

BULLETIN INNOVET ALBANIA

Let's contribute to a stronger Education and Vocational Training community!



Dear reader,

It is a pleasure for me to open the 11th newsletter of the Innovet newspaper and above all to give a brief description of the school I lead and the innovations in terms of vocational education in our country.

I am Erina Disho, Director of "Mihal Shahini" Vocational High School, Cërrik. I studied Language and Literature and I have a Master of Science in Albanology profile. I have 17 years of experience in this school, as a teacher and as a director since 2016. The motto that accompanies me all the time is: ***"Students are not only the source where we send knowledge but even from where our knowledge takes the path of success."***

Working with young people is one of the biggest responsibilities an adult can take on because the guidance we give them is what opens the doors of life to them. That's why I work every day with dedication and with the same passion as on the first day of work. Today, the change in the perception of the importance of vocational education and vocational schools comes as a result of the work of a team that professionally motivates every day the students who choose to study at our school.

The professional school "Mihal Shahini" has been located in the city of Cërrik since 1968, so we are dealing with a school with a tradition in the field of Agriculture-zootechnics-veterinary and recently in the technology of product processing.

Professional practices are the orientation of the school. They are realized not only in the school farm but also in different businesses of the relevant profiles. Students acquire professional competences that make them capable of the labor market and meeting the requirements. The school's offer is always in compliance with these requirements. The introduction of technology and innovation in the curricula of the majors is related to the developments and the rapid steps with which the labor market moves. Therefore, teachers are always looking for the latest developments in technology, thus offering students new dimensions for the implementation of knowledge. In 2021-2022, the introduction of innovation was focused on several aspects:

- Genetic bank of medicinal and aromatic plants

In September of this year, we started to implement a project which will aim to create a genetic bank of medicinal and aromatic plants that today are found and cultivated in the entire district of Elbasan. The tracking and documentation of these plants is done in cooperation with businesses and farmers who collect and trade medicinal and aromatic plants inside and outside the country. At present we have compiled the manual of traced plant species which reach about 132 species. This manual describes all their biological and curative indicators, the area where they are cultivated and the year of cultivation. This bank will not only aim for their study by students but will also be a reference point for later studies.

- Surgery and interventions in small animals

In the last year, the veterinary surgery room has turned into not only a teaching environment but also a work environment, as the students have performed simple but also difficult surgical interventions on small animals. Soon this hall will offer all medical services for all companion animals.

In this issue:

- Erina Disho, Director of the Vocational High School "Mihal Shahini" Cërrik.
- Spring Meeting - Denis Lushi and Lumturie Koka tell us their experience with the youth of Mat and Diber Municipalities
- Anila Nanaj (Bani) - Director of the Tirana Technical Economic School for her experience with the INTERVET project
- Short-term student mobility in France and Slovenia.
- Kelvin Zifla- on his experience during the English language course with students selected for learning mobility in EU countries.
- Shoqëruesit e grupeve në Slloveni dhe Francë, Entela gjyla dhe Klevis Musai ndajnë përvojat e tyre

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Teachers' experiences during Job Shadowing, Malta
- Students' experiences during learning mobility in Milan - Italy and Seville - Spain.
- Student Hosting- Experiences of students from Italy
- International Leather Line & Conf Expo 2022

School clients who want to perform interventions on pets come to the school and entrust the interventions to the students and the veterinarian who attends these interventions. Such services will later be offered to all customers at low cost.



- Greenhouse of organic products

Two greenhouses have been erected on the school farm, one of which is used to monitor the germination of seeds of pure origin and seedlings, as well as the grafting of vegetable seedlings. The other greenhouse is being set up first as a laboratory for the study of organic products, adaptation to meteorological conditions, and then all products will be marketed in the school store through the **"Kopshtaqe"** brand.



In all these activities, most of the work is carried out during professional practices with the defined groups of students from the classes of Agriculture and Veterinary Management.

After this panorama about our school and this series of activities and sustainable research, I am convinced that running such schools in our country is really a challenge.

In Albania there are 6 schools that offer these directions and networking, the cooperation between them should be as large and compact as possible in order to ensure the future through innovation in Agriculture, Veterinary and Product Processing Technology as a path that ensures development.



SPRING MEETING - DENIS LUSHI AND LUMTURIE KOKA TELL US THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE YOUTH OF MAT AND DIBER MUNICIPALITIES

Working with youth is wonderful but at the same time full of challenges. Throughout this Bulletin, we will read articles written by experts who work in their daily lives with young people in the cities where they live. The following articles will be introduced more specifically to Denis Lushi, an expert in entrepreneurship in the city of Peshkopia and Lumturie Koka, an expert near the Municipality of Mat in the city of Burrel.

Hello everyone! I am Denis Lushi, a CEFE trainer and consultant for entrepreneurship and business, with an expert profile in rural development. I am currently the leader of the Young Entrepreneurs Club in Peshkopi and I manage a start-up business in the field of recycling. I have been engaged for a long time with local governance issues in projects implemented by UNDP Albania, rural development issues, youth rights and participation in decision-making, raising the capacities of rural youth and women in entrepreneurial skills, training and consulting for the creation of start-ups, etc., drafting and implementation of business plans, training and mentoring for entrepreneurs and business needs, etc. I am also engaged as a local youth expert in the working group in the initiative of the Youth Laboratory of the Western Balkans, for the drafting of the "National Roadmap for the Transition of Young People from School to the Workplace", a regional project with a focus on youth employment implemented by Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) with the support of the European Union (EU).



Denis Lushi- Trainer, CEFE consultant for entrepreneurship and business.

The first collaboration with Albanian Skills was in 2019 during a soft and digital skills training for young people developed in Peshkopi, a project implemented by Albanian Skills and the Albanian Network for Rural Development (ANRD). Thanks to this positive experience, my contacts with Albanian Skills were frequent. For two consecutive years I have volunteered as a mentor and jury member for groups of young people competing with business ideas for start-ups in the 2020 and 2021 editions of the Albanian Skills Competition organized by Albanian Skills. Recently, I was selected as a local coordinator for the Municipality of Dibër in the project "One step away from your career" July 2021 - February 2022, implemented in the Municipalities of Dibër, Mat and Kukës, a project implemented by Albanian Skills funded by the American Embassy for Democracy Program. One of the products of the project was the provision of the **"Career Information and Counseling Office Service"** in the three partner municipalities, a service that is already operational today. A very positive activity of the project was the organization of the Career Academy in October 2021 for the young people of the three municipalities, where the focus was on presenting young people with new concepts, knowledge and ideas that are important today to acquire and develop skills necessary in professional and personal life.



It's been about 12 years now that I've been directly engaged in working with young people for their professional and personal empowerment, especially in Dibër Municipality. Young people have capacity, they are energetic and innovative, but they still do not have the right support and lack the information to orient themselves and adapt to the labor market. Education alone is not enough for young people to find their success, be it general or professional education. Let's not forget that unfortunately we also have young people who do not even have basic education. Lifelong education and training is needed not only for professional skills but also for soft skills, which is actually a new term that is also being applied in Dibër. From my work with young people in Peshkopi and rural areas, I see the desire of young people to succeed in life and career, but often they are alone in this journey. Family support is not enough, but information and support from other actors is needed, knowing that young people face new concepts about work and employment. For young people, employment traditionally meant only finding a job in a state institution, in the private sector or engaging in the economies of family businesses.

But in these last 6 years, the concept of self-employment of young people through entrepreneurship or opening a new start-up business is being implemented. For this, many trainings have been provided to young people as it is not an easy journey and a combination of professional and soft skills are needed to start a business venture. From my work in organizing such trainings in various projects in Dibër for almost 3 years, 18 start-up businesses have been launched by young people. Seeing this significant number of young people introduced to the path of entrepreneurship, it is necessary that such programs be increased, trying to include young people who do not have access to information in these initiatives, especially young people from marginalized groups. In closing, it can be said that a better cooperation between actors and interest groups is needed to support and empower the young people of Dibra.



Lumturie Koka

The European Integration Unit and the Office for Information and Career Counseling at the Municipality of Mat

Dear reader, it is a pleasure for me to express my thoughts in this Newsletter and above all it is a pleasure to say a few words about the project **"A visit far from future career"** which has been financed by American Embassy for Democracy, from July 2021-February 2022, implemented by Albanian Skills in close cooperation with the Municipalities of Kukës, Mat and Dibra.

