Such events enable not only new knowledge but also the creation of friendships and opportunities for network expansion. It is interesting to see the seriousness and engagement of young Europeans in different professions and at the same time the exchange of cultures of each country reflected there. Also such multinational events give the opportunity to see and meet people without visiting each of their respective places and this makes the event even more interesting and valuable.



NERION BINO, WINNER 1ST PRIZE
HOTEL & RESTAURANT SERVICES,
2020

For Albanian youth, participating in such events would be one of their most valuable decisions and will serve to expand their vision but not only. There, everyone has the opportunity not only to learn about the field of interest but also to experience the way everything is organized and to increase their professional level.



EUROSKILS 2021: RECAP



Here the AlbanianSkills team of competitors as well as volunteers was able to meet the Albanian honorary consulate in Graz, Austria that we met during our time there.

We were honoured to get the chance to meet her and to talk to her and we had this great opportunity to take this photo of us all with her as she held the flag of our nation and it showed her support for us.

It was great getting to meet all sort of people from all over the European continent and getting to know them and interact with them. Also getting the chance to see them in action during the games was a great experience.

More to visit: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/153756017@N08/albums/72157719893474994>





What is SELFIE?

The Self-reflection on Effective Learning by Fostering the use of Innovative Educational technologies or SELFIE for short is a tool that was created by the European Commission based on their framework for promoting digital-age learning in educational organisations. The main purpose behind SELFIE is it was made to help schools embed digital technologies into teaching, learning, and assessments.

It comes from an initiative of the European Commission and is funded through the Erasmus programme and is free of charge for every educational institution. It was created and designed by a team of experts from different departments including teachers, educational ministers and research institutions from all over Europe. The tool, SELFIE, is available for primary, secondary and vocational schools throughout Europe and is available in more than 30 languages.

How SELFIE works?

SELFIE works by anonymously gathering the views of students, teacher as well as school leaders on how technology is used within their school. How this is done is through the use of short statements and questions and using a simple 1-to-5 scale.

Based on the inputs the tool will create an interactive report of the individual school's strengths and weaknesses in using technology.

SELFIE is a great tool and one that will be very helpful to all schools by showing them the way in which technology is used in their school showing them where it is at currently in their school and then from there, start a conversation on technology use and develop an action plan, and how it can be improved.

Upcoming Events/Activities 2022



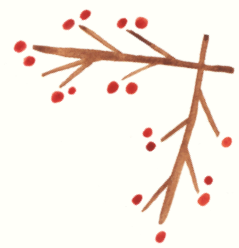
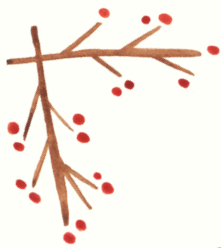
Një vizitë larg
karrierës tuaj të ardhshme

Career Information and Counseling Offices will be opened in January in the cities of Kukes and Peshkopi.

Follow us on social media to find out more about them!

In January the winning students will leave for Slovenia, Italy and Spain. On the project website you will find the lists of winners <https://intervetwb.net/>

Also, Job Shadowing for Teachers in Dortmund, Netherland will take place in April and other calls for VET students mobilities to Malta, Netherlands, France will be opened during Spring time.



**The 5th edition of the Skills Week in Albania,
May 2022.**

**The 7th edition of the Albanian Skills
Competitions, is coming! Get ready!
The applications will be opened early January,
2022.**



Follow us on social media AlbanianSkills



www.albanianskills.org



AlbanianSkills



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