

V2V-IDEA

Project –

VET to VET

Duration

01/01/2026 –
31/12/2028

(36 months)

Coordinator

Apro Formazione

Partners

EfVET

Strokovni
Izobrazevalni
Center Ljubljana

Albanian Skills

Javna Ustanova
Srednja Mjesovita
Skola Danilo Kis
Budva

Srednja Skola Za
Saobracaj I
Komunikacije
Sarajevo

Build Green Group

Centar Za Strucno
Obrazovanje

WorldSkills Europe

Società Solidale



Newsletter Issue #1

ABOUT THE PROJECT

V2V-IDEA project aims to support VET in the Western Balkans by promoting inclusion, sustainability, skills development, and professional growth for both learners and educators. It specifically addresses the needs of teachers, facing professional challenges due to limited training access, and of vulnerable students, SEN learners, and NEETs, whose full social inclusion remains a major regional challenge.

OBJECTIVES

The main specific objective of V2V-IDEA is to support a more inclusive, sustainable and empowering skills development for all. The project seeks to empower individuals, encourage innovation, and promote inclusive, sustainable growth across Europe and beyond.

TARGET GROUPS

VET Teachers, learners and graduates, especially the most vulnerable



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APRO Formazione and the V2V-IDEA Project: Building Skills, Partnerships and Opportunities Across Europe

From the hills of Piedmont to the European stage: how a local training centre became a model of excellence

In the heart of Italy's UNESCO-listed Langhe region, there is a place where education goes far beyond the classroom. At [APRO Formazione](#), training is a living ecosystem—connecting institutions, businesses and communities, while shaping the skills of tomorrow.



Founded in 1958 in Alba, APRO has evolved into a **leading Vocational Education and Training (VET) provider**, combining a strong local identity with an increasingly international outlook. Its structure—a non-profit public-private consortium—brings together local authorities, companies and civil society organisations, creating a unique governance model rooted in collaboration and shared responsibility.

A dynamic training engine

With over **120 staff members**, more than **250 external professionals**, and around 4,500 **learners each year**, APRO operates as a well-established and forward-looking institution. Its three campuses—two in Alba and one in Canelli—offer state-of-the-art facilities, from robotics and automation labs to multimedia studios and hospitality training centres.

What truly sets APRO apart, however, is its deep connection with the labour market: **hundreds of companies are actively involved** in training activities every year. This is not just cooperation—it is a fully integrated model based on **work-based learning**, where education and real-world experience go hand in hand.

Skills for a changing economy

APRO's training offer spans a wide range of sectors that are crucial for both local development and European priorities. These include:

- **Tourism and gastronomy**, in a territory with over 24 Michelin-starred restaurants



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- **Industrial automation and Industry 4.0**, closely linked to a highly specialised manufacturing ecosystem
- **Digital communication and creative industries**, supporting new business and marketing needs
- Healthcare and social services, addressing growing societal demands



This diversity reflects a clear vision: equipping learners with skills that are immediately applicable, yet adaptable to future transformations.

A strong European and global dimension

While deeply rooted in its territory, APRO has built a solid international profile. Since 2009, it has developed partnerships with over **80 organisations in more than 30 countries**, actively participating in major EU programmes such as Erasmus+, Interreg and Horizon Europe.

Today, APRO manages **between 12 and 15 European projects simultaneously**, including Erasmus+ Capacity Building initiatives in third countries, where it contributes to strengthening vocational education systems, fostering institutional development and promoting skills innovation beyond Europe.

In 2025, this commitment was recognised by the European Training Foundation, which awarded APRO the title of **Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) in Internationalisation**—a distinction granted to a select group of institutions worldwide.

Innovation with a social mission

Beyond technical training, APRO plays a key role in promoting **social inclusion and employability**. Its services include career guidance, job placement support and tailored pathways for vulnerable groups, helping individuals access and re-enter the labour market.

At the same time, APRO stands out for its ability to translate European strategies into concrete local actions—testing innovative training models and contributing to the development of skills related to sustainability, digitalisation and active citizenship.

Looking ahead

In a rapidly evolving world, APRO Formazione represents a compelling example of how education can bridge tradition and innovation, local roots and global vision.

More than a training provider, it is a **hub of opportunity**—where skills are built, ideas are tested and the future of work takes shape.

And from the hills of Piedmont, that future is already underway.

V2V-IDEA Project Meeting in Alba

The V2V-IDEA project meeting took place in Alba, Italy, bringing together partners for a productive and inspiring exchange of ideas. The event was hosted by APRO Formazione, a well-established vocational training centre renowned for its dedication to education, innovation and local development.

On the first day of the meeting, the partners took part in dynamic discussions and productive study visits, gaining valuable insights into local best practices. Key sessions focused on developing the project's capacity-building toolbox, designed to support vocational education and training providers across different contexts. Participants also explored early concepts and anticipations for the upcoming

online course catalogue, which will serve as a central resource for learning and knowledge exchange within the project.

In addition, the consortium collaborated on a thorough review of the communication and dissemination plan, examining strategies, target audiences, and channels in detail to ensure effective outreach and long-term impact. Partners exchanged ideas on how to increase visibility, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and maximise the project's reach at local and international levels. A particular highlight of the meeting was the preparation of the project's launch newsletter, including defining key messages, selecting relevant content and agreeing on a clear and engaging format. This milestone marks an important step in sharing V2V-IDEA's progress, achievements, and upcoming activities with a wider audience, thereby fostering greater awareness and involvement.