I am Lumturie Koka, for 4 years I have been working at the European Integration Unit near Mat Municipality, where my work is closely related to youth, for their engagement in numerous activities, various practices that affect their professional development. I have been running the career office for some time now. The Career Information and Counseling Office aims to support the empowerment of young people, girls and boys with the necessary skills for the labor market, the promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurship as well as business awareness of youth employment.

The Career Information and Counseling Office is open in Mat Municipality and offers career services on an ongoing basis. Together with the Albanian Skills team, we were able to have a very fruitful collaboration where we carried out different trainings for young people and a closing activity where young people from the three municipalities visited the career offices.

Also, the Office for Information and Career Counseling has continued even after the end of the project with meetings with young people where various topics were addressed such as;

- Meetings with various businesses of the city, where they were informed that the office is now open and functional.
- Meeting and completing questionnaires was to help young people get involved in career guidance and counseling so that they discover the directions, profiles, and professions that are most suitable for them.
- Meeting with the staff of the Mat local employment office, where we discussed the organization of several pieces of training related to the orientation and information of young people about internships, and professional courses, as well as the way to apply for employment. We have come to the aid of citizens in writing CVs and motivation letters.

Dear reader, the vision of the Career Information and Counseling Office is to create a safe place where young people can turn to and receive unconditional information about their professional development. Furthermore, to create an inclusive environment in which all students, young people have equal access to opportunities for career exploration and advancement now and throughout their lives.

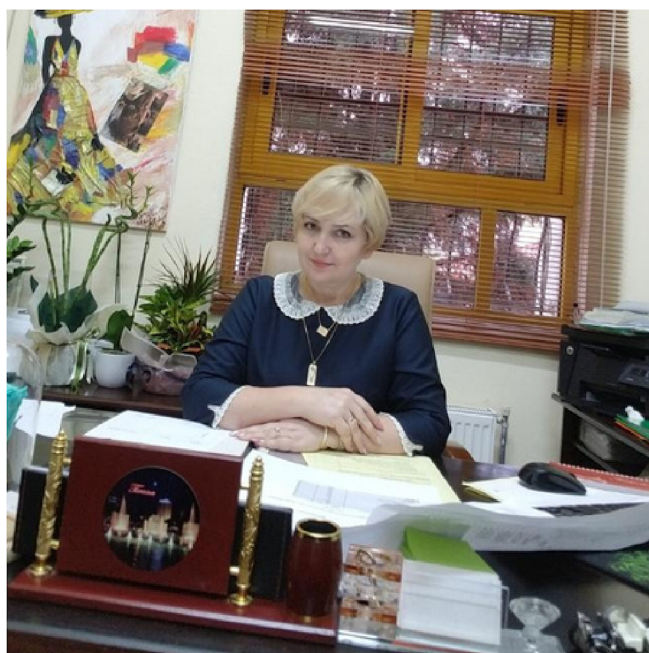


WB INTERVIEW MOBILITY OF STUDENTS

Approved in 2019, the INTERVET WB project will allow 360 students from all VET schools of 6 Western Balkan countries (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia and Bosnia) to complete a 1-month internship abroad and 56 students with a 3-month internship.

After trips to Maribor, Slovenia, Lyon, France, they were placed in the respective companies where they attended internships for one or three months in the field of IT, Tourism, Gastronomy, Electronics, Construction, Administration, etc. These internships were very successful for the students, receiving very positive evaluations and feedback from the companies where they worked. Below you can read some of the testimonies of the students who participated in the mobility. First, we will start with a testimony from the director of the Tirana Technical-Economic School, Anila Nanaj (Bani).

Hello everyone. I am Anila Nanaj (Bani) Director of the Tirana Technical Economic School. The Intevet project was a project in which students from the school I lead participated a lot. I was introduced to the Intervet project through AKPA (National Employment Agency) and the Albanian Skills organization. Participants from the Economic Technical School were students who were in one-month and three-month internships in Italy, Spain, France etc. Internships in these countries of the European Union have been a very good and valuable experience for the students, but also for us as an institution providing professional education, as it is a new approach and helps us to develop further.



