

Schools and Business Partnership for Dual VET

Why it matters



Effective cooperation between schools and companies is at the core of dual VET. When employers provide structured work-based learning opportunities, they benefit from improved job-specific skills, access to a future workforce, and increased productivity. At the same time, students gain relevant practical experience and stronger employment prospects.

In North Macedonia, the dual approach initially functioned as a pilot model, relying on limited legal space and voluntary engagement by companies and schools. For the model to move beyond experimentation and scale sustainably, structured and legally supported public-private partnerships were essential.

What E4E was working on

E4E supported the operationalization of the cooperation between the public and private sector by working at both systemic and practical levels. In practice, E4E supported:

- ➔ The development and adoption of the national Concept for Work-Based Learning, in cooperation with the VET Centre and the European Training Foundation, establishing a structured framework for learning in real work environments
- ➔ The facilitation of concrete partnerships between companies and educational institutions, including sector-specific training models (e.g. in the pharmaceutical sector), co-investment arrangements, and pathways leading from training to employment
- ➔ Capacity building and coordination mechanisms for implementing WBL, including national conferences on private-sector engagement, joint planning workshops for schools and company mentors, and support for programming and organizing learning at the employer's premises

Key Insights

01

Structured cooperation between schools and companies moved from pilot initiatives to organized models of work-based learning, supported by an adopted national Concept and practical implementation tools.

02

Private-sector engagement translated into concrete commitments — including co-investment in training, provision of workplace learning placements, and employment opportunities for participating trainees.

Sustainability beyond the project

By institutionalizing work-based learning through an adopted national Concept, strengthened school-company partnerships, and co-investment from the private sector, the foundations were established for dual VET cooperation to continue and expand beyond the project lifecycle.

Explore Further



EVN Project 20-20-20

Implemented by: