

1.

3 Career Centers

in Skenderaj, Prizren and Ferizaj established through 100% public funds

JUNGLE: preparing the next generation of digital leaders

2.



3.



EYE Project launches the latest study:

"Impact of COVID-19 on women's employment in childcare sector"

EYE Project Supports the first VET Summit in Kosovo

4.



1. 3 Career Centers in Skenderaj, Prizren and Ferizaj established through 100% public funds



Successful integration of career guidance services result in better human capital outcomes of VET and improve foster the proper orientation of youth in the labor market, contributing to productivity and economic growth. Until recently, career guidance services were not present in the VET education institutions in Kosovo, though foreseen by the Law on VET in Kosovo since 2013. Students were given little to no support to explore their strengths, analyze labor market information and trends, improve their competencies and choose their career path. The lack of career guidance and counseling is also one of the biggest challenges that prevent the improvement of the VET system. On another hand, one of the key challenges to the socio-economic development of Kosovo is the high youth unemployment, which demonstrates that human resources are not being utilized efficiently, primarily because of the structural mismatch between the education system and the labor market. According to the World Bank report of January 2020, 55% of Kosovar youth (ages 15-24) are unemployed, compared to less than 30% for adults. Around 50% of unemployed youth are long-term unemployed (more than 12 months) and one of the reasons is slow transition from school-to-work.



Responding to this situation, EYE in 2017 developed a school-based career center (SBCC) model for VET schools, fostered partnership between crucial partners - local institutions (municipal education directorates), VET schools, and businesses demonstrated the success of this model to stakeholders, and then worked with them to scale it up in national level.



To achieve this, we applied a four-phase strategy:

1st Phase: School Based Career Center know-how development

Defining and documenting concepts and standards for SBCC functionality, infrastructure, technology, processes, services, professional competencies and training program, and corporate identity, necessary to fulfill its mission in support of VET school for better coordination with the sectors of the economy.

2nd Phase: SBCC capacity building

Setting-up the physical resources (infrastructure and technological equipment) to form a pleasant environment stimulating the effective operations and to be easily identifiable and accessible by clients, and building qualified human resources to run the center and provide combined center-based and virtual-based career guidance services.

3rd Phase: SBCC startup operation and sustainable functionality

Adoption of processes and standards defined by SBCC profile, service development, and fostering partnership between crucial partners at local level (municipal education directorates, VET schools, businesses, and the community) to ensure provision of quality and demand-driven career guidance services for key clients (students and businesses).

4th Phase: SBCC institutionalization within the VET system

Scaling up in the national level regulated by the secondary legislation to ensure the integration into the overall VET system in Kosovo in a sustainable manner through public funds.

Following this strategy, over phase II of EYE Project, **9 career centers** have been established in partnership with municipalities and AVETAE.

Initially the necessary investments for career centers were fully covered by EYE. With an additional commitment on raising the awareness of municipalities and VET schools, EYE has achieved to increase their interest in establishing a career centers on cost-share bases with EYE. Thus, for 9 career centers established during phase II of the EYE Project, approximately 90,000 Euros were invested by EYE, while around 10,000 Euros public funds by municipalities which also continued to cover the operational costs of these centers including staff salaries.

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Our goal is to disseminate this model as much as possible at the national level, through partnerships that will increase investment from public funds. Hence, beginning of phase III, just in 2021, AVETAE (Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education) has established 3 new career centers on their own by investing over 24,000 Euros of public funds according to the model and know-how developed by EYE.



We need career centers to teach pupils how to adjust to the uncertainty of upcoming years, empower them, to identify their skills, to facilitate employment, and to finally equip them with the ability to resiliently navigate the world of work. For VET, career guidance is especially important as it improves the efficiency of education, strengthens ties with the labor market & the private sector, and increases enrollment of prospective students.

2. JUNGLE: preparing the next generation of digital leaders

ENHANCE
YOUR CAREER

Jungle



Digital marketing, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and SEO are undeniably the buzzwords of job hunters around the globe. We think that these are mutually exclusive – some for mathematical talents, and the others for creative minds. This is the contemporary version of the continuous

“Arts vs Science” debate. If you are on the journey of figuring which path to choose, or even if you want to change your career altogether – there is good news for you!