The students' practices are followed step by step by the school teachers so that the end result for the students is as satisfactory as possible. But this experience of the students has also had some challenges which we have tried to overcome as easily as possible. Among these challenges, we can mention the uncertainty of the parents of the students for whom it was a new experience and the information about this intership is not very great. Also, the engagement of students in distance learning was one of the challenges that we as a school faced and the teachers in particular coped with teaching and evaluating knowledge not in the way and time planned at the beginning of the school year, but individually and with a plan individual assessment.

Despite these challenges, the practical participation in mobility was an experience that every student should not miss as it is very valuable for his future.

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

EaFA-European Alliance for Apprenticeships

The European Alliance for Apprenticeships (EAfA) unites governments and key stakeholders with the aim of strengthening the quality, supply and overall image of apprenticeships across Europe, while also promoting the mobility of apprentices. These aims are promoted through national commitments and voluntary pledges from stakeholders. Albanian Skills- National Association for Skills Competitions is an active member since November 2018, and in the next publication will tell you everything about EAfA and our great and fruitful experience for us.

Skills and qualifications	EAfA membership and pledges										
European Skills Agenda ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve) Skills for jobs Working together Pact for Skills EU funding instruments for upskilling and reskilling Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills European Alliance for Apprenticeships About Facts and figures National commitments EAfA membership and pledges EAfA activities hub Apprenticeships online library Frequently asked questions EQAVET - European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training Helping people to develop skills throughout their lives	<p>The European Alliance for Apprenticeships is a multi-stakeholder initiative steered by the European Commission. The originator of the pledge is solely responsible for implementing the actions outlined in the pledge.</p> <p>Albanian Skills</p> <p>albanianskills We promote skills</p> <p>© Albanian skills</p> <table> <tr> <td>Organisation name</td><td>Albanian Skills</td></tr> <tr> <td>Type of organisation</td><td>Non-profit/youth organisations</td></tr> <tr> <td>Organisation operations</td><td>Education and training, Other sector(s) * Others Sector, Representative organisation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Country</td><td>Albania</td></tr> <tr> <td>Start date</td><td>01/01/2018</td></tr> </table>	Organisation name	Albanian Skills	Type of organisation	Non-profit/youth organisations	Organisation operations	Education and training, Other sector(s) * Others Sector, Representative organisation	Country	Albania	Start date	01/01/2018
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EaFA - European Alliance for Apprenticeships

Kelvin Zifla's experience during the English language course with students selected for learning mobility in EU countries

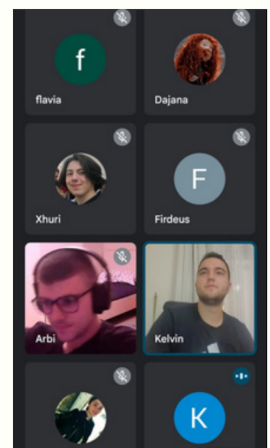
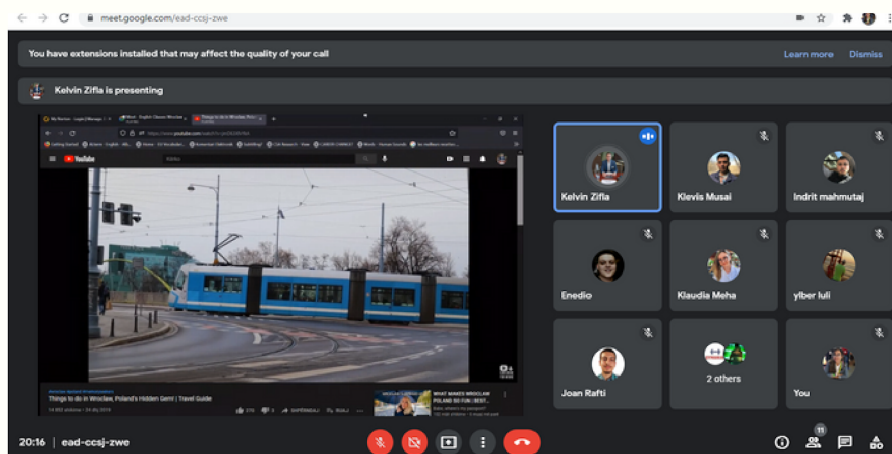
The mobilities abroad made possible by the Intervet project are a very good opportunity for any young person pursuing a professional education, but not only. Through these exchanges, students have the opportunity to closely touch the working environments of European Union countries, to get to know the culture of these countries, but also to grow professionally. Participating in the intership has certain stages that the students go through and one of these stages is the preparation of the students in order to adapt as well as possible there. For this reason, the students take an English language course in order to practice and learn this language better. English professor Kelvin Zifla through an article tells us his impressions about this experience he has had with the students.

