



How can we successfully engage informal companies in Dual VET?

Insights from Dual Bicycle Mechanic Training in Burkina Faso.

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Velafrica is a **Switzerland-based not-for-profit social enterprise-**

For over 32 years, we have exported more than **300,000 bicycles** and incubated **15 bicycle hubs in 10 Sub-Saharan countries**, empowering small businesses and communities with sustainable mobility solutions, skills, jobs and income opportunities.



Sustainability Award
City of Berne



Swiss Re

Charity of the Year

drosos (...)

Award for Innovative Work
Integration of People with a
Migration Background



ASHOKA
Everyone a Changemaker



Social Innovators

ENTERPRIZE

Award for innovative enterpreunarial oriented
Vocational Training programmes in international
context



EHB

SMC

Stiftung

FÜR DAS UNTERNEHMERTUM

WHY WE DO IT



**Bicycle as a sustainable tool
for socio-economic developement**



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

1 NO
POVERTY



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



5 GENDER
EQUALITY





TVET for sustainable use of bikes and income opportunities and education for youth

The case Burkina Faso: Mapping the sector

How can the informal sector incl. informal companies be characterized and how does this influence strategic decisions on the conceptual approach?

Study:

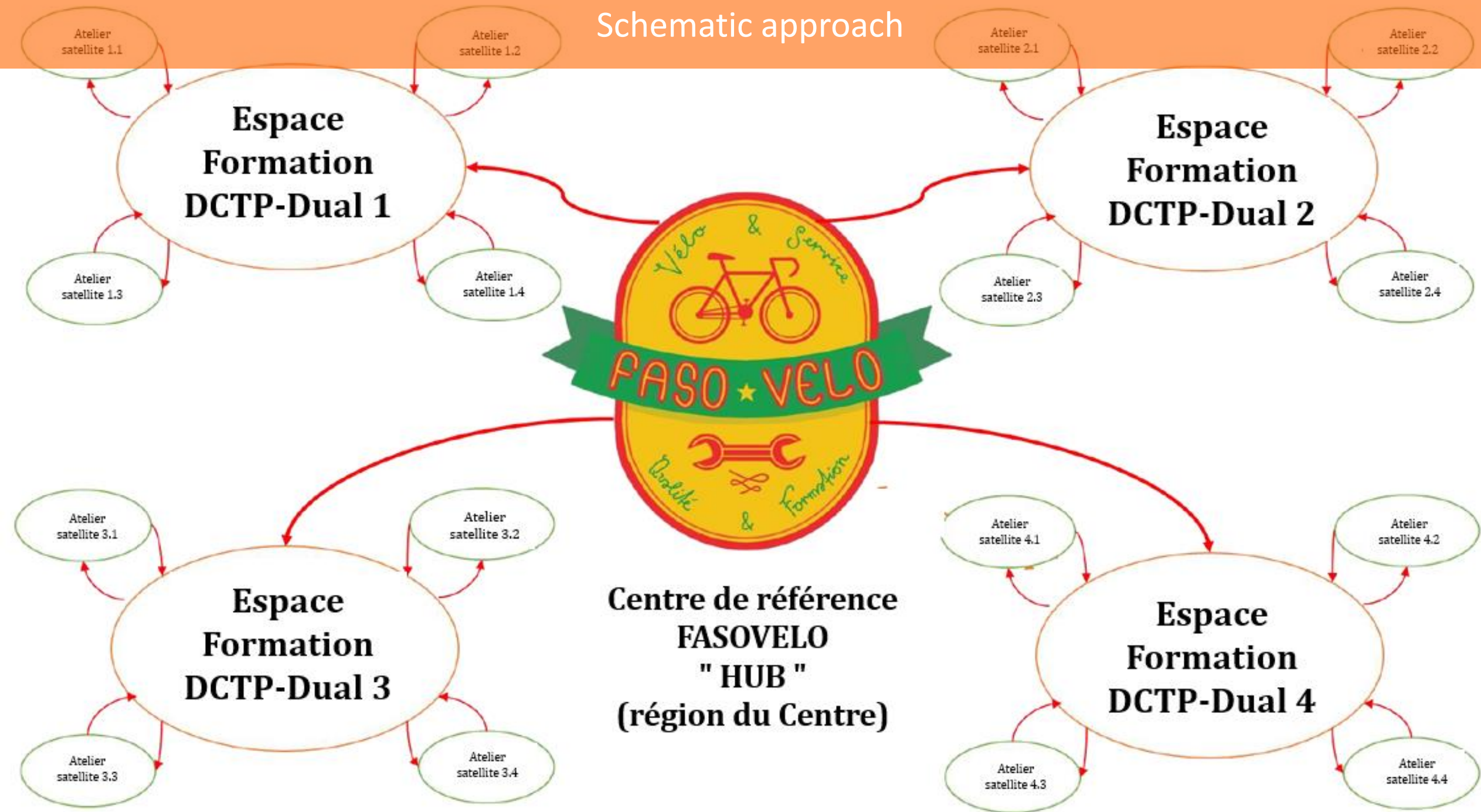
- Interviews of 1'500 bicycle users
- Interviews with 410 micro- and small enterprises
- Interviews with governmental institutions
- Analysing strategic plans on VET of gov and international stakeholders



