

Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 9 “To Invest in People and Skills”

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*"Enhanced Competitiveness and
Employability through Innovative Work
Based Learning"*

**Project idea developed by KulturKontakt
Austria on behalf of the Austrian Federal
Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture**

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Overall objective

contribute to competitiveness and the fight against youth unemployment, especially of disadvantaged groups, through enhanced work based learning (WBL) policies and practices in EUSDR countries

Specific objective

- knowledge transfer on national developments and new forms of governance in the field of WBL among key stakeholders for WBL in the partner countries
- development of regional policy learning practices for strengthening WBL - with a specific focus on challenges for WBL and success factors for overcoming them
- establishment of communities of good practice in developing stakeholders collaborative approaches to WBL at local, national and at regional levels

Major target groups

- **Policy Makers:** representatives of Ministries of Education, Labour and Economy
- **VET providers:** Agencies for VET, VET schools
- **Business sector:** representatives of social partners, companies
- **indirect beneficiaries:** young people

Major activities of the project

Establishment of national and (macro-)regional platforms of dialogue on WBL - analyses of challenges encountered in WBL and of success factors for good practice examples

Support to national policy making/implementation on strengthening WBL - consultancy on e.g. legal framework, establishment of quality assurance mechanisms, funding mechanisms, assessment of learning outcomes; public awareness raising campaigns; capacity building for key stakeholders ; regional peer learning visits

Identification of good practice examples for innovative collaborative approaches to WBL development - developing them into communities of good practice, support to networking/peer learning, capacity development

Key outputs and results of the project

- A better understanding for success factors of and capacity for enhanced WBL has been built among key stakeholders in WBL
- Communities of good practice have developed and implemented innovative approaches to meeting the challenges of high quality WBL and have shared them at national and regional level
- first policy steps to extend the scope and quality of WBL in the partner countries have been undertaken

Key impact of the project

- Enhanced quality and scope of WBL contributes to the quality of VET provision and employability
- communities of good practice on collaborative WBL have established innovative forms of co-operation between relevant stakeholders from the fields of education, labour market and economy
- regional platforms for policy/practice learning as well as a regional network of communities of good practice facilitate peer learning and regional co-operation among key stakeholders in the partner countries

Next Steps

- Technical assistance for developing a project proposal has been granted in the framework of the EUSDR

January - December 2014

- Identification of potential source of funding: most likely Danube Region Programme
- Identification of potential partners
- Process of project development - clear outline + timeline by February 2014

Support from the Steering Committee

- Further expression of interest from represented countries: Institutions responsible for WBL, e.g. Agencies for VET respectively departments for VET in Ministries of Education of partner countries, and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. research institutions, social partners)

Thank you!