Hello, my name is Kelvin Zifla and I am an English professor and translator. My first contact with Albanian Skills was when I was a student and volunteered at one of its annual skills competitions. Since then, I never lost touch and followed their events and achievements regularly.

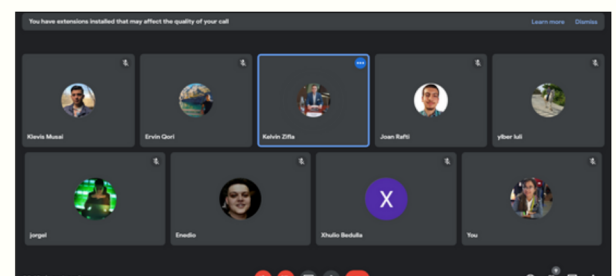
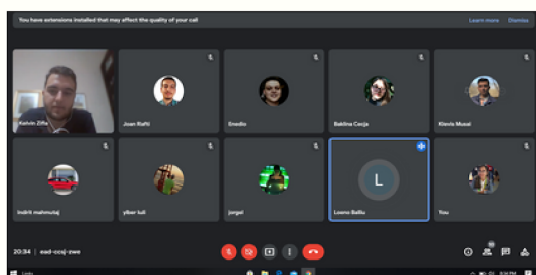
After Albanian Skills started the INTERVET Project WB contacted me and asked me if I could develop English language courses for vocational education students who had gained the opportunity to follow international work placements in Europe. I felt honored to be back and able to contribute to Albanian Skills again and very grateful for the opportunity. It's been a great collaboration and I'm currently teaching the fifth round of students who are practicing English to prepare for their work placements in Lyon, France, Milan, Italy and Seville, Spain!



Kelvin Zifla- English Professor



I have to say it has been an exciting and inspiring experience! Just as I have taught vocational education students, I have also learned from them, especially from their work, creativity, and above all their innovations! Many times I have been surprised by their projects and heard about robots, apps and businesses started from scratch by these 16-18 year old students. They have a high degree of career orientation, entrepreneurial spirit and work discipline that just convinced me that these young people will achieve a lot in life. In fact, they regularly received positive reviews from their internship companies (in Italy, Spain, Poland and Slovenia), which proves their countless qualities.



A learning experience that has taught me a lot. Vocational education in Albania advances every day and it seems clear that it encourages entrepreneurship and innovation from a young age, something rare in Albania. These young talents inspire admiration and respect, and I look forward to hearing about their achievements in the near future!

TESTIMONIES OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN MOBILITY

My name is Endrit Myrta and I am 19 years old, I just graduated from the electronics department (telecommunication profile) at the "Gjergj Canco" technical school.

I am a person who really likes to interact with people, learn from them and always stay updated with the announcements that are published about various activities. The same was the case of the call for professional internships in Lyon, to which I applied. I couldn't wait for the answers of the winners because I really wanted to participate. Fortunately, I was selected and I was extremely happy to be part of a new experience, through which I would learn a lot in many aspects.



**Endrit Myrta Technical School
"Gjergj Canco" Tirana**

On the day of departure for Lyon, I met the people with whom I would stay for 1 month, but later they became my friends. After arriving in Lyon, we headed to the student residence where we would all be staying. It was the first time I lived alone, but with time I started to adjust. Everything was my responsibility and I had to manage everything related to accommodation, room maintenance, time and pocket money management and tasks assigned to me by the company where I was doing my internship. Days passed and I started to adapt to this way of life (it wasn't that hard). Apart from that, with the rest of the group, we got to know each other's characters, we shared experiences and events we had experienced in the past, we joked, we laughed, we discussed about different issues and we became really good friends.



I developed the internship at the company "Foxstream", whose activities are similar to what I studied and worked in Albania. I also learned many other practical things there, which I am sure will benefit me in the future and in my career in the fields of engineering and science. In addition to technical skills, such as critical thinking and problem solving, I also improved other interpersonal skills, such as communication with people of different cultures, communication in a foreign language, cooperation with the group, active listening, the art of debating, etc.

Will these skills help me? Of course yes! All these skills will help me to be a more useful person for the society and the community, but also to give my contribution, by applying the acquired skills, to diminish the problems we have in Albania. I will never forget this experience. I've had a lot of fun, I've learned a lot, I've expanded my circle of close friends, and I look forward to collaborating sooner or later, with everyone or not, in one way or another, regardless of the circumstances. I am eternally grateful and grateful to all the institutions that made this experience possible for us!
Thanks for reading me!

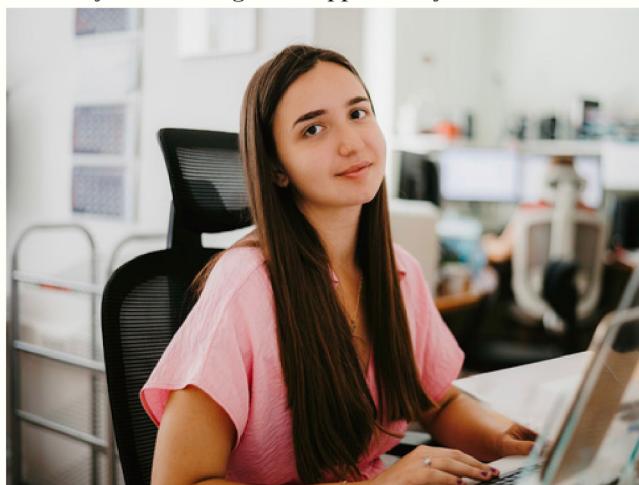
I am Regisa Sala, 18 years old, student at Tirana Technical School of Economics. The direction I study is Economics-Business in the Accounting profile.

The way I became part of this internship was through an announcement on the social media of the Albanian Skills organization, where a post announced the possibility of an internship abroad for vocational school students. Immediately with great desire I applied and won, I became part of the group of students who would go to Maribor, Slovenia. I was extremely happy and excited at the same time.

During a month in Maribor, I gained a special experience and learned a lot. My internship was in the field of Marketing and Social Media. To be honest, I am fascinated by how the workplace, colleagues, and people I have met throughout this experience were so fantastic and so supportive. I have learned so much and developed my knowledge in this branch by improving it even more. Maribor was such a quiet and peaceful place that I can't wait to visit again.

I want to suggest to anyone who sees such opportunities to apply without thinking twice. It is one of those experiences that helps you in personal development, to be independent and to think things from a different point of view.

Thank you for this golden opportunity!



Regisa Sala -Technical Economic School in Tirana



My name is Saimira Spiropali, I am 18 years old and I study in the Economics-Business department at the Trade School in the city of Vlora and I was part of a one-month internship in Maribor, Slovenia. For me this was a very nice experience and quite valuable for my career. I had the opportunity to do a very good professional practice that helped me and how to present myself very well professionally in a work environment. I have met new people from different countries such as Spain, Germany, Slovenia, etc., which has made me learn as much as possible about their culture. During this experience I also visited very beautiful places such as Mount Pohorje, Poramida Hill, Ljubljana, Lake Bled and Zagreb.



Saimira Spiropali, Vlora Trade School



Hello, I am Ilaria Bogdani, a student at the Tirana Technical School of Economics, Accounts & Accounting branch. Getting an internship in Lyon is a golden opportunity for me. This trip taught me how to be more independent, to know how to spend my pocket money, to adjust to a new country, to meet friends, etc. During this internship, I worked at the host company (SEPER) in the international department in the field of marketing. The company was going to open a website and our task was to search around other vocational schools in Lyon, but also competitors outside it, to keep notes, and after analyzing the commonalities and specialties, we would build an excel table. The work colleagues were very approachable, the environment where I worked was very friendly, I also learned a lot of new things. During our free time we went together to visit new places such as: Bellecour, Saint Jean, Fourviere, Planetarium, Parc de la Te Dor, Traboule, Jardin du Rosaire, Teatro Galo Roman. It was a fantastic experience for me.