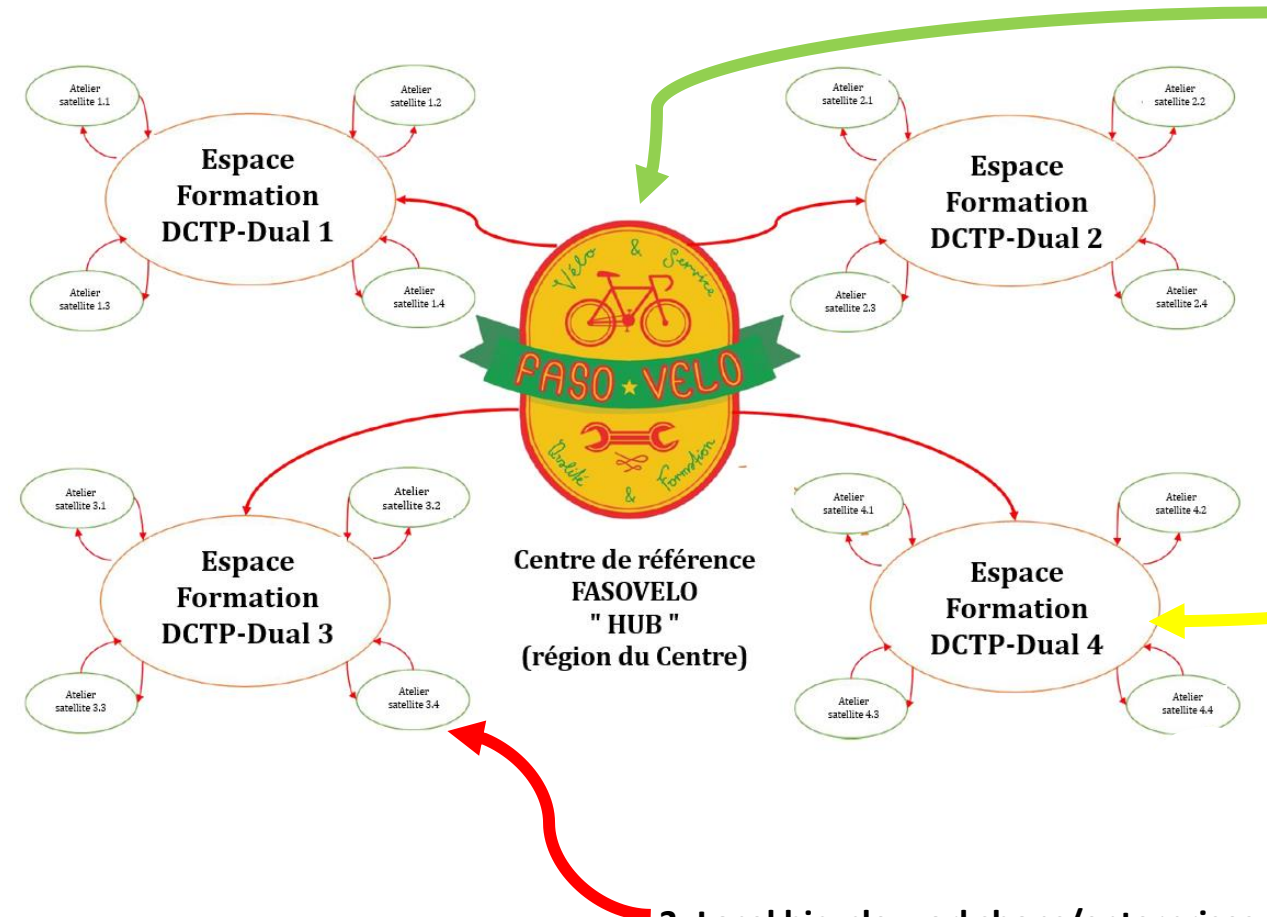
Key points regarding informal aspects of the enterprises:

