



# BULETINI INNOVET ALBANIA

Let's contribute to empowering the VET community!

Dear readers,

We are very pleased to introduce this edition with one article about NAES – National Agency for Employment and Skills. Enjoy reading!



**NAES-** is the set of administrative institutions and providers of employment, self-employment and vocational education and training services, an integral part of the system of the ministry responsible for employment and skills development. It operates through Regional and Local Employment Offices, Regional Directorates of Public Vocational Training as well as Public Vocational Education Schools.

The term "innovation" translated from Latin means "renewal or change". Innovation in the broadest sense of the word means the profitable use of innovations in the form of new technologies, types of products and services, organizational, technical and socio-economic solutions of production, financial, commercial, administrative or other nature. Innovation is part of sustainable economic development, so it is considered a key word for education and vocational training in Albania. Innovation should be translated into VET in two directions:

- Reflection of innovation in curricula, teaching infrastructure, training of teachers with technological innovations that should aim to attract the attention of young people towards the practical and innovative aspect of vocational education.
- Reflection of innovation in the teaching process, where innovative processes are applied in the formation of a new educational content, development and implementation of new pedagogical technologies, creation of new types of educational institutions, digitalization of the education system in the country.

Innovative activities and good practices developed in VET providers have aimed at attracting the attention of young people towards the practical and innovative aspect of vocational education. Here are some of the practices we can mention:

- Engaging in the international community, an excellent opportunity for young people in Albania. Promoting and providing opportunities for vocational school youth to participate in international events and competitions through the exchange of experiences or competition, one more opportunity to foster their innovation in the professions they study.
- Vocational education students, innovators of the future. Young people suggest fun ways to do homework by giving innovative ideas to the profiles they study. It is seen in model schools built by young people, exhibited or presented at events and competitions.
- Innovative activities in support of digital solutions to the pandemic: ICT students often come up with a solution to the challenges posed by the pandemic in digital terms. They worked through the use of 3D technology to contribute to the growth of VET image through the engagement of students in vocational schools.
- Development of technical and soft skills through group work or volunteer work: The ideal tool for professional and personal growth of young people is the promotion of group work and volunteer work. "These activities not only develop soft skills but give you the opportunity to pass on these skills developed and practiced to others."

## IN THIS ISSUE:

INTERVET WB PROJECT  
ACTIVITIES

SHORT TERM STUDENT'S  
MOBILITY MARIBOR, SLOVENIA

7-EDITION OF ALBANIAN  
NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

LAUNCH OF NATIONAL SKILLS  
COMPETITION

26-FEB ALBANIAN NATIONAL  
SKILLS COMPETITION 7TH  
EDITION

MEET MARJANA MURJA, JURY AT  
DIGITAL MARKETING CATEGORY

MEET ESLI CANAKU, DIGITAL  
MARKETING WINNER

MEET ERISA ALIAJ, SKILLS  
COMPETITIONS VOLUNTEER

MEET VIONIS ZYBERAJ, SKILLS  
COMPETITIONS VOLUNTEER

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT  
AND VALUE FOR THE YOUTH  
GUARANTEE IMPLEMENTATION

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

YOUTH CAREER SPRING  
EXCHANGE

ALBANIAN DAY OF GIRLS IN ICT"  
18-22 APRIL 2022

ALBANIAN SKILLS WEEK 2022

ITE DAYS LAB OF IDEAS -NEW  
COMPETITION IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL AND  
ENVIRONMENT TOURISM DAYS  
AT EXPOCITY

NEWS FROM INTERVET WB  
PROJECT

TRAINING ASSIGNMENT IN  
ALBANIA

THEMATIC TEAMS SEMINAR, LION

The above mentioned practices have started to be implemented in many vocational schools and through the exchange of experiences it is trying to be extended to all vocational schools in the country.

The cooperation of all actors and the coordination of activities to maximize the individual contribution in the field of VET is in the focus of NAES. Business is now part of the promotion of VET in order to encourage the participation of as many young people in VET, through the development of joint events or competitions. Here we can mention the co-organization of activities with Albanian Skills specifically the National Skills CompetitionS-7th edition, and Albanian Skills Week 2021.

As noted above, increasing youth access to VET is the focus of NAES policies and activities in this area. We are aware that the role of business and other actors in this field is very important for maximizing the effectiveness of these policies. In this context, the coordination of actors that contribute to the field of VET is essential to synergize efforts and improve the achievements of this sector, which is very important for the sustainable economic development of the country.

