

**Interreg
Danube Region**

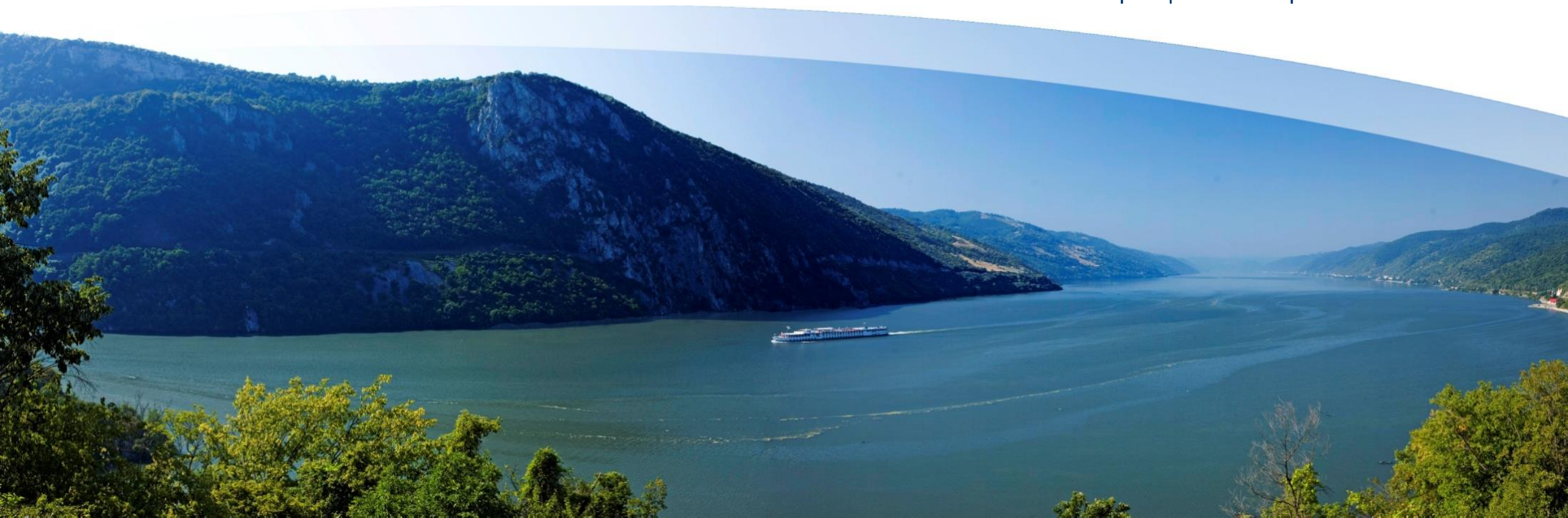


Co-funded by
the European Union



ESF Network in the Danube Region. A Vision for Macro-Regional Strategic Cooperation

Split | 23-24 September 2024





Objectives



Developing a common understanding of the role of the EU Danube Strategy in relation to the ESF/ESF+;



Embedding of the EUSDR in the national programmes of the ESF+;



Improvement of cooperation between Managing Authorities/Programme Representatives to strengthen know-how transfer and coordination on common topics;



Facilitation of transnational cooperation.



Common Policies

Common Policy Areas*



Women in the
Labour Market



Digitalisation



Vocational Training



Social Entrepreneurship



Inclusion of Roma/
Vulnerable Groups



Ageing Population



Life-long Learning



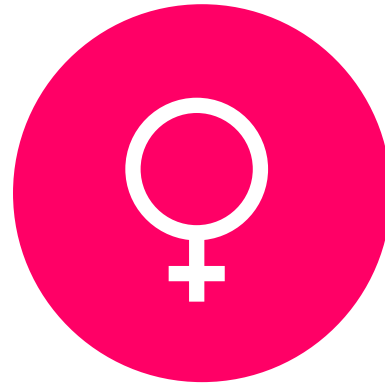
Social Innovation

*) As identified at the 7th Meeting of the ESF Network in the Danube Region in December 2020.

Common Policy Areas*



Inclusion of Roma/
Vulnerable Groups



Women in the
Labour Market



Vocational Training



Ageing Population

*) As specified at the 10th Meeting of the ESF Network in the Danube Region in July 2022.



Next steps



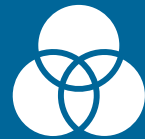
Exploring options for transnational cooperation
(at programme & project level);



Expanding the network to include all countries of the
Danube Region.



