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PRESS RELEASE

Introducing learning mobility in the VET systems of the Western Balkans has gained an increasingly prominent position on the agenda of the Berlin Process. However, in order to make mobility a reality there is a need of introducing a “culture of learning mobility” that Europe has been knowing since the launch of the Erasmus programme in the 80’. In particular there is a need to inform VET teachers and headmasters on these themes and increase their competences in planning and managing mobility projects. More work based learning is also required in the Western Balkans to prepare young people for the transition to the labour market and at the same time support the development of local economies. ***The general objective of the INTERVET WB project is to improve the quality of VET provision in Western Balkans, thus ultimately favouring the employability of young people.*** The project “Internationalisation of VET systems in Western Balkans” (INTERVET WB), funded by the European Union and lead by UNISER, brings together 14 organisations involved in VET from 14 countries (among which all the 6 countries of the Western Balkans) to introduce a comprehensive mobility scheme in the enlargement countries.

In Albania the project aims at creating opportunities for learning mobility in the VET providers and improving the culture of learning mobility in the field of VET through *82 Short-term learners mobility (1 month stay) and Long term (3 months stay) for VET learners and VET teachers; 9 Job shadowing experiences of 1 week for VET teachers from Albania to the European VET providers of the partnership; 6 Mobility of VET teachers from Albania to participate in summer schools on mobility and work based learning; 12 teachers from Albania to participate in the Thematic Teams at the European VET providers of the partnership.*

During the 1st Annual implementation year of INTERVET WB, all stakeholders are presented and informed regarding the project and on the progresses made in the relevant activities and the upcoming mobility for capacity building of academic staff and students learning mobility. *For 2020, with the worldwide restrictions because of the pandemics, we have achieved one Thematic Team Event, three Summer School Mobility and two Transnational Meetings. We have also concluded the selection process of 10 VET learners for Short-terms learners’ mobility (1 month stay in Italy) and the selection of 3 VET teachers for Job Shadowing Experiences (in Netherlands), which will both take place in 2021. Furthermore, during 2021, there will be other calls on all the relevant activities such as Job Shadowing, Summer School and learning mobility. The tentative dates are in the first three months of 2021, but yet unpredictable because of the COVID-19 restrictions.*

In the course of the project implementation, dissemination of information, application and selection process of mobility are communicated continuously to relevant VET institutions, National Agency of Employment and Skills (NAES), National Agency of Vocational Education and Training, and Qualifications (NAVTEQ), Regional Directorates of Employment and Vocational Training Centres (RDE & VTC), Vocational Schools (VS) and learners with the support of school directors and its staff and in close communication with them. Regarding the

selection process, find here the list of VET teachers selected from 34 applications for Job Shadowing in the Netherlands. Furthermore, from 35 applications for VET students` learning mobility in Italy find here the list of VET students selected. One of the VET teachers in the Summer School stated that beyond the fact that she met colleagues from different corners of the world, who discussed their experiences, she also learned much more than expected on the practical side of teamwork and practical learning at school. That is one of the exact purposes of the mobility schemes itself. On the other hand, the students are also very excited to follow a one month learning mobility in Italy. One of them, at the video interview stated that his dream of having such an experience, getting in touch with European culture of education, work and social affairs, will soon come true with INTERVET WB.

At the VET Internationalization Conference, organized by the European Commission and European Training Foundation in frame of the European Vocational Skills Week 2020 Events, from 9-13 November in Berlin and VET Excellence Award Nominees Celebration and Closing Ceremony, Albanian Skills showcased the practical application of the VET internationalization in Albania through involvement of the private sector and mobility project. In the beliefs of the Albanian Skills, technical skills, not degrees, are of importance and skills have no nationality. Also, Albanian Skills presented skills competitions in Albania and INTERVET Western Balkans Project as excellent ways, necessary for development and adaptation to international skills needed.

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