NAES as a management institution has tried to have a more cooperative and comprehensive approach with all partners / contributors in order to strengthen the sector.

The National Employment and Skills Agency has always been supportive and encouraging of initiatives / projects that promote and support professional exchanges and not only, as it has considered these activities as very important for recognizing, exchanging and absorbing the best experiences that serve for updating with sector developments and absorbing innovative approaches. Regarding the above, we can mention some concrete projects such as INTERVET or SuperSchools which are supported by NAES and which have brought concrete benefits to VET public providers and certified students.

We invite all young people to get acquainted with vocational education and training as an excellent opportunity to see their future as a professional. Through VET they are ready for the labor market as the VET offer produces qualified specialists who have a fairly high degree of employability and immediate integration into acquired professions. Vocational Education and Training at the same time provide and good monetary income to young people will need to be increasingly recognized and oriented towards this sector.

Finally, we use this opportunity to acquaint all young people with one of the latest initiatives that will be implemented in Albania and that has to do with the Youth Guarantee program.

The Youth Guarantee is a commitment by all EU Member States to ensure that all young people under the age of 29 receive a quality offer within a four-month period of registration as an unemployed jobseeker, or dropout from formal education, for the following programs:

- Employment;
- Continued education;
- Apprenticeship;
- Vocational training.

The need for such a program in the EU came due to the increase of youth unemployment and especially of those who belong to the young group either in employment, education or training APAA (NEET not in employment, education or training). This EU initiative is being extended to all Western Balkan countries, including Albania. During 2022, it is foreseen the drafting of the National Youth Guarantee Plan and the beginning of the piloting of the first schemes.

Thank you,



**AGJENCIA KOMBËTARE E  
PUNËSIMIT DHE AFTËSIVE**

## INTERVET WB PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Short Term Student's Mobility Maribor, Slovenia

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 February 11 students from VET schools in Albania traveled to Maribor, Slovenia and hosted by ZNI Institute. 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.

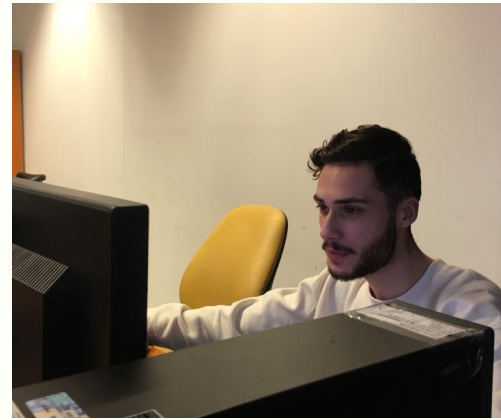


After the trip to Slovenia, Spain and Italy they settled in the respective companies where they followed the internship for a month. Part of this internships where VET Learners in the field of IT, Tourism, Gastronomy, Electronics, Construction and Administration.

These practices were very successful for the students, receiving very positive reviews and feedbacks from the companies where they worked. Below you can read some of their testimonials.



"Maribor was absolutely the perfect choice for me. I enjoyed the city and its youth facilities a lot. Thanks to ZNI Institute I had the opportunity to work in a Sales&Marketing Company near the city center. The staff was very welcoming and I felt really respectful. Also in the company's plans was to expand their business in Albania and I was more than excited to pave the way by providing information about my country as well as develop marketing strategies. On the other hand the group was friendly and lovely, and we spent quite a lot of time together. It was my first time going abroad for such a period and I am proud to say that I reached all my goals set before this mobility started."



**Fabian Hasanllari, Electrical Technical School 'Gjergj Canco'**



**Etis Vakefli, Technical Economical School of Tirana**

"Before going to Maribor, I got the news that I was going to work in a private detective office. This was quite challenging for me as I had never heard of such a thing in my home country. Intellegos company helped me a lot in improving my administrative skills as well as deadlines. It was a very complex position but I was very glad to have a helpful small team by my side who despite of the working hours, provided me much free time. I enjoyed a lot the beautiful city of Maribor as well as small trips that we did nearby as a group. The group was fantastic and spent most of the time being and going out together. Maribor dorm was very welcoming as it provided us a lot of facilities for free time, for example ping-pong and gym. It will be an experience that I will never forget and I want to say a big thank you to INTERVET WB for allowing me to be part of this amazing experience."