- **Size:** Micro and Small 1-2 staff
- **Education:** 1/3 primary education level; 2/3 no official primary level
- **Status:** 90% of MSM Enterprises have no official regulatory status
- **Professional association:** almost not existing, only a few are organised

Schematic approach



Conceptual and operational approach of model



1. CERTIFIED REFERENCE CENTER: *Function in the system:*

- is the **supplier of training material** such as bicycles, spare parts, tools, et
- **reference centre** for bicycle mechanics in BF; certified by the authorities
- 33 vocational trainers from DCTP (see Level 2) are trained at the centre in accordance with the curriculum in the ToT approach by Velafrica.
- Reference centre **can carry out examinations with authorities supervision**

2. Decentralised training workshops/facilities : (DCTP *développement des compétences techniques et professionnelles*):

Function in the system:

- are **local, existing workshops (MSES)** in urban, peri-urban and rural regions (33 DCTPs)
- equipped with **tools and training materials**
- **Trained vocational trainers train the apprentices** from the neighbouring local workshops in theory and practice (1 day per week) in accordance with the curriculum

3. Local bicycle workshops/enterprises:

Function in the system:

- **are existing repair workshops** that are located near a DCTP –
- **Appr. have the learning contract** here
- Appr. put what they have learnt into **practice**
- Contact with job reality in the workshop

Operational Results

CURRICULA



QUALIFICATION TRAINERS



DUAL TRAINING



CERTIFICATION



INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK



SYSTEM DEVELOPEMENT



Results on operational level:

- 33 DCTP-Dual Track Training Workshops created
- Training-plans and -contents developed on velomechanics and pedagogy
- 31 ToT Vocational Trainers trained
- 400 young people in dual apprenticeships
- 250 owners of small bicylce workshops trained
- Literacy training in 5 centers



Results on institutional Level (formalizing):

- Validated curriculum at CQB and CQP level
- examination regulations for CQB and CQP signed
- Partnership agreement signed with ministry of education
- Examination session for 30 candidates as future Vocational Trainers



Challenges Encountered

Context of Burkina Faso :

- **Security situation**, changing conditions, fragile conflict-prone environment.
- One of the world's poorest countries. More than **40% of the population lives below the poverty line**
- National, regional, local level **authority engagement**

Realities of informal sector:

- **99%** of businesses are **organized informally**.
- project needs to win the confidence of the informal sector (no lobby or minimal associative structures)
- **Infrastructure and equipment** very basic
- broad distribution of the skills and competencies of the stakeholders

Quality of basic education:

- Many young people **lack access to formal basic education** and basic literacy skills



A photograph of a man and a woman working together on a bicycle wheel in a workshop. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue shirt and a maroon vest, and is smiling as he works. The woman, on the right, is wearing a white shirt and is also smiling. They are both focused on the task. In the background, other people are visible, but they are out of focus. The overall atmosphere is positive and collaborative.

THANK YOU.MERCI.

Break Out Session: Pauline Yaméogo

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