Ilaria Bogdani- Technical Economic School in Tirana



The experience of Accompanying Groups

As we have said, the Intervet project has certain stages, the whole is a process. Part of this process with a very important and sometimes challenging role is also the companions of the groups. Entela and Klevisi have been accompanying groups of students and through articles they will tell us more about their experience.

Hello, I am Klevis Musai, 19 years old and I have just finished high school at the technological high school "Hysen Cela", recently I had a very nice and challenging task, that of being a companion of the group of students in Maribor, Slovenia. During the month of November, I was one of the students selected to do a one-month internship in Poland, which was an unforgettable experience. After a few months, I was given the opportunity to be the group's companion in Slovenia. To be honest, at first, I was scared because I had to lead a group of students of the same age as me, but after a few days I agreed to accompany the group and I say with full conviction that it was one of the most beautiful experiences I've had. It was a very intense and fast month, which passed like a weekend. At first I can say that I was also unsure if I would be able to manage all the situations that would arise, would I be able to lead a group of teenagers when I was one myself, but as you say, work teaches itself and it succeeds miraculously, it is enough to have the will and the good desire to do things. Within a short period I had the opportunity to learn many things, get to know a new country, new people, explore but also learn more about myself. I am very grateful to the organizers for the opportunity, it has been very meaningful for me.



Klevis Musai



Being the companion of the first group of students who realized the mobility in Italy, the city of Bologna, and with the group of students in Lyon, France was a valuable and beautiful experience. Living for a month with different people and cultures was a challenge in itself, but also a period that grew a lot both in terms of communication, human and professional. Throughout the month, every day we were faced with different things like managing time, and schedules, exploring locations, managing the group of young people while keeping the balance and always being alert for any situation that might happen. These challenges develop you a lot since the reality I faced every day is different from what you are used to, the more you have to be with a group of young people all the time. These experiences will remain long in my memory and will help me in the profession I have chosen.

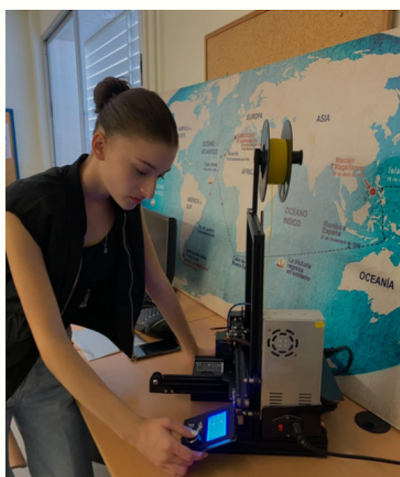
**ENTELE GJYLA**

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Students' experiences during learning mobility in Milan - Italy and Seville - Spain.

After the closing of the fifth call for a one-month internship within the INTERVET project. With this call, 20 students were selected from all the professional schools of Albania who will leave in September 2022 for a month in Italy and Spain.

In the next issue, you will have testimonials from students about the experience they will go through. The positive feelings, the beautiful emotions, the challenges that have gone through this experience. But as well as the activities carried out, adaptation to the host companies and to the place where they have lived for about a month.



Teachers' experiences during Job Shadowing, Malta

After closing the call where 3 teachers/staff teachers were selected from all the VET schools in Albania, who will go to Malta in October 2022. In the next issue we will have testimonials from teachers about their experience there.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Student Hosting-Experiences of students from Italy

During the months of September-October 2022, Albanian Skills will welcome 8 students from Italy who will carry out one-month professional internships with Albanian companies.



"International Leather Line & Conf Expo 2022"

On October 15, 2022, near the premises of Expocity Albania, the competition for the textile and leather fair will be held.



Career Days near Mat Municipalities; Diber, Mirdita and Has.

Saturdays in November will be full of youth activities near Mat municipalities; Diber, Mirdita and Has.

Beautiful, fruitful discussions with young people are expected to take place during those days.