"By having a complex routine because of my engagement with Athletics, I was in doubt to join the mobility in Maribor. But now I feel really grateful for being part of this great experience. I had the opportunity to work near Pika Center as an administrative assistant. Pika is a center that offers children the opportunity to engage in after-school programs and everyday I was very happy to work with kids and teenagers, as well as an amazing staff.

Sunny Maribor was also very surprising and friendly to me. Together with the group we enjoyed a lot our time in the city park, river and youth places nearby.

We had a great co-living in the dorm, with individual and group task. I am very thankful to INTERVET WB for the opportunity that it gave to me in being part of this once in a time experience."



**Melisa Sina Technical Economical School of Tirana**



Juled Zaganjori, Technological School  
"Hamdi Bushati"

"This internship was perfect in each aspect. I was a full time cook at Nana Restaurant (one of the busiest in Maribor) and therefore I had the opportunity to learn a lot from the staff and also from the main chef. We had a very close relation and my ideas on new dishes and decorations were generously accepted by the staff. On the meantime I had the opportunity to use the facilities of the Library at the University of Maribor where I could research more on the culinary arts.

Despite tight working schedule I made really good international friends with whom I could really share experiences and learn new things. The group in Maribor was fantastic and most of the time we spent together going out and visiting new places. I will really miss this great experience and I encourage every VET Students, especially the ones in Culinary Arts, to apply in other mobilities and explore more about new cultures. Thank you! "



## INTERVET WB UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Mobility Fourth Call for Students -Closed

The fourth call for one-month internship within the INTERVET project has been closed. With this call, 20 students will be selected from all vocational schools in Albania who will leave in June 2022 for 1 month in Maribor (Slovenia) and Lyon (France). Applications are in the selection process and the winners will be announced soon. Prior to departure, students will take an online English course to improve communication in the host country.



### Teachers Job Shadowing, Netherlands

Vojsava Delilaj, Klodjana Memelli dhe Dorina Nikaj are three teachers from vocational schools who are currently on a Job Shadowing mobility course in Dordrecht, The Netherlands organized by ROC Da Vinci College Partner of the Intervet Project. In the next issue we will have their testimonies to learn more about this experience.



## INTERNATIONALISATION OF VET SYSTEMS IN WESTERN BALKANS

### Training Assignment in Albania

From April 20-27, a representative from Uniser, the Internet Project Coordinating Organization, will be in Albania for training scheduling activities. During these days, trainings with teachers and meetings with various vocational schools will be organized.

### Thematic Teams Seminar, Lyon

The next theme organized by Efvnet will be held in Lyon, France on 3-5 May 2022. This event is attended by representatives of schools and VET institutions and staff of organizations part of the project from the Western Balkans and the European Union. The host organization of the Thematic Team will be SEPR (Lyon et Rhône Vocational Training Center). In this event there will be representatives from Albanian Skills and the National Employment and Skills Agency. More information about it will be given in the next issue.



## 7-EDITION OF ALBANIAN NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

### Launch of National Skills Competitions- 7th Edition

Albanian Skills / Skills together with the National Employment and Skills Agency and the Minister of State for Youth and Children and other partners of this organization worked for the 7th Edition of the Albanian National Skills Competitions for young people aged 16-25 which will take place on Saturday, 26 February 2022, 09:00 - 17:00 in the premises of Tirana Business Park.



To get more acquainted with national skills competitions in Albania and launching the 7th Edition, together with the Minister of State for Youth and Children, Ms. Bora Muzhaqi was organized in the premises of MicroFolie with students, event organizers, jury members and representatives of cooperating institutions. In this meeting were presented the types of competitions, the way of application and the importance of competitions.



This year's motto is "Green Transition" to promote a broader approach to green skills. A short workshop was held on this topic with participants who were divided into groups to discuss on the "European Green Deal" "Green Transition" etc. how it affects education, labour markets and life style.



## 26-February Albanian National Skills Competitions -7th Edition

On Saturday, February 26, 2022, from 09: 00-17: 00, was held the National Competition of Albanian Skills - 7th Edition near the premises of Tirana Business Park and MK Hotel. This competition, organized by Albanian Skills in cooperation with the Ministry of State for Youth and Children and the National Agency for Employment and Skills, hosted about 120 young people aged 16-25 from general and vocational high schools as well as from public and private universities. The young competitors went under these following categories:

- Programmer
- Web Development
- Graphics
- Photography
- Digital Marketing
- Hotel and Restaurant Service
- Hairdresser and Barber
- Entrepreneurship and Business Development



After being introduced to the competition tasks through the category juries, the competitors competed with each other for about 3 hours fulfilling the specific tasks through their technical and professional skills. While the members of the jury evaluated the work done by the competitors after the end of the competition, seminars and events with different topics were organized for the participants. Polis University introduced 3D Modeling to the participants, while Kodo Academy conducted an educational class on programming skills. Furthermore, ISN Albania and Arbiol Dardha Dance Studio offered fun activities focusing on dancing, physical activity, and group work. Ms. Arjeta Dhima also offered a ventriloquist show in honor of the 7th Edition of the Skills Competition, while the Art Group of Kamza Vocational School performed traditional Albanian songs and dances promoting Albanian culture and tradition.



After the successful completion of competitions and fun activities has held the ceremony of announcing the results of the competition, where members of the jury as well as representatives of Albanian Skills, National Agency for Employment and Skills represented by its General Director Mr. Klevis Hysa, the Ministry of State for Youth and Children, and partners of the event as Tirana Business Park, Leeto Agency, Logical, etc. announced the results of the winners. Certificates of participation to competitors and volunteers, and prizes to winners of the first three places are awarded.

Being thankful to all young competitors, juries, public institutions, volunteers, parents and public who attended this event, we remain always grateful to all supporters of the the day one of the National Skills Competitions in Albania!



## Meet Marjana Murja, Jury at Digital Marketing Category

**Head of the Marketing & Communication Department at Logical Albania**

"I have known Albanian Skills since I was a student and I liked it as a platform for youth motivation. As a jury, I participated in the support that the company where I work currently gave for the organization of the event. I have always been active in events such as participatory or mentoring, and I have noticed that they have an impact greatly on young people. Influence three-dimensionally on their lives to create a network and take the first steps in their careers.

The most important thing I realized during the competition is that the young people who participated in each competition were highly trained and with a background of knowledge for you to rate. I learned that these structures need to have more support as they promote and support new talents, and often serve as a trampoline to launch careers that dream. They also help create bridges between the capabilities of this age group with companies looking to hire young people.



This event gave me the sense of responsibility that you all have as professionals for it, helping young people to integrate more easily into the labor market, providing space for them. I would recommend it to my friends and students but even more I would encourage companies to become part of it by offering greater support for organizing events and prizes given. Having more paid internships with employment opportunities as well is an efficient way to help these talented young people build their future profession.



The winner of the Digital Marketing category has benefited from the practice of our company. The internship is tailored to the student's schedules. Esli is the first to have acquired the practice of Digital Marketing at Logical. An internship work profile has been created that will help her to understand closely how the department works, how reports are made, analyzes, how decisions are made, and how the budget is managed.

There is also space to bring new ideas and suggestions through individual research. The aim is to have a clearer professional perspective of this profile at the end of this experience. One of the new skills Esli is learning is knowledge & training on Google Analytics. An indispensable tool of digital marketing. A marketer without data finds it more difficult to make the right decisions, so this has been added as one of the technical skills that the intern must learn.

If the performance during the internship will be good, we want it to be finalized with Esli's employment.

Also, of course, the cooperation with Albanian Skills will continue.



## Meet Esli Canaku, Digital Marketing Winner

I was known since a few years ago with the Skills Competitions organized by Albanian Skills, exactly in 2019. That is why, I was a competitor in the Hotelier & Tourism field, where I was also a second-place winner. This participation came from the desire that I have to be part of the business world, especially in the Hospitality sector. This year I became part of the Digital Marketing category since it is a new field in which I am recently deployed, which is also intertwined with business. What prompted me to become part of the competition this year was the wonderful experience I'd come across, the new insights I'd received, and the new recognition I'd created across the competition. I was very motivated, I would give my best so why not, be the winner of first place and win the internship opportunity that LogicAl gave through this competition, and to my good fortune, I did it.

If I make it, I won first place and I was very happy and lucky to be able to practice near the LogicAl Albania company. Across the competition, I realized I could work perfectly under the pressure of time and despite this, I get a good job. I could work without panicking and stay calm. The atmosphere created throughout the pageantry, the quiet and simultaneous environment, and very pleasant to give you the comfort of working from home. All the organizers of the pageant, as and the juries have always been willing to give their help and are very friendly and smiling. They do a tireless job of offering young Albanian youths opportunities that are hard to find in another country.

