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1

Work Based Learning Pilot has been successfully completed



The Enhancing Youth Employment (EYE) project has been working with Vocational Education and Training (VET) schools and private companies to start work-based learning (WBL) apprenticeships. In January, the WBL pilots started in the municipalities of Kaçanik, Ferizaj, Gjakova and Vushtrri, focusing on the manufacturing and retail sectors. Students worked in their apprenticeships from January 15 until the end of the school year on May 15, twice a week. In total, 35 students enrolled in the pilots, working at 6 companies. By the end of the apprenticeship, 22 students completed successfully the WBL apprenticeship, from which 5 received a full-time contract.

During the coming year EYE will expand in three municipalities Prishtina, Viti and Prizren, and will continue the WBL in the piloted municipalities starting with 11 and 12 grade.

2

VPET International Congress



In order to provide partners with deeper know-how of Swiss dual education and "Work Based Learning", EYE invited Jonuz Salihaj - Pristina MED Director and 3 partner company representatives (Ariel Shaban-KIVO, Yllka Metaj Shaqiri - Aztech, Leke Zherka - BoneVET) to participate in the 3rd Vocational and Professional Education and Training International Congress, which took place from June 6 - 8 in Winterthur, Switzerland. This congress was a great chance for EYE's project partners to get exposed to the Swiss dual VET implementation, and see from close the strong partnerships among the companies and VET schools.

During three days' event, several site visits were organised by the Congress, where the participants could observe and communicate to the apprentices and in-company instructors on the implementation of dual education. The exposure to Swiss experience was highly appreciated by the partners.



3

Launching of the VET Media Campaign “KUSH IA KA PA HAJRIN SHKOLLËS?!”

On June 21, at the main square “Zahir Pajaziti” in Prishtina a pop star Yll Limani performed in front of the young audience. Behind this entertainment remains an important message for 9th grade students of primary school, parents and policy makers including general audience. The campaign “Kush ia ka pa hajrin shkollës?! is expected to initiate a large media campaign that would provide better information about career choices in VET and according to the labor market. Further it aims to stimulate greater public debate about Vocational Education and Training in Kosovo. Based on EYE’s recent VET Perception Survey it was founded that

“although parents (as the most influential career advisors to students) recognize the employment value in the vocational education, they still like children to take up “prestigious” professions like law, medicine and science oriented professions” leaving the technical oriented professions as secondary or third choice. Therefore, through this campaign which will run from May until the end of the year, a number of topics will range about opportunities in the market for VET profiles, and which education brings the fastest transition from school to work according to real market demand.

4

Development of “School Based Career Center” Model for VET Schools in Kosovo

Aligning with goals of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) to foster the development of career management skills among VET students in order to prevent early school leaving and to bridge the education system with the labour market (employability), EYE and MEST are committed to develop the model of “School-Based Career Center” for VET schools in medium sized municipalities. From February 26 – March 01 a two-day workshop in Prishtina was held aiming to introduce to relevant institutions and stakeholders the key characteristics of the model



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“School-Based Career Center”, which is conceptualized following best practices and lessons learned from two pilot career centers in Vushtrri and Prishtina municipalities. Additional expertise was brought by the organization Business Foundation for Education, which is a recognized leader in the field of lifelong learning and career guidance in Bulgaria.

During the workshop a concept note for development of “School-Based Career Center” Model was signed by four VET schools where the new Career Center will be established.

These are VET Schools “Zenel Hajdini” in Ferizaj, “Nexhmedin Nixha” in Gjakova, “Feriz Guri and Vëllëzërit Çaka” in Kaçanik and “Shaban Spahija” in Peja.

EYE Project will continue to build capacities of these new Career Centers to start with provision of career guidance services to VET students starting with new school year 2018-2019.

5

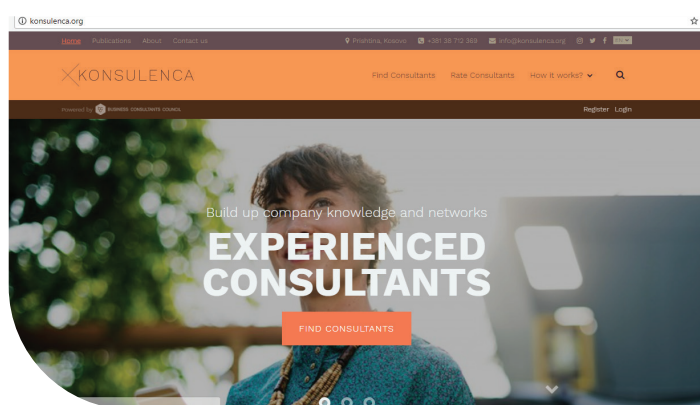
Konsulenca.org an Online Rating Platform for Consultants available now

EYE has formed a strategic partnership with the BCC (Business Consultants Council) to build an online platform for consulting companies and freelancers, Konsulenca.org, to increase the transparency and incentivize higher performance in the market for consulting services. Until now, the platform has more than 160 consultants registered and more than 16 ratings. In June, BCC signed MOUs with nine business associations for using the platform as source for finding professional advisory services. Moreover, videos for the importance of platform were developed and through the social media 60,000 people were reached.

The aim of this platform is to build a transparency of experiences and references of consultants in the market of BSPs fostering trust among potential clients.

Konsulenca.org is an online rating platform for consultants which will drive a race to improving the quality and availability of consulting services in Kosovo.

This platform is planned to be a matching tool between consultants and businesses. The main change that this platform is foreseen to bring is decision-making based on information related to quality and references of consultants. For more information on konsulenca.org check the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=v4jU4a7qDfE



Social Enterprise Boot Camp

In June 2018 in the mountains of Rugova, 10 social enterprises took part in the first of four 3-day boot camps to be held this year. This activity was part of the EYE-funded project, "Strategic Support for Social Enterprises in Kosovo", led by LENS, a local NGO, in partnership with Indira Kartallozi, an expert on social entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs had the chance to learn about topics covering global trends, the meaning of social impact, and redefining their mission, vision and values.



Furthermore, social entrepreneurs used the weekend to network and expose themselves to what other change-makers are doing in Kosovo and learned from each other's failures. The participants will continue their journey with three more boot camps this year covering topics of finance, business models, and pitching in September, October, and November, respectively. This experience will open some doors for social entrepreneurs to grow, become more sustainable, and have a bigger impact in society.

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