Implementing transnational cooperation



Matching specific objectives/topics



Transnational partner network



Timeframes for implementation



Platform for mutual learning



Set-up of the programme (e.g. calls, eligibility rules)



Transnational exchange on policy/project development



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Implementing Labour Market and Social Policies in the context of ESF+ in the Danube Region - Croatia

11th Meeting of ESF Network in the Danube Region

Split, 24-25 September 2024



ESF+
Učinkoviti ljudski
potencijali



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Programme Efficient Human Resources 2021-2027

Allocation 1.85 billion euros

Key areas of investments:

- employment and increasing the level of skills
- social inclusion
- education and lifelong learning
- health and long-term care

Programme Priorities

Programme Priorities:

1. Inclusive labour market and promoting employment
2. Education and lifelong learning
3. Social inclusion
4. Health care
5. Youth employment
6. Social innovations
7. Material deprivation



Inclusive Labour Market and Promoting Employment



Priority 1 – SO a) key activities

- Active Labour Market Policies: self-employment, internship, employment support
- JOB+ (POSAO+) individual package of measures
- Voucher system for education
- Social entrepreneurship and social innovations (EUSDR)
- Activation of women for the labour market (EUSDR)



Priority 1 – SO b) key activities

- Digital modernization of labour market institutions
- Portal for monitoring the labour market and mapping skills
- Occupational standards - creation of new and revision of existing
- Strengthening the capacity of social partners
- Raising awareness of the harmfulness of undeclared work



Youth Employment

Priority 5 – SO a) and f) key activities



- Young people – up to 30 years
- Active Labour Market Policies: self-employment, internship, employment support
- JOB+ (POSAO+) individual package of measures
- Activation of young people (EUSDR)
- NEET mapping and tracking system
- ALMA (EUSDR)
- Scholarships for vulnerable groups in higher education
- Practices in higher education



Social inclusion

Priority 3 – SO h) key activities



- Comprehensive diagnostics of poverty and social exclusion
- Academy of Social Welfare
- Strategic framework for gender equality and preventing violence
- Social inclusion through culture, sport and art
- Strengthening CSOs to implement active aging and financial literacy

Priority 3 – SO i), j) and k) key activities



- Long-term integration support (EUSDR)
- Strengthening the capacity of CSOs for long-term integration
- Equality, participation and inclusion of Roma
- Development of non-institutional social services
- WISH (ZAŽELI) – non-institutional long term care programme
- Strengthening the foster care system
- CSOs capacities



Social Innovations

Priority 6 – SO j) and k)



- Centers in local communities with majority Roma population
- Development of innovative non-institutional social services:
 - leave from care intended for families who care for a family member who is completely dependent on their support
 - peer support
 - development of integrated health and social services
 - development of innovative programs for the improvement of parental competences

EUSDR in ESF+ Programme in Croatia (Labour Market and Social Inclusion)

- Cooperation through project partnerships at the user level
- Social entrepreneurship and social innovations
- Activation of women for the labour market
- Activation of young people
- ALMA
- Long-term integration support

EUSDR in ESF+ Programme in Croatia (Education)

- VET regional competence centers
- Support to educational institutions with a large number of Roma students

Thank you for the attention!

Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy
Directorate for management of EU operational programmes
Ivana Šarić- Head of Department for Public Policy Coordination

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[https://esf.hr/esfplus/
esf.info@mrosp.hr](https://esf.hr/esfplus/esf.info@mrosp.hr)

Update on Transnational Cooperation Activities in Baden-Württemberg

Una Schneider

11th Meeting of the ESF Network in the Danube Region

24th and 25th September 2024



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Baden-Württemberg

Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Integration

Professional (re)integration of people experiencing violence or prostitution

- Projects: *#Perspective Rahab, R.O.S.A. Roma women from Eastern Europe strengthen through work* and *Via Nova Plus*
- Advice and support to people, especially women, seeking a professional reorientation and supporting with a return program to country of origin
- Cooperation networks with counseling centres in countries of origin (Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic)
- 70 participants in total planned
- Duration each project 01.01.2023- 31.12.2025
- ESF contributions around 310.000 € in total



EAST-Donau

- Female doctoral candidates from the Danube region (Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria) as well as among Ukrainian refugee women in Germany
- Mentoring program to empower highly qualified women to pursue an academic career as university professor in Germany
- Transnational exchange with partner universities as well as relevant actors of local politics, administration and business
- 30 participants planned
- Albstadt-Sigmaringen University of Applied Science
- Duration 01.07.2023 – 30.06.2028
- ESF contributions 95.092,26 €



AITA 2024

- Single mothers and unemployed women who take care of family members
- Participants are coached and supported to find and take part in part-time qualification opportunities
- Transnational exchange with similar projects (e.g. ABZ Frauenberufszentrum Wien)
- 235 participants planned
- Arbeitslosenselbsthilfeorganisation Schwäbisch Gmünd a.l.s.o . e.V.
- Duration 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2024
- ESF contributions 748.439,51 €



Go.for.europe

- Support for apprentices and training managers from SMEs for internships abroad in EU countries
- "all-round service package" with regard to advice and implementation
- Transnational network with numerous partner organisations
- Work placements in Baden-Württemberg to groups of apprentices from the Danube region
- 800 participants planned (2.700 small-scale participations)
- Joint project of the business community in Baden-Württemberg
- Duration 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2025
- ESF contributions 753.199,94 €



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Baden-Württemberg
Ministerium für Soziales, Gesundheit und Integration

Thank you for listening!





The ESF+ Social Innovation+ initiative

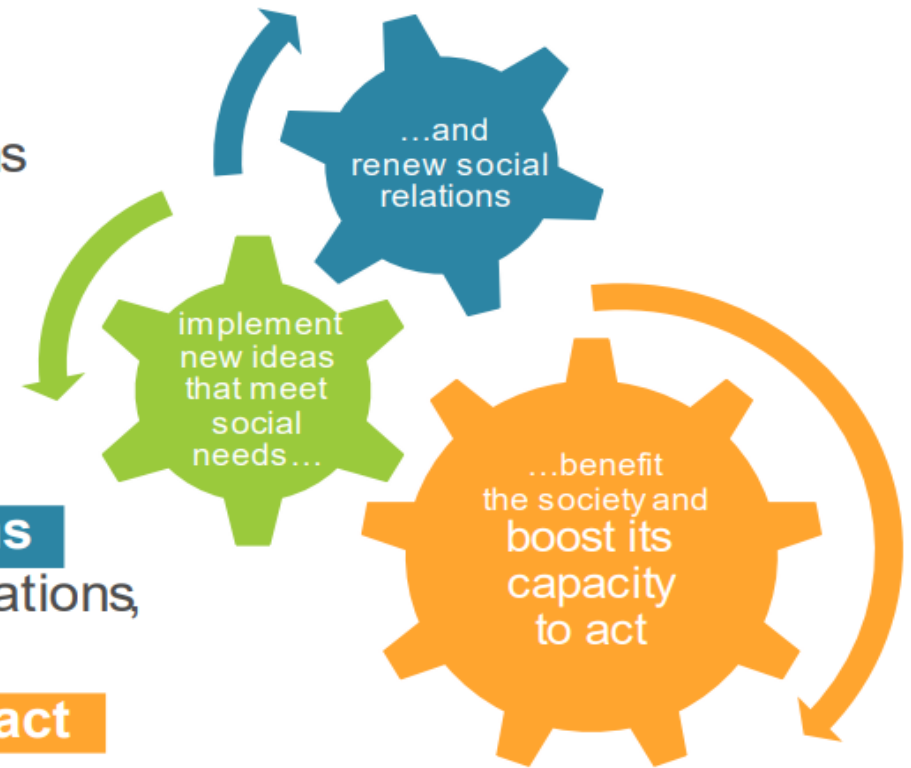
ESF+ Network in the Danube region

Lucrezia Ioannoni Fiore
DG EMPL – European Commission

What is Social Innovation?

Art 2 (c) of the ESF + regulation:

‘social innovations’ mean activities, that are social both as to their ends and their means and in particular those which relate to the development and implementation of **new ideas** (concerning products, services, practices and models) that simultaneously **meet social needs** and **create new social relationships or collaborations** between public, civil society and/or private organisations, **thereby benefiting society and boosting its capacity to act**



How does the ESF+ support social innovation?

Funding/level

EaSI
social
experimentation
(25 c)

Direct management

ESF+ in the
Member States
(14.1 and 14.4)

Shared
management

ESF+ Social Innovation+
(25. i)
European competence centre for social
innovation:
(14.6)

Indirect management - ESFA

ESF+ in the Member States (14.2
and 14.4)

