

VETpreneur

NEWSLETTER

**Project supporting vocational education
and training in the Western Balkans**

NO.2, JAN-DEC 2024.

The VETpreneur is a project supporting vocational education and training in the Western Balkans. It is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in VET component, in the period from January 2023 to December 2025. VETpreneur provides a series of carefully designed capacity building activities – including mobility of educators and learners from Western Balkans partner countries: Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Montenegro to the EU countries counterparts. The project addresses common regional and also country specific issues facing both youth and adults in the VET sector contexts as per the ETF assessments reports (Turin process reports) from 2020 and 2021. In doing so, the VETpreneur project mainstreams the use of EntreComp framework (entrepreneurship as a key competence) in formal and non-formal VET education and training in the Western Balkans.

In formal VET education, it will be mainstreamed through student company program and development of innovative problem-based entrepreneurial lab's, creation of toolkit and ToT training. In non-formal education and training, it will be promoted throughout VET centres for adults, through the networking events, and the creation of recognition tool.



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Activity:

Toolkit Conceptual Model created

The conceptual model "Toolkit on EntreComp Framework in VET Programs and Practices," outlining the foundation for integrating EntreComp into VET education, is now available on this [LINK](#).

The document serves as a guide for the development of the Toolkit, designed to support teachers and school management in implementing EntreComp competences within VET programs. It proposes a structure consisting of three chapters:

- Chapter 1: EntreComp in teaching and learning, focusing on non-formal learning methods.
- Chapter 2: Teaching units for EntreComp competences, with 1–2 units per competence.
- Chapter 3: A recognition tool for assessing and validating EntreComp competences.



Guide to integrating EntreComp into teaching and learning

The professional development training "ToT on the Integration of EntreComp into Teaching and Learning" is now available on this [LINK](#).



The ToT (Training of Trainers) program is designed to integrate EntreComp (Entrepreneurship Competence) into teaching and learning. It consists of two modules: the first module focuses on the EntreComp framework and is intended for both ToT educators, who will train other educators, and those teaching students. The second module is specifically aimed at ToT educators and emphasizes methodical approaches to teaching. Both modules are structured as a matrix, including objectives, time slots, sessions, key takeaways, and methods. The ToT training will be implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro as part of the VETpreneur project.

The VALI-COMP Recognition Tool successfully finalized

The VALI-COMP model is a set of tools and procedures designed to verify whether a participant in a learning activity has developed entrepreneurial competence. It supports the implementation of the EntreComp framework in education and training, particularly for institutions in non-formal learning. The model is primarily created for non-formal education providers and is meant to be integrated into their programs. In the context of the VETpreneur project, this model will be used for EntreComp-based mobility programs in Serbia, Cyprus, and Slovenia. These programs target secondary VET school staff, VET center educators and management, adult learners, and management staff from CSOs focused on VET and social entrepreneurship.



The link to the model can be found [HERE](#).

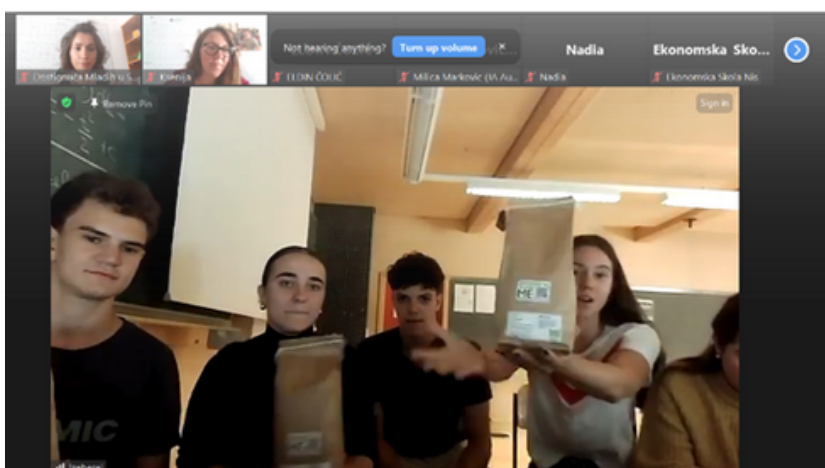
Consultative Meeting on EntreComp Toolkit and VALI-COMP Recognition Tool in Montenegro

A consultative meeting was held at the Bureau for Education Services in Podgorica, Montenegro, to present the EntreComp Toolkit and the VALI-COMP recognition tool. The purpose was to introduce the tools and collect feedback from participants. Attendees included representatives from the Bureau for Education Services, the Center for Vocational Education, the University of Donja Gorica, the Chamber of Commerce, ISWG, and secondary schools in Montenegro. The presentation covered EntreComp competencies, teaching unit examples, and VALI-COMP instruments. Participants discussed the relevance, applicability, innovation, and challenges of the materials, along with suggestions for making them more teacher-friendly.



Mentoring sessions for teachers: An inspiring story of Austrian students and their teacher

Teachers from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Serbia had an opportunity to listen to another inspiring story as part of the activity Mentoring sessions for teachers. This time they were introduced to the student company Treberei from Austria which won the 1st place at the European Student Company Competition in 2024. These students, together with their mentor teacher, produce several types of pasta using the principle of circular economy. They got the raw material for the production of the paste from the brewers, where the by-products of barley and hops remain in the production process.



At the mentoring meeting, the students shared their story about the beginning of their entrepreneurial journey, the organization of work within the team, what they learned by facing obstacles in production and who they managed to connect with in order to persevere and offer their product in markets in Austria.

20 participants from Albania, 15 from Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 from Montenegro and 26 from Serbia were registered for the session. Participants were involved individually or with a class of students from the school.



EntreComp-based mobility program: An incredible week in Belgrade

From November 3 to 9, 2024, a 7-day mobility program based on the framework for entrepreneurial skills (EntreComp) was implemented in Belgrade. The program brought together 50 participants, students, teachers and management staff from secondary vocational schools from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Montenegro. The goal of the program was to develop entrepreneurial skills among young people, with a focus on innovation, creativity and digital literacy.



The participants had the opportunity to visit a number of relevant institutions and companies that are crucial for the development of entrepreneurial and technological skills, among which are Center for the promotion of science, Nordeus Company, First Belgrade High School and School of Pharmacy and Physiotherapy and Belgrade Science and Technology Park.

In addition to the visits, the program also included interactive workshops and sessions dedicated to entrepreneurial skills and digital competences:

Girls Go Circular - A workshop that focused on the inclusion of girls in STEM fields and entrepreneurship through digital tools.

EntreComp Handbook – Participants had the opportunity to explore this entrepreneurial competency framework, which includes key skills such as creativity, proactivity, taking initiative and project management.

In addition to formal activities, the program also included a series of relaxed events that allowed the participants to get to know each other better and build a network of contacts. These activities included networking events, bowling, historical tour of Belgrade and making a digital postcard.

The mobility program was successfully implemented in the scope of the EU-funded VETpreneur project, with a positive response from the participants who emphasized the importance of such initiatives for acquiring new knowledge and skills. Through visits, workshops and informal activities, the participants developed entrepreneurial competencies and expanded their knowledge about innovation, entrepreneurship and digital technologies.

17 Teachers Were Trained on the Integration of EntreComp Framework in Montenegro

The Western Balkans Institute conducted a two-day Training for Trainers on the integration of the EntreComp framework in Vocational Education and Training (VET) through non-formal education methods. The training took place in Podgorica, Montenegro, at the University of Donja Gorica and was attended by 17 participants.



The goal of the training was to introduce educators and teachers in Montenegro to the EntreComp Practicum and equip them with the knowledge to train their colleagues on using the Practicum and its associated mechanisms. The participants included secondary school teachers, principals, university professors, and representatives from the Center for Vocational Education and the Bureau for Education Services in Montenegro.

The training began with a discussion on whether participants viewed their roles as teachers or trainers, followed by a conversation on applying non-formal education methods in formal settings. The EntreComp framework was introduced, emphasizing the importance of teachers understanding entrepreneurial competencies to integrate them into their teaching. An interactive game with flips and toothpicks demonstrated teamwork and practical ways to integrate entrepreneurial skills. Participants were also introduced to the Practicum and VALI-COMP instruments, along with the initiative to create a regional Community of Practice in VET.



The training concluded with the recording of 15 videos on entrepreneurial competencies, which was intended to be used in EntreComp tutorials. This training in Montenegro was the first of three planned sessions, with the next two scheduled for teachers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania.

17 Teachers Attended a Three-Day Training of Trainers in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The second Training of Trainers on the integration of the EntreComp framework in VET through non-formal education methods was held in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This three-day training, organized by the Western Balkans Institute, gathered 16 participants, including secondary vocational school teachers, school principals, and organizers of practical classes. The event was supported by partner organizations MUNJA and REDAH, who also assisted in inviting the participants.



During the training, participants were introduced to the EntreComp framework, its three areas, and 15 entrepreneurial competencies. They engaged in discussions, with each participant presenting one competency and exploring its advantages and disadvantages. The training also covered topics like non-formal education, active training, and adult learning methods, with a focus on applying informal education methods in teaching through group work.

The VALI-COMP instruments, the regional Western Balkans Community of Practice in VET, and the Practicum were presented to the participants, along with activities for integrating EntreComp competencies into teaching. The participants also shared their suggestions on the best channels for promoting the Practicum. The training concluded with the recording of 15 videos on entrepreneurial competencies to be used in EntreComp tutorials.



Third Training of Trainers Held in Tirana, Albania

A two-day Training of Trainers on the integration of the EntreComp framework in VET through non-formal education methods was held for 19 teachers in Tirana, Albania. The training was hosted by Junior Achievement Albania and implemented by the Western Balkans Institute as part of the VETpreneur project, following the development of the EntreComp Practicum and skills recognition mechanism by the working group.



The training aimed to introduce Albanian educators to the EntreComp Practicum and equip them with the knowledge to train their colleagues on how to use the Practicum and mechanism. It began with a discussion on whether teachers see themselves as instructors or trainers, leading to an exploration of the differences between teaching and training, the methods involved in both approaches, and how to engage students in these activities.

The first day focused on non-formal education, active training, and the methods used in non-formal education. On the second day, participants were introduced to the EntreComp framework and entrepreneurial learning competencies. The Practicum, along with the VALI-COMP instruments, was presented to the teachers, followed by an introduction to the initiative of creating a regional Western Balkans Community of Practice in VET.

Project Summary

Project name: Vocational Education and Training Provision with Entrepreneurial Education Uptake in the Region

Project acronym: VETpreneur

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Consortium:

DOSTIGNUCA MLADIH U SRBIJI (Junior Achievement Serbia) – project coordinator

WESTERN BALKANS INSTITUTE (WEBIN)

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ZAVOD ZA SKOLSTVO PODGORICA (BES)

INKUBATOR DRUSTVENIH INOVACIJA – MUNJA

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