

VETpreneur

NEWSLETTER

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

NO.3, JAN-DEC 2025.

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 Herzegovina 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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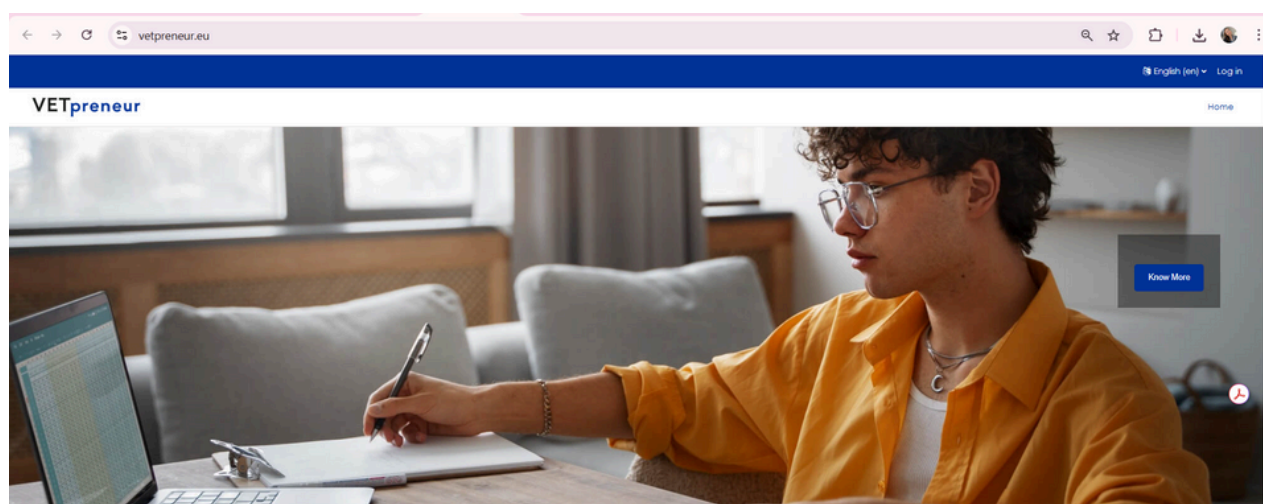


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Activity:

PBEL platform now available to schools in 3 countries

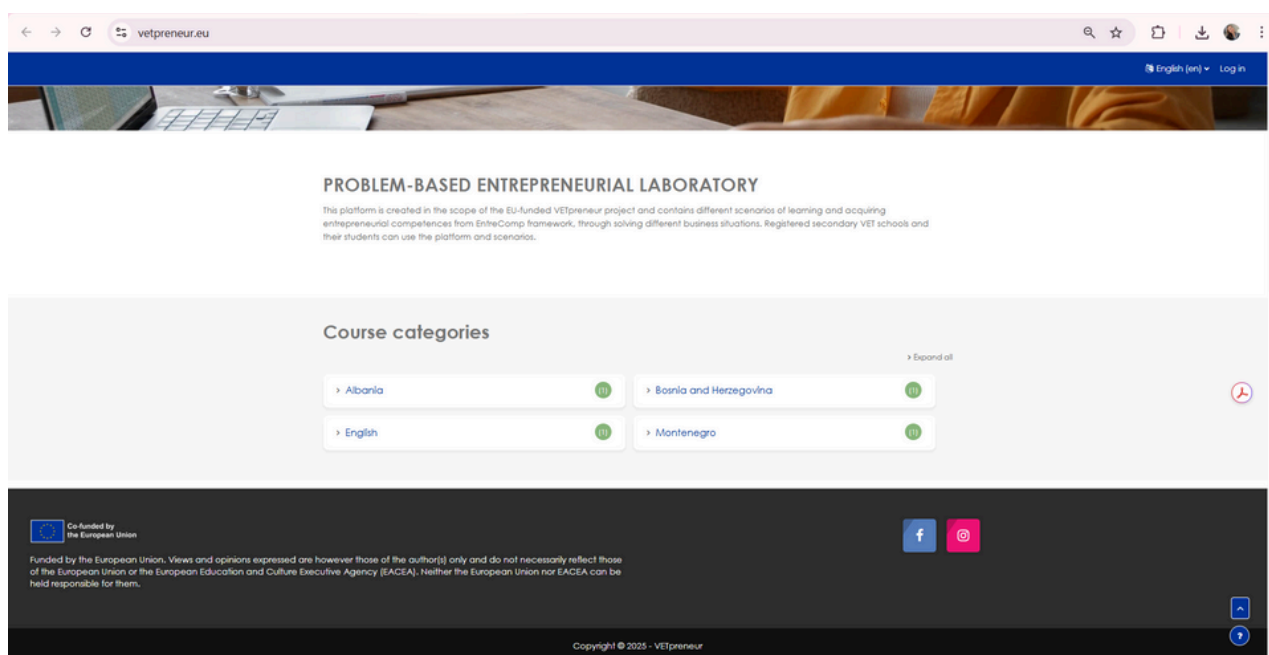
In 2024 and 2025, the project partners successfully developed and launched the Problem-Based Entrepreneurial Learning (PBEL) platform in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.