Shared management

Innovation phase

Phase of creating new ideas/solutions:
social innovation projects



Transnational piloting projects
for scaling



Mainstreaming:
replication – reforms



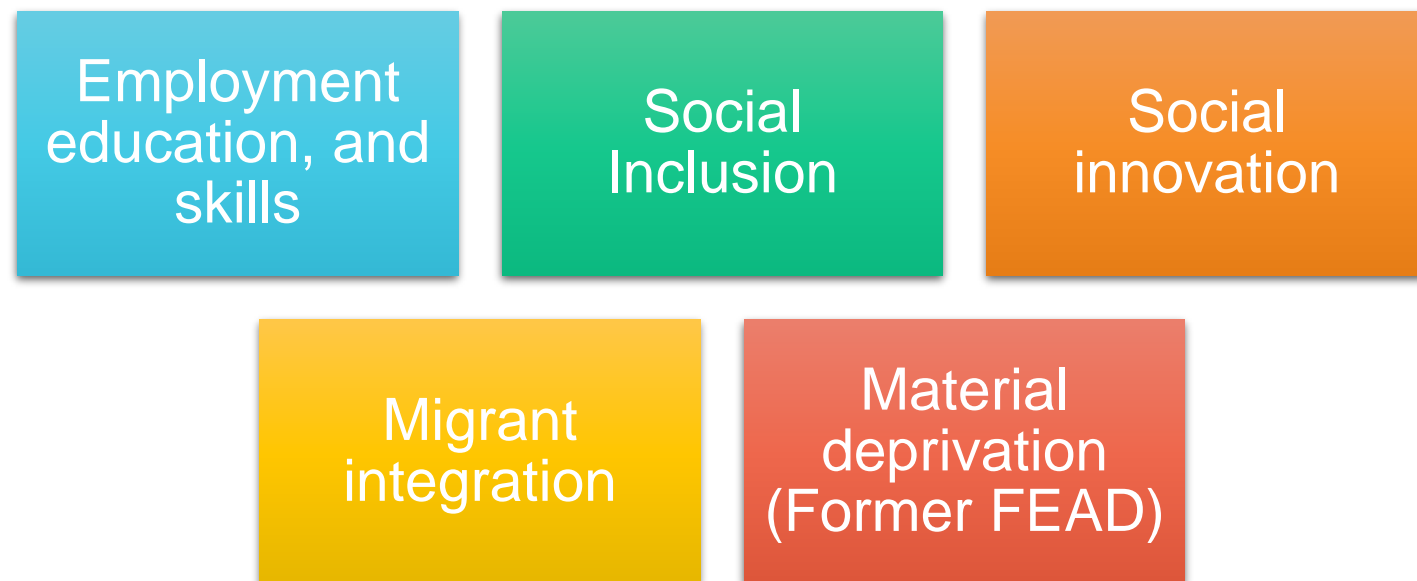
ESF+ Social Innovation+ initiative: Calls for proposals

Call	Budget	Call announced	Deadline	Projects funded	Grant amount
ALMA (Aim-Learn-Master-Achieve)	15 MEUR	15 December 2022	15 March 2023	29 (Link)	11,6 MEUR
National Competence Centres for Social Innovation: Building-up and consolidating their capacity	8 MEUR	17 August 2023	18 December 2023	5	8,7 MEUR
Social Innovations for the upskilling of vulnerable young people and NEETs	9 MEUR	10 November 2023	27 March 2024		
Innovative approaches to mitigate the societal consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine within EU Member States	22 MEUR	24 January 2024	30 May 2024		
Demand driven territorial approaches to tackle long-term unemployment	23 MEUR	18 April 2024	30 September 2024		

Two upcoming calls in 2025: **Disability Employment Package** and **Child poverty**

ESF+ Social Innovation+ initiative: Knowledge Sharing

Communities of Practice (CoP)



Networks



Events - Communities of Practices & Networks



Delivered in 2023

44 events:

39 events of the CoPs & Networks
(**2** joint events)

5 events to support beneficiaries
of ESF+SI+ calls (**1** joint event with
Network)

15 onsite



Planned for 2024

48 events:

38 events of the CoPs & Networks
(**5** joint events)

23 onsite

10 events to support beneficiaries
of ESF+SI+ calls (**7** joint events with
CoPs)

Social Innovation Forum (1-2 October, 2024, Brussels)

Links and contacts

Websites

<https://socialinnovationplus.eu/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en>

Calls and CoPs/Networks

<https://socialinnovationplus.eu/transnational-calls/>

<https://socialinnovationplus.eu/knowledge-sharing/>

Social Innovation Match (SIM) – database

<https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en/social-innovation-match>

Contacts

ESFA: cop@socialinnovationplus.eu; events@socialinnovationplus.eu

European Commission: Bogdan.Deleanu@ec.europa.eu; Lucrezia.ioannoni-fiore@ec.europa.eu

ALMA Initiative

(Aim-Learn-Master-Archive)



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za zaposlovanje

Background information about ALMA Initiative

- **Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve', ALMA** is an active-inclusion initiative for disadvantaged young people (aged 18-30 years) that are **not in employment, education or training**. (NEET's) .Through mentoring support, it offers participants a supervised work-related learning experience for a period of 2 to 6 months in another EU Member State.
- **In May 2022**, technical meeting for the launch of the ALMA Initiative was co-organized by