

## V2V internationalization newsletter

Issue 1 - September 2022

### V2V: a capacity-building project for Western Balkans schools

**VET to VET (V2V) is an European-funded pilot project aiming to improve the innovation, modernization and internationalization of VET schools in the Western Balkans.**

It is coordinated by Apro Formazione and brings together ten VET schools, five within the European Union (*Italy, Netherlands, Finland, Slovenia and Croatia*) and five between *Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina*. The logic of the project is based on constant twinning, coaching and support between an European school and a Balkan school, with a bottom-up approach.



### Students mobility: from the Balkans to EU!

During April and May 2022, V2V project gave **20 students from the Western Balkans** the opportunity to do an internship training in European companies in their field of study.

- **In Alba (Italy), 4 tourism and gastronomy students from Budva, Montenegro**, gained professional experience in local restaurants and tour operators.
- **In Seinajoki (Finland), 4 students from Ferizaj, Kosovo** practiced their skills in the social-health and dietary sectors.
- **In Groningen (Netherlands) and Ljubljana (Slovenia), 4 Bosnian and 4 Montenegrin students** worked in machine shops, repairing motor vehicles.
- Finally, **in Čakovec (Croatia), 4 students from Mitrovica, Kosovo**, did their internship at textile companies and hair salons.



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## Storytelling from Budva, Montenegro

**For the first time our Montenegrin secondary school students had the opportunity to make a work experience abroad.** In Montenegro, we say *"the first kittens are thrown into the water"*, meaning that the first time should not count, a lot could go wrong. This was not the case with our four students. **Their wish to gain an international experience led them to integrate perfectly during their work experience.**

Living and working a month abroad is not easy: *communicating in a foreign language, meeting new people, making new relationships, being far away from your family and friends...* But in the end, every party in this mobility from the students, companies and local mentors was more than satisfied with the results.

### This is what Ivona, Nemanja, Barbara and Teodora thought about it:



#### Ivona

"This was really an unforgettable experience; I am glad that I participated in this project and I will definitely apply again for the next one."



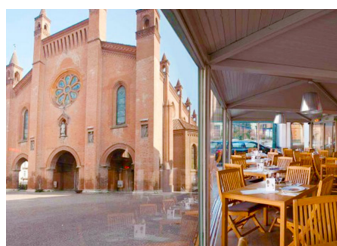
#### Barbara

"For four weeks I visited so many beautiful places with charming and unique old stories. There is so much to see in and around Alba, lovely little towns, beautiful scenery and of course the vineyards."



#### Nemanja

"I will do my best to pass on my experiences to my schoolmates. I hope that they will also be interested in this project!"



#### Teodora

"The place I got an opportunity to do my internship is in the center of the beautiful town called Alba. My working place was the renowned restaurant "La Piola". It was hard work, but it was excellent! I would gladly come back!"

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## Results

Not only students mobilities: much more we have carried out since V2V project began, **20 months ago**, sewing relationships and forging connections between European and Balkan schools.

### In numbers:

- 20 students attending short-term mobilities
- 131 staff mobilities
- 1 training course for 20 teachers on project management and design
- An online repository with information to facilitate the mobility of staff and students among the partnership Countries
- A shared mobility process, with all the tools needed to organize and manage students mobilities
- A glossary of 125 terms about internationalization, mobility, labour market and VET systems
- A capacity building toolkit, to analyse Western Balkans schools' needs and to plan the activities needed to bridge the skills gap
- A catalogue of 90 online courses for teachers
- 5 catalogues of staff visits, one in each European school

All these results are being finalized and will be soon **available in the project website, [www.v2vproject.eu](http://www.v2vproject.eu)**

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## Next steps

### What will happen in V2V in the next months?

A **new round of students mobility from Western Balkans** schools to European Union is coming soon. This time, 10 students or recently graduates will be given the opportunity to do a 3-month vocational experience in a European company, accompanied by an European school, partner of V2V. Calls for application have been opened in Budva, Podgorica, Ferizaj, Mitrovica and Sarajevo and selection procedures will start soon.

Besides students mobilities, also staff from Western Balkans schools is getting ready for the continuation of capacity building actions. Among these, in Autumn 2022 many job shadowing experiences will be realized in European schools, involving Balkans teachers and staff in specific fields of interest, from didactical techniques to vocational practices, from internationalization activities to guidance services.

A community of practice of teachers and staff will be set up online and will comprise two thematic sub-groups, one about *Internationalization & mobility* and *Project design & management* (coordinated by APRO Formazione and SIC Ljubljana), the other about *Teachers & staff training* and *School-companies cooperation* (coordinated by SEDU, Noorderpoort and Gospodarska Skola).

Later on, **during Spring 2023**, three nation-wide conferences will be organized in Kosovo, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro, to promote project results and to set up an environment for training and debate on vocational education most relevant topics.



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**VET to VET**  
CAPACITY BUILDING

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### Vet to Vet Capacity Building

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