Guided by the lead technical partner, the Center for Social Innovation (CSI), three fully functional virtual laboratories were created—each tailored to the local language and educational context of the respective country.

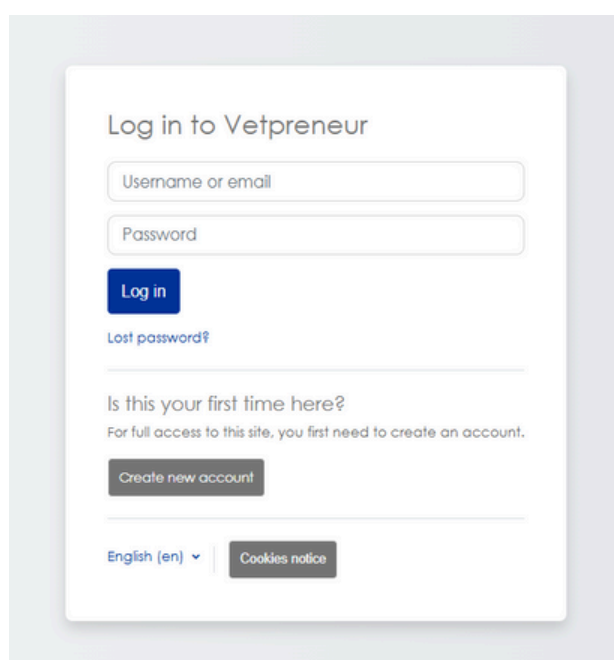
The platform provides secondary VET schools with an interactive digital environment where students can develop entrepreneurial competencies from the EntreComp framework by solving realistic business challenges through scenario-based learning. In 2025, local partner organization began registering schools onto the platform, enabling students and teachers to access innovative, non-formal learning resources designed to foster entrepreneurial mindsets, digital skills, and problem-solving abilities.

This milestone marks a key step toward supporting flexible, inclusive, and digitally enhanced vocational education across the Western Balkans.



The evaluations showed that teachers expressed a consistently positive experience with the PBEL platform. The platform was described as intuitive, methodically structured, and supportive of inquiry-based learning, making it easier to guide students through problem-solving and practical tasks.

Educators highlighted that PBEL strengthened student engagement, encouraged autonomy, and improved the clarity of learning steps, especially in activities that require exploration, teamwork and real-world application.



Job Shadowing program in Cyprus

In June 2025, ten representatives of VET-focused civil society organizations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro took part in a 10-day Job Shadowing Program in Cyprus, hosted by the Center for Social Innovation. Throughout the program, they observed the everyday work of Cypriot CSOs, educational institutions and social enterprises, gaining insight into how entrepreneurship and sustainability are embedded in local VET practices.



Their schedule included study visits, hands-on workshops and discussions on topics such as green and circular economy, social innovation, STEAM and rural entrepreneurship.



The exchange also opened space for new professional connections and potential future Erasmus+ partnerships. Participants returned with fresh ideas and motivation to bring innovative, inclusive approaches into their organizations and communities.

Mobility program in Slovenia



From 7–16 April 2025, GEOSS implemented a 10-day EntreComp-based mobility program in Slovenia, bringing together 23 participants from VET centers for adults across Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania and Montenegro.

Through visits to key institutions, companies and nature sites, participants explored practical examples of entrepreneurship, innovation and local development.



The program also included lectures, workshops and hands-on sessions on entrepreneurial competences, digital skills and adult education tools. Informal activities such as teambuilding, a Ljubljana city tour and a creative “comic jam” further strengthened networking and collaboration. The mobility was highly valued for enhancing skills, inspiration and international learning experience.



The teacher training in Sarajevo



In May 2025, MUNJA Inkubator with the support of JA Serbia organized the teacher training “Student Company – Entrepreneurship in Secondary Schools” in Sarajevo within the VETpreneur project. The two-day event gathered teachers from vocational and technical schools across Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen their entrepreneurial knowledge, experience the simulation of creating a student company, and exchange practices with colleagues.

Through lectures, inspirational talks and interactive workshops, participants learned how to develop business ideas, create simple business plans, and apply the student company model in their classrooms.



The program also included a mini fair where teams presented their projects, followed by feedback and discussion on implementing these methods in schools. The training concluded with recognition of the best project and a shared commitment to further promoting entrepreneurial learning.

EntreComp networking events for VET Centers for adults (B&H, ALB, MNE)

National EntreComp networking events for adult VET centers were successfully held in Montenegro, Albania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina and gathered 47 participants. The event in Montenegro was hosted by BES and WEBIN, the event in Albania by JAA, and the event in Bosnia and Herzegovina by REDAH.

Each event was facilitated to encourage collaboration and to build a shared interest among VET centers in working together on EntreComp-based program development and in approaching policy makers with a common voice.

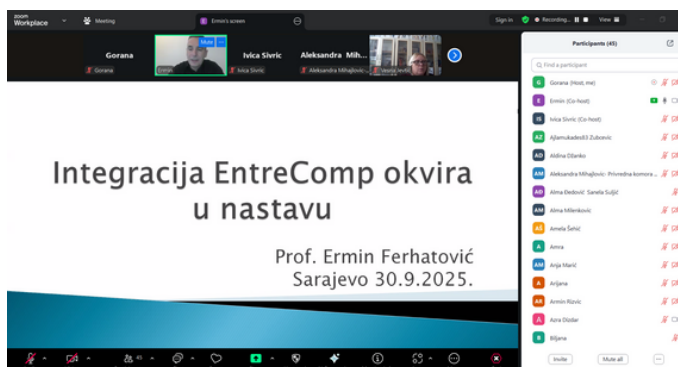


As a result of these events, three national networks of VET centers were established which marked an important step toward strengthening cooperation and harmonizing practices across the region.



Webinars with teachers and trainers

In 2024 and 2025 project partners BES, JAA, and REDAH organized a series of professional development webinars for VET educators and institutional managers in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.



These full-day online sessions equipped over 105 teachers, trainers, and administrative staff with the knowledge and tools needed to integrate the EntreComp framework into their vocational curricula and teaching practices. Facilitated by trained ToT (Training of Trainers) experts, the webinars focused on practical methods for revising existing VET programs, embedding entrepreneurial competencies, and implementing recognition tools to validate acquired skills.

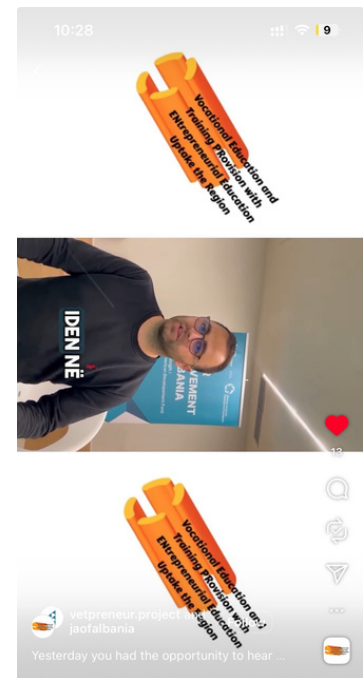
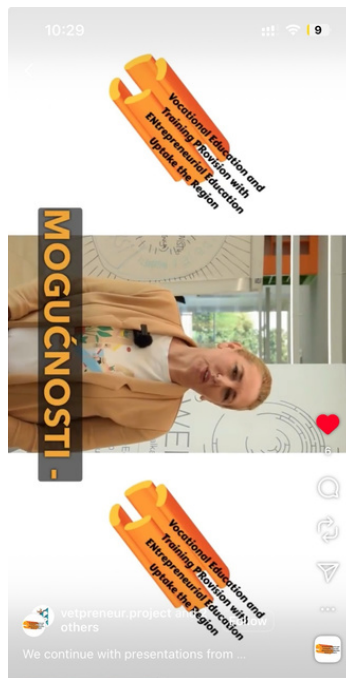
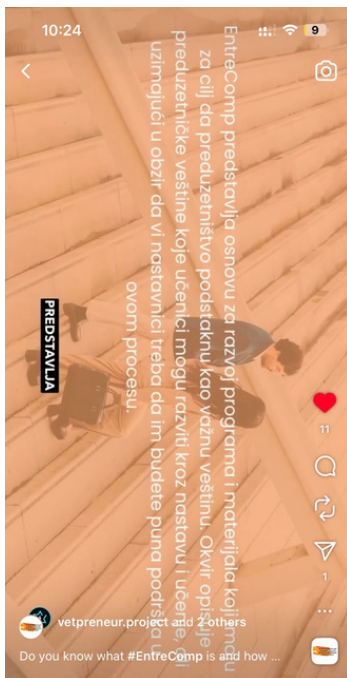
The sessions strengthened the capacity of local VET providers to adopt innovative, competence-based approaches, ensuring the sustainability of project outcomes. Participants gained actionable insights into fostering entrepreneurial mindsets in their students, thereby enhancing the relevance and quality of vocational education across the three countries.

