



# HISTEK

## HIGH SPECIALIZED TECHNICIANS IN KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

**Newsletter No. 1**

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PROMOTION OF THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SME'S THROUGH THE TRAINING OF SPECIALIZED TECHNICIANS IN KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Promotion of the competitiveness of SMEs in the Programme area, by training young people in Key Enabling Technologies (KETs), and creating a culture of innovation. The project HISTEK aims to create a new cross border cluster in the field of Education, in order to promote an innovative network able to implement effective synergies between educational institutions and enterprises, and train young people on Key Enabling Technologies. The project cluster will include SMEs/ Training Institutions/Public Institutions belonging to the three countries, and extend the students' chances to learn new advanced skills and acquire experience in a working environment, before entering the labour market.

## MAIN OBJECTIVES

HISTEK will create the CBC cluster, that will work soundly to develop common tools for assessing SMEs' needs in terms of human resources, and to create common standards to be adopted in the education systems for developing young highly qualified technicians. This represent in fact a strategic framework condition for the development of SME's cross-border market.

The CBC Cluster will be immediately operative, through a pilot action whose key elements are:

1. creation of a CB Assessment Tool Kit to be used by SMEs in recruiting activities of young technicians;
2. design of a new join (IT-AL-ME) CB tertiary education course, to be implemented soon after the end of the project, able to train high specialized technicians with advanced high technical preparation, particularly focused on Key Enabling Technologies. In fact, KETs are considered essential for growth and employment, since they provide the basis for innovation in a wide range of industries;
3. dedicated toolkits and guidelines for improving the capacity of SMEs to deal with practical learnings inside the company and with mentoring activities.

HISTEK wants to offer an effective and sustainable response to CB SMEs regarding the challenge of innovation against the economic crisis.

## WHO WE ARE

- Ministry of Education of Montenegro – Lead partner
- Chamber of Economy of Montenegro
- Foundation ITS "Antonio Cuccovillo"
- Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Artisanship and Agriculture of Bari
- Faculty of Business , University "Aleksandër Moisiu", Durrës, Albania
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tirana

## WHAT KETS ARE?

The education of new generation of technicians is of crucial importance for taking advantages of key enabling technologies application in business environment. The rapid technological progress is underway and the transformation is involving the huge range of sectors from health to production, from judicial system to advertising. Doing business today is faced with raising lack of knowledge and competences.

The integration of Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) in education system is preparing the students for the challenges of new jobs required by enterprises and represents the more efficient education framework for successful technological transformation of business sector.

## WHY DO WE NEED KETS?

We are faced with the challenge of redefining the education system to keep up with the evolution of skills required to solve problems, innovate and succeed. We need KETs because schools should teach the curriculum of the future.

All the evidence shows the shift in what the workforce needs is already underway and that it will continue to grow in the future.

The updated curriculum will be designed to embrace KETs focusing on what the schools teach and how they teach. The future of labor market goes hand-in-hand with the development of new curriculum that must include KETs in order to meet the needs of business sector.



## KICK OFF MEETING

At the project Kick Off meeting held on 6th of July 2018, in Budva it was determined that the most important project result will be an innovative technical profile of the occupation, while the developed and implemented training programs will be an appropriate set of good practice that will be shared and used in the region. After creating a methodology for analyzing the claims of small and medium-sized enterprises for educational profiles that include the necessary competencies and skills, as well as the analysis of technological needs for the appropriate equipment, processes, suppliers, it is envisaged to create a database of SMEs that require specialized technicians in specific field, and the database of existing institutions and programs that provide this type of training in Montenegro. The key value of the HISTEK project is direct involvement of enterprises in the education process and the creation of an educational profile and accompanying training programs appropriate to their needs.



## ZOOM MEETING

On 7th of November the ZOOM meeting was held. The meeting was conceived in a way to tackle all of the relevant issues by going through each WP separately. The objective of the meeting was to give opportunity to every PP to go through all of the activities done so far in order for everyone to be updated about the progress of the project, as well as to stress the importance of the upcoming tasks which are supposed to be fulfilled in order to secure a sound implementation of the project activities.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On December 25, 2018 Ministry of Education of Montenegro (LP) and Chamber of Economy of Montenegro (PP2) held an annual conference, where they discussed the following topics:

1. Financial management (the complexity of tender procedures and financial reports which failed to be delivered in Period 1)
2. Budget of the Montenegrin partners and the so-far expenditures
3. Tax exemption & VAT
4. Project activities implementation strategies for WP T1 and WP T2
5. Presentation of the so-far progress in the process of implementation
6. Planning the activities for 2019

Summing up the achieved work on HISTEK in 2018, Montenegrin partners were devoted to developing strategies for overcoming all of the hindrances in the implementation process, strengthening the structure of project teams and working on communication improvement between Project partners.

As all of the partners faced certain difficulties with reporting in Period 1, this meeting defined resolutions on overcoming these and similar issues.



## HISTEK PRESENTED TO SMES

The presentation of HISTEK project was organized for small and medium sized enterprises on 19th March 2019 in the premises of Chamber of Economy of Montenegro. The HISTEK presentation that performed Ksenija Djukanovic was attended by 23 SMEs.

Djukanovic said that the main project result will comprise the structuring of new education programs and training departments which are supposed to organize practical learning (on-site learning and apprenticeship) beside the theoretical teaching that will be organized directly within SMEs.

The Certificate on competencies will consist of jointly defined criteria on eval-





uation and issuance of certificate on gained competencies (formal and informal) which will be brought in accordance to European Transparency Instrument in order to ensure the final qualification will be applicable in different states and systems within EU.

It will be created the informatic tool "Practical learning for SMEs in cross-border area" which will include guidelines and templates on the models of integration of theoretical contents in practical learning process aimed at ensuring valid technical and operative directions on how to organize practical teaching within SMEs in cooperation with education institutions. It will also be created the "Guide for Mentors in SMEs" that defines the working methods intended for strengthening the student-mentor relation in learning process established according to dual education principles. The guide will be focuses on "Developing company-mentor partnership" and "Mentoring Strategy".

There were presented the results of Survey conducted by Chamber of Economy for the purpose analysis of SMEs needs for key enabling technologies. Ms Djukanovic emphasized that schools are already showing interests to upgrade their education programs by incorporating the occupational profile the lack of which was mostly indicated within the Survey of SMEs. The representatives of SMEs were said that their most precious contribution is participation in practical learning within new training programs in cooperation with schools.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Steering Committee meeting of project partners will be held on 7th May in Durres. There will be presented the each country reports on analysis of SMEs needs for new occupational profiles in key enabling technologies as well as the analysis on existing education and training institution. The overall HISTEK Project program, financial and administrative performance will be overviewed through submitted Progress Reports and proposals for more efficient implementation in coming period.



PROMOTION OF THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE MONTENEGRO SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES THROUGH EARLY TRAINING PROGRAMS AREABY TRAINING EARLY TRAINING OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