In Kosovo’s case, one of the main problems encountered in the labor market is the lack of employees with market demanded skills. This issue arises because of the educational system which focuses on general knowledge making it difficult for students to identify their niche, or strongest skills to utilize it into paving their career. Moreover, Kosovo’s higher education system stagnates when it comes to offering students up-to-date information curricula involving the latest market needs, newest trends, and innovations. All these factors have led students to be indecisive in selecting their education path and upon finishing their studies they have general knowledge and no market-specific skill. This causes them to feel lost in today’s job market, which is rapidly advancing, and exhaust years trying to figure out what they aspire to do and what career they want to pursue.

We believe that if students are more informed about career choices, the opportunities, advantages and disadvantages, and perspective they will be able to choose a proper career for themselves and start mastering the needed skills from the beginning. That is why EYE has seen it important to support one of the newest training centers in Kosovo which focuses on the digital skills of the future. Jungle training center is a professional training and services outsourcing company based in Prishtina.



The main goal of Jungle is to equip students with digital market needed skills that help them thrive and create better career opportunities. Jungle offers comprehensive learning programs, hands-on learning, real-life projects, job placement assistance, all taught by experts in their fields.

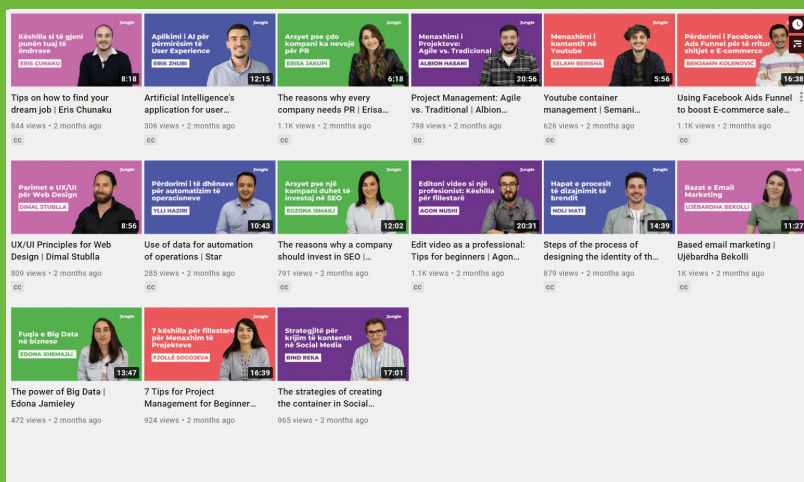
More specifically through EYE's support Jungle has helped interested students understand basic concepts important for certain fields which are in high demand, recognize what are the main skills needed in the market, what opportunities are there for certain professions, and why they should start learning applicable skills earlier in their life.

Digital marketing, AI, and SEO are the future, and it is a bright one with plenty to accomplish.

Upcoming trends will consist of more personalized marketing and data analytics which has already crossed its limits. Thus, increasing the need of informal training centers focused on delivering such trainings requested by the youth and needed by the job market.

11,800
watched
the videos

27,000
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reached



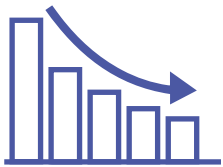
At the same time through the support of EYE, Jungle has jump-started their training center by promoting different career professions through the expert videos, which they offer as training packages, thus by informing, inspiring, and providing people capacity building opportunities.



Since the videos were published on Jungle's Youtube channel and shared through their social media platforms, 27,000 people were reached in their Facebook feed out of which 11,800 watched the videos for 2 minutes on average and gained 244 new subscribers in their channel. In addition, Jungle also organized a virtual career orientation session with Atifete Xhemaj who works for L&D Support, specializing in talent management, human capital strategy, study guidance, career guidance, and job transitions.

At the Enhancing Youth Employment (EYE) project of the SDC, we are constantly looking to support innovative non-formal training providers who offer demand-oriented and socially inclusive training packages. Demand for non-formal training surged during the COVID-19 crisis when all jobs and tasks transitioned online, and every sector started re-evaluating its online presence, establishing a new culture for all.

