



Reform of the Bulgarian Vocational Education and Training System BETTER CAREER PROSPECTS FOR BULGARIAN YOUTH THANKS TO DUAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Practical and labour-market oriented vocational education is the core of the reform of the Bulgarian education system. The aim is to bring together the efforts of the public sector and the companies in providing the youth with the skills they need. Theoretical training in schools should be combined with in-company training. The main goal is to have a better qualified workforce which meets the demands of business. This reform should also contribute to the decrease of youth unemployment rate in Bulgaria.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SWISS SUPPORT FOR VET

Switzerland and Bulgaria are implementing a joint initiative on introducing principles of dual vocational education within the formal professional education system in Bulgaria. A significant push for reforms in the Bulgarian VET system comes also from the EU, where dual approach in VET is considered an important ingredient to overcome some of the effects of economic crisis from 2008, in particular youth unemployment. A growing number of market-oriented businesses and industries are pressing the state to reform the education system to better respond to the needs and dynamics of contemporary markets, which require well educated, capable and trustworthy labour force.

PROJECT INTERVENTION STRATEGY

This project aims to establish a sustainable Bulgarian system of professional education, in which vocational education is tightly linked to the demand of the business. It is a vision, in which vocational schools are generating competent, knowledgeable and highly qualified workforce, able to respond to the immediate needs of the labour market. Within this vision the business is seen as a responsible partner to the educational institutions, motivated to invest in their future workers and to cooperate with the State and local authorities. Dual Vocational Education and Training System (DVETS) is considered as one of the operational tools and entry points for the accomplishment of this vision. The main goal of the project is to create a replicable model and the respective capacity for implementing the DVETS in Bulgaria.



SWISS CONTRIBUTION TO BULGARIA

Through the enlargement contribution, Switzerland helps reducing economic and social disparities in the enlarged EU. Swiss contribution to Bulgaria amounts to CHF 76 million as agreed in the Bilateral Framework Agreement. Switzerland is providing support in areas where Bulgaria has claimed great need for catching up, and in which Switzerland can offer know-how and expertise. The areas cover topics such as security and reforms, support of the civil society, integrating minorities, environment and infrastructure, promotion of the private sector, research and education as well as supporting institutional partnerships. The focus is on projects that contribute to enhancing bilateral cooperation and mitigating disparities between least and more developed regions of Bulgaria.



DOMINO Territorial Scope 2015-2017

PROJECT PROGRESS IN BRIEF (2015 – 2017)

During the first two years of project implementation 16 vocational schools in 11 Bulgarian cities joined the project.

62 companies are partners to the participating schools. 425 students chose to start dual training in 5 professions in the field of machine building, electrical supply, gas supply and maintenance, milk production and tourism. New curricula and syllabi for the five professions have been developed within the project and approved by the Bulgarian Ministry of education and science.

49 teachers from vocational schools passed special trainings how to work with the new dual training curricula. 71 instructors from the partner companies have been trained to work with the dual education students.



First Dual Education Graduates in Machine Building in Kazanlak, May 2017



SWISS-BULGARIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME
ШВЕЙЦАРСКО-БЪЛГАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

SUBJECT

Introducing the Swiss knowledge and experience in the field of dual vocational education

COUNTRY Bulgaria

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Developing and introducing in schools and companies new dual-track curricula;
- ✓ Training of teachers and instructors;
- ✓ Replication of the model in other Bulgarian vocational schools.

PARTNERS INVOLVED

- ✓ Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (SFIVET)
- ✓ Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce (BSCC)

TARGET GROUP

At least 15 vocational schools and their partner companies

BUDGET

CHF 3'500'000 (of which the Swiss grant is CHF 3'000'000)

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Project Management Unit embedded within Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science

DURATION 2015 – 2019

PILOT PROFESSIONS

- ✓ In 2015/2016 school year: 2 professions - machine technician for CNC machines and technician-technologist in the production of milk and dairy products.
- ✓ In 2016/2017 school year: 3 professions – electrician, gas technician and cook.
- ✓ In 2017/2018 school year: 3 professions – industrial electronics; automotive mechatronics and furniture production.
- ✓ In 2018/2019 school year: 3 professions – technician of welding machines, thermo-technicians and catering.

DOMINO PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

Swiss Support for the Introduction of Dual Track Principles in the Bulgarian Vocational

Education System

p.evtimova@mon.bg

p.zlatarska@mon.bg

n.georgiev@mon.bg

Internet site:

<http://dominoproject.bg>

June 2017