### Meet Erisa Aliaj, Skills Competitions Volunteer

This year I participated as a volunteer in the 7-th edition of the Skills Competitions conducted by Albanian Skills. For me, participating and collaborating with the Albania Skills organization is one of the most valuable and beautiful experiences for me. At Albanian Skills for, the first time, I participated in the 7th edition of the National Skills Competitions. During the competitions some of my duties as volunteers were:

1. Application management before the realization of the competitions, processing applications, coordination of the competitors, etc.
2. Registration of participants connector at Slide Events was about 3D modeling held by Polis University, which was very valuable to me.

Being a volunteer in the Albanian Skills Organization for me has been an experience that has served me well as I have learned many new things, I have been trained and I have tried myself in various disciplines, which have helped me in my profession.

At the end of this competition, I have thought to be part of an organization that aims to support skills development of young people and children with special needs because they have also different talents and I want to be part of an initiative that enables them to show their skills and achieve a lot on the jet because they deserve it.. This experience was very valuable to me and the field of study in public relations for me, because I practiced a little bit my skills gained at university. And I wish this experience in Albanian Skills will continue further as I proved to believe as Albanian Skills is one of the rare organizations in Albania that aim to help young people to show their talents and for this, I am deeply, grateful.



### Meet Vionis Zyberaj, Skills Competitions Volunteer

For me, it was the first time that I was a volunteer in Albanian Skills and participated in competitions. Volunteering has been one of the most beautiful experiences for me. During the competitions, I engaged in filming and photographing the competitors, showing their talents, and filming every activity performed.

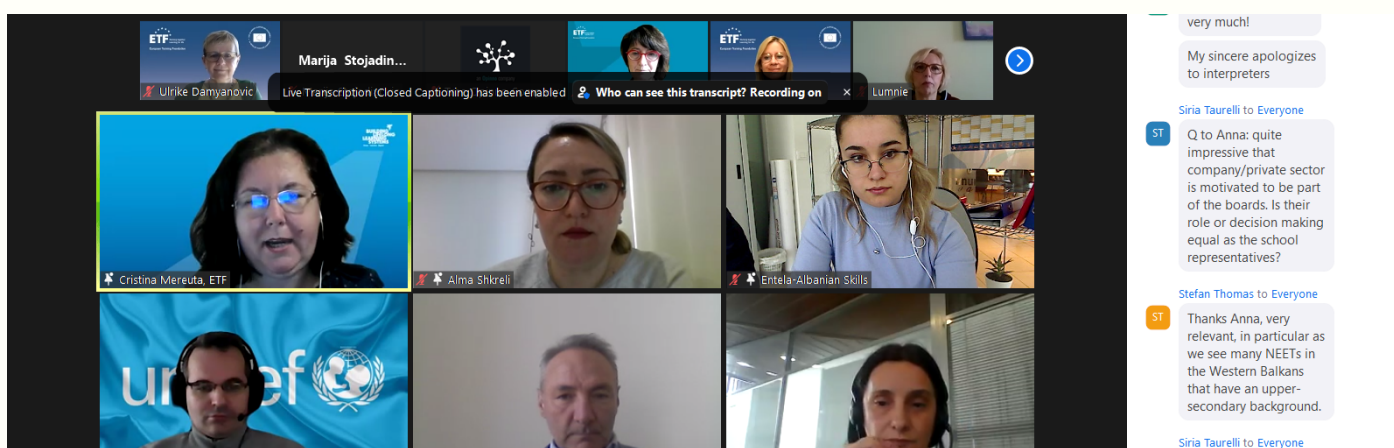
can say that the most interesting part for me was the competition process and the announcement of the winners which was quite exciting. During my experience in Albanian Skills, I gained a lot of skills, will, self-confidence and courage to engage with something. Now I have the confidence to participate in other events as a volunteer. Albanian Skills was for me a window that offers me a lot and I am very grateful.



## PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND VALUE FOR THE YOUTH GUARANTEE IMPLEMENTATION

The Youth Guarantee (YG) is one of the instruments that require such a collaboration, and the EU and the economies of South-East Europe have agreed to implement a YG scheme. The ETF is supporting the process through a series of knowledge and practice sharing that support the YG design, implementation and monitoring in the respective economies, as part of the Technical Assistance Facility, operationalized by the European Union and International Labour Organization.