EntreComp video tutorials

During the last project year, WEBIN was in charge of producing a series of instructional video tutorials designed to promote and simplify the adoption of the EntreComp framework.

The videos were created in national languages and featured local Training of Trainers (ToT) participants as narrators. The tutorials provide clear, practitioner-led guidance on integrating the EntreComp framework into VET curricula and implementing the associated recognition tool for validating entrepreneurial competencies.

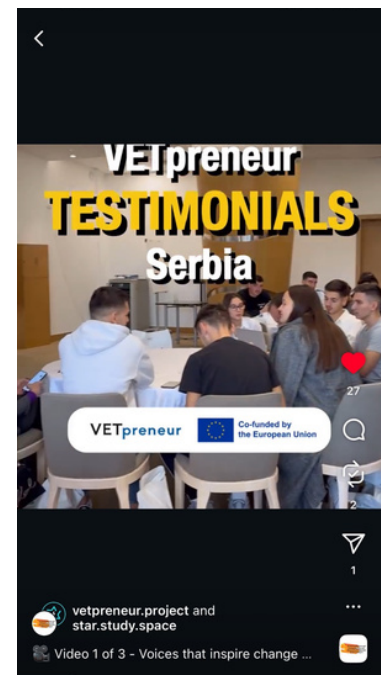
The final videos serve as an accessible digital resource for VET providers across the Western Balkans, offering step-by-step support to teachers and institutional managers in adapting their programs to include essential entrepreneurial skills, thereby extending the project's reach and impact beyond its core activities.



Watch the videos [HERE](#)

Video testimonials from mobility programs

Following the successful completion of all international mobilities and job-shadowing schemes, project lead JAS collected authentic video testimonials from 80 participants across the program's diverse groups.



These reflections were curated into nine compelling 3-minute promotional videos, categorized to highlight the unique experiences of three key beneficiary segments: three videos feature secondary VET students and teachers, three focus on learners and educators from adult vocational training centers, and three showcase perspectives from educators and social entrepreneurs from civil society organizations.



Capturing personal experiences and newly gained skills in entrepreneurship and social innovation, the videos serve as powerful advocacy tools for Erasmus+ mobility opportunities.

Watch the videos [HERE](#)

Final Conference of the VETpreneur Project

The VETPRENEUR dissemination and final conference events marked the culmination of the project “VETpreneur – Vocational Education and Training Provision with Entrepreneurial Education Uptake in the Region”, bringing together partners, stakeholders and representatives of vocational education institutions from across the Western Balkans.



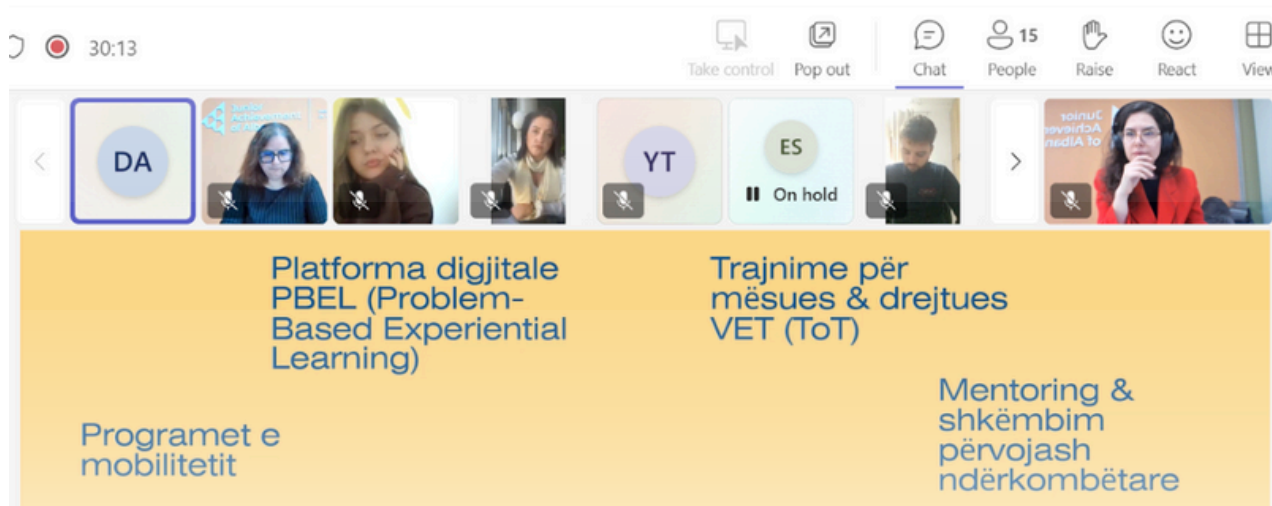
The events were held in a hybrid format, including the final conference on 9 December at the University Donja Gorica (UDG), enabling both in-person and online participation of regional and EU partners.