On the second day, delegates delivered presentations and held discussions on several core work packages. Partners shared updates on WPs 1, 3 and 4, highlighting the progress that had been achieved and outlining the next steps for implementation. These sessions ensured strong alignment across the consortium and reinforced a shared vision for the project's outcomes.

A key focus of the meeting was the anticipation and co-design of an approach to work-based learning that empowers learners and enhances their practical skills and employability. Partners also explored initial ideas relating to National Skills Competitions and mobility opportunities for those not in education, employment or training (NEETs), emphasising inclusion and access to meaningful training experiences. In addition to these discussions, participants took part in study visits, contributed to the development of the capacity-building toolbox, and reviewed the draft communication and dissemination plan. The preparation of the first project newsletter was an important milestone in sharing results and engaging a wider audience.

The meeting in Alba was both productive and inspiring. It strengthened collaboration and provided clear direction for the next stages of the V2V-IDEA project.





Study visits to Montenegro & Bosnia

In May 2026, we successfully completed study visits and initial observation missions to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The study visits to Montenegro, which took place between May 4th and May 8th, was led by Apro Formazione and accompanied by representatives of **SIC Ljubljana** and **Build Green Group**. Partners visited the Center for Vocational Education in Podgorica and organized a roundtable on key topics such as work-based learning, inclusion in VET, green economy, and sustainability.

The remainder of the study visit was hosted by the **Danilo Kiš Secondary School in Budva**, where partners held multiple focus groups and interviews, followed by a final meeting and evaluation on May 7th.

Between May 18th and May 22nd, a study visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina followed. It was led by SIC Ljubljana and accompanied by representatives of Apro Formazione and Build Green Group. Partners visited the High School for Traffic and Communication in Sarajevo and held focus groups with students, teachers, and school administrators, followed by a roundtable attended by multiple stakeholders in the VET process, parents, and company representatives.

The goal of the observation missions was to gain valuable data on schools and their current functioning, as well as to gather knowledge and perspectives on WB organizations' involvement in key areas: inclusion and diversity, green and digital transition, work-based learning, skills intelligence, and employability. Within these visits, the roundtable discussions and focus groups supported the participants and helped them gain invaluable insights into best practices and global trends, which will in turn assist them in their learning, professional growth, and career development.

Study visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro helped us understand and define the progress and growth achieved by schools and other VET organizations in the Western Balkans region since the conclusion of the previous VET2VET project. We also acquired a deeper understanding of the systemic challenges that our WB partner organizations are still facing. Our activities will hopefully address these challenges and help us achieve substantial project results in the long run.



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Vite për mësim dhe aftësi



SIC Ljubljana
Shtetërori i bashkëpunimit të qendrës



Impact & Networking: three roundtables with stakeholders successfully completed in Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Albania

ROUNDTABLE PODGORICA

During the roundtable hosted by the Center for Vocational Education Montenegro on May 5th, 2026, the stakeholders' representatives, after getting familiarized with the activities and expected results of the Project, reported that the project had a great perspective and approach to contribute to real substantial change in the area of inclusive VET education. The inclusion in vocational schools is an ongoing process, but still there is a lot to do in order to achieve all the children to have the same possibilities to gain education, practice during education and employment after school. In addition, there is a lot to do in order to have inclusive school and work atmosphere, and educated, self-assured teachers and unbiased employers. The stakeholders' representatives were from the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, Education Bureau, Employment Agency, Employers' Union, UNICEF Office in Podgorica, also as project partners' representatives - Apro Formazione, SIC Ljubljana, BGG Albania, "Danilo Kiš" Budva and CSO.



Sarajevo - Stakeholder Roundtable & Project Alignment

On May 21, 2026, a stakeholder roundtable held at the PI High School for Transport and Communication in Sarajevo, as part of the V2V-IDEA project, brought together a broad coalition of institutional, corporate, civil society, and international partners to assess the project's progress toward inclusive Vocational Education and Training (VET).

While acknowledging that inclusion within vocational institutions is a continuous process, the delegation emphasized critical systemic gaps that remain. Specifically, further strategic interventions are required to guarantee equitable access across three core pillars:

- **Academic Equity:** Assuring identical educational opportunities for all learners.
- **Practical Integration:** Enhancing access to high-quality internships and practical training during enrolment.
- **Labour Market Transition:** Facilitating equitable post-graduation employment opportunities.



The discussion continued with valuable insights from Ms. Ana Zacharian, Co-Founder of Albanian Skills, who emphasized the importance of lifelong learning, skills development, and youth empowerment in supporting both the green and digital transitions. Together, the speakers encouraged participants to view themselves not only as future professionals but also as active contributors to sustainable development and positive social change.

The event provided an excellent platform to raise awareness about green practices, environmental responsibility, and the role of young people in building a more sustainable future. Through the V2V-IDEA project, more than 60 participants were introduced to the project's objectives and activities, gaining a better understanding of how they can contribute to the green transition while developing the skills needed for tomorrow's workforce.

Empowering youth. Inspiring action. Driving the green transition.