Alma Shkreli, AS-NASC Cofounder and Executive Board Member and Entela Gjyla, AS-NASC Executive Assistant and Researcher were invited to contribute in the ETF online event on "Public Private Partnerships for Skills Development and value for the Youth Guarantee Implementation" which purpose was to ensure that young people and adults acquire the skills needed for making them employable, formal, informal, and non-formal education systems search for different forms of collaboration between the public and private sectors.



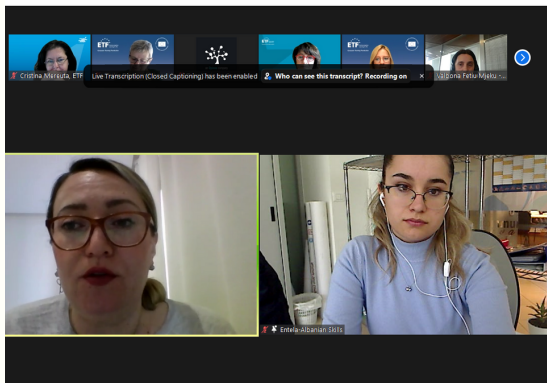
During the discussion, Alma and Entela expressed their thoughts and experiences with the rest of the panel. Alma explains:

"As an independent CSO, Albanian Skills operates now from 8 years in the field of skills development, organizing national skills competitions, and from 5 years now also events like Skills Week, in close cooperation with the private sector and the public institutions responsible for VET and employment. Speaking from first-hand experience, the CSOs can play a very significant role in developing the cooperation between VET and the private sector.

Being in between, the CSOs can play the role of a "translator", "mediator" or facilitator of the communication between the two. This is mainly because the CSOs are made of experts who are multi-disciplinary and usually have the sensitivity to view the situation from various standpoints and understand both parties interests.

From an experienced-based point of view, there are however some key lessons learned and that we would like to share:

- CSOs can play a very crucial role in awareness-raising of both the VET institutions and private sector on the need for cooperation, and to be partners in development;
- Sustainability, is another key ingredient, that CSOs offer due to their independent nature is key to the constant development of cooperation. Ad-hoc, or project-based solutions can have a short life and lost eventually. However, CSOs can also play a role here in promoting and fostering constantly reminding, developing, and keeping safe for both parties the high value of cooperation".



Entela briefly gives the example of how through the skills competitions organized by Albanian Skills the partnership between the VET and private sector worlds is fostered:

"Through competitions and any other activity, Albanian Skills has aimed to build a sustainable relationship in the institution-school-business triangle. In competitions, the professional jury comes from the business world to get to know and acquaint young people. Public institutions have always been encouraged to become collaborators in every edition held to be as close as possible to young people and related activities. Businesses have contributed by providing internships, employment and training for young people. In this framework, we are happy to mention that last Saturday, February 26, the 7th edition of the National Skills Competition was a success attended by about 200 participants as competitors, juries, business representatives, etc."

## UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

### Youth Career Spring Exchange

The 'A visit away from your future career' project funded by the Public Relations Office of the US Embassy in Tirana and implemented by Albanian Skill in close collaboration with the Municipalities of Mat, Kukës, and Dibër aims to empower young people through raising career services for young people near these municipalities. In the framework of this project and to realize its conclusion, the "Spring Meeting on the career of young people" will be held on 15-17 April 2022. About 45 young people from the three municipalities, Mat, Kukes, and Dibra, participants active during the implementation of this project, during the career academy, during the mentoring sessions as well as the activities developed by it, will realize a joint three-day "exchange tour" from Kukës-Burrel-Peshkopi-Kukës, during a weekend for do not forget.



**18-22 APRIL**  
**HYBRIT EVENT**

**ALBANIAN DAY OF GIRLS IN ICT**

albanianskills

- 18 April-Kick Off -Online
- 19-20 April- Training Sessions-Online
- 21 April- Individual Work-Online
- 22 April-Closing Event/Digital Art Works Fair- MicroFolie

### Albanian Day of Girls in ICT" 18-22 April 2022

In the framework of the International Girls' Day in ICT, Albanian Skills same as last year together with some partner companies and institutions are preparing to join the activities and events worldwide, which since 2011, have involved 377,000 girls, in more than 11,400 international activities in 171 countries around the world. In this 10-year journey of this day,

This activity will be attended by girls of the 9-year schools in Albania and in order to raise awareness of girls 14-18 years old for the many opportunities offered by their orientation towards the ICT sector, as good employment and self-employment opportunities.