The events gathered representatives of educational institutions, school principals, teachers, students, chambers of commerce and business sector partners who actively contributed to the project implementation over the past two to three years. The focus was on reflecting on the full project journey (2023–2025), from strategic planning and regional cooperation to the development of concrete tools, trainings and mobility programmes that strengthened entrepreneurial education in vocational systems.



Key project results were presented, highlighting the integration of the European EntreComp framework into formal and non-formal VET through innovative entrepreneurial learning models. These included Training of Trainers programmes, national workshops and mentoring sessions, student company activities, international mobility and job shadowing programmes in Serbia, Slovenia and Cyprus, as well as the development of the EntreComp Toolkit, the VALI-COMP recognition mechanism and the PBEL (Project-Based Entrepreneurial Learning) digital platform.

Particular attention was given to PBEL as a virtual entrepreneurial laboratory supporting problem-based learning, teamwork and real-life project implementation in schools. Teachers, students and institutional representatives shared practical experiences from classroom implementation, mentoring and mobility activities, emphasizing the benefits of experiential learning, strengthened cooperation with the business sector and improved entrepreneurial competences among learners.



The final sessions confirmed VETPRENEUR as a strong and inspiring model for connecting education, entrepreneurship and the labour market, with clear momentum for future growth.

International e-internship program embraces VETpreneur resources

“Doing rural business” e-internship funded by the EU within AGRI-MOCKS project embraced resources developed within the VETpreneur project.



The EntreComp Practicum with ValiComp validation is an integral part of the 6-week “Doing rural business” e-internship. Throughout the program, students and youth workers will engage in learning activities designed to develop and validate entrepreneurship competences through embedded entrepreneurial experiences, assessed using ValiComp instruments. The EntreComp Practicum and ValiComp tools were developed by the Western Balkans Institute within the VETpreneur project (Erasmus+ CB VET Western Balkans 101092503).

The first cohort will start in spring 2026. The program is delivered by a consortium of European and African universities and partner organizations, led by the Western Balkans Institute.

For further information about the e-internship and enrolment opportunities, please follow Western Balkans Institute on social networks, or contact Dragana Jovanovic at dragana.jovanovic@wb-institute.org.

You are invited to CB VET MeetUp Brunch!

Save the date: you are invited to the Western Balkans Capacity Building in VET MeetUp Brunch in January on Wednesday 28 January 2026 at 11 AM at ZOOM platform. On this date, WEBIN and Junior Achievement Serbia will host you and more than 80 VET schools and training centers, representatives of VET authorities from Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo*, local and European NGOs active in VET and chambers of commerce to network and discuss potential project collaboration for 2026 call for proposals under the CB VET Western Balkans.

The Brunch will provide you with an opportunity to better understand the call and what will be funded in the Western Balkans VET, better align with EntreComp practicum and student company model, and meet potential partners and discuss your project idea for the call CB VET 2026.

Registration link will be provided in the upcoming days at WEBIN, JAS and VETpreneur project websites and social networks. Stay tuned and do not miss the opportunity!

Project Summary

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

Project acronym: VETpreneur

Project starting date: 1 January 2023

Project end date: 31 December 2025

FUNDED BY: EU through the Erasmus+ Programme, Capacity Building in VET.

Consortium:

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

WESTERN BALKANS INSTITUTE (WEBIN)

IZOBRAZEVALNI CENTER GEOSS

CSI CENTER FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION LTD

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT MONTENEGRO

ZAVOD ZA SKOLSTVO PODGORICA (BES)

INKUBATOR DRUSTVENIH INOVACIJA – MUNJA

ASOCIJACIJA ZA EKONOMSKI RAZVOJ REDAH

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF REPUBLIKA SRPSKA

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF ALBANIA

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT EUROPE

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