3. EYE Project launches the latest study: "Impact of COVID-19 on women's employment in childcare sector"



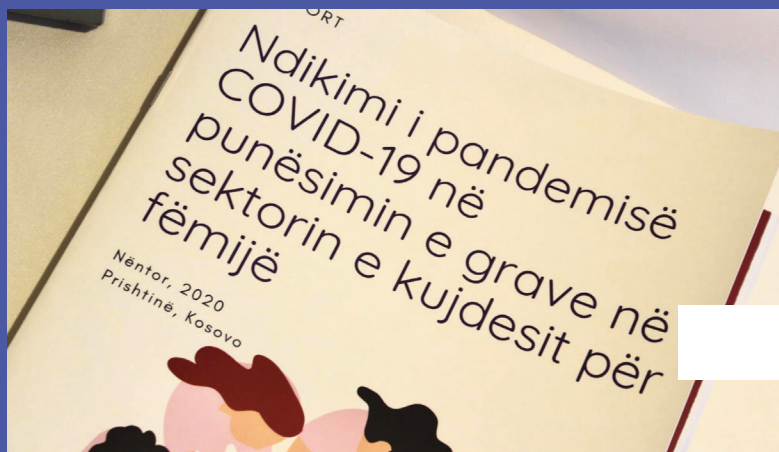
COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected the positive trend towards the increase of the number of children enrolled in kindergartens, as well as the number of women, employed in these institutions, during the last three years, excluding 2020. Namely, there has been a significant decrease in the number of children enrolled, as a result of parents' decision to protect their children from exposure to the virus. In addition, while many of the kindergartens operate with limited capacities, and their incomes have been greatly reduced this year, it has been inevitable to lay off a considerable number of their employees.

Knowing so, during the period of October 2020, Enhancing Youth Employment (EYE) and Association of Private Pre-School Institutions (APPI), conducted a study on the "Impact of COVID-19 on Women Employment in Childcare Sector". This research aimed to evaluate the different dimensions of the impact of COVID-19. Firstly, to estimate the number of employees in the childcare sector, secondly its revenues and number of children served and not last to put a light on the most affected job positions, services, and comparisons of volume of work per employee within this year and previous years.



This study consisted of a total of 67 interviews with representatives of kindergartens, such as principals and/or managers, mostly members of Association of Private Pre-School Institutions (APPI).

EYE project jointly with Association of Private Pre-School Institutions considered the importance to disseminate the findings from the report to relevant stakeholders. During May, together with Private Pre-School Institutions (APPI) organized a dissemination event for relevant stakeholders the first one after the COVID-19 measurements from the government of Kosovo have been announced.



On 8th
of June 2021



an event took
place in Prishtina



where 37 participants
attended the event.

Majority of the attendees were managers or founders of private kindergartens from Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Fushe-Kosova, Ferizaj, Suhareka and other cities which have initially been part of the assessment.



Main findings from the research:

- According to the data, over 40 percent of preschool institutions interviewed have reported 33.23 % decline in number of employees during pandemic. Of this number, the vast majority were female employees. However, 32 percent of them stated that they had only temporarily laid off employees in order to bring them back after the pandemic subsided and the garden became fully operational. During the time they have been suspended from work, over 75 percent of institutions have failed to pay their workers.
- Nearly half of kindergartens and nurseries in the survey reported that government assistance was insufficient. Although a large proportion of them reported that the aid arrived on time, it was not enough. They insist that institutional assistance related to the payment of rent, wages for workers and the reduction of taxes for these businesses should be considered for a certain period until the sector returns to normal.
- EYE sees gender as a key topic in its work and it is mainstreaming some of these questions through all its activities while at the same time looking for gender-specific interventions that will improve labour participation of women.

4. EYE project supports the first VET Summit in Kosovo



For the first time in Kosovo, the Kosovo Manufacturing Club with the support of EYE project and other donors has organized the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Summit to discuss the key role of vocational education and training in sustainable economic growth and development of Kosovo.

Kosovo's economy in general and the manufacturing sector are facing a shortage of skilled workers. This sector has immense potential and can generate significant numbers of new jobs by operating in a dynamic and innovative environment. However, to reach this potential, many challenges need to be addressed and one of them is the creation of a professional workforce adapted to the labour market.

The Summit provided a networking platform for all relevant stakeholders to advocate for the improvement of the vocational education and training system in Kosovo, promote and empower creation of product excellence center to meet the demands of the labour market, develop future skills for VET 4.0 in Kosovo, and increase the cooperation between the private, public sector and donor institutions.



The VET Summit brought together around

150 companies from



Kosovo



Albania



**Northern
Macedonia**

government institutions, academies, business associations with a focus on the manufacturing industry, international donors and internationally renowned experts - to discuss and sharing their experiences and looking at the best practices for creating a more advanced VET system, which will affect the sustainable economic development of the country.

EYE project also participated in the event by facilitating and moderating two discussion panels: "Financial sustainability of non-formal VET providers" and "Improving the image of VET: Career opportunities and orientation for young people in VET", consisting of relevant partners involved in VET education and non-formal learning. During the VET summit, EYE also disseminated key findings and learning lessons accumulated during the last 8 years of implementation, specifically in showcasing successful models of non-formal education and their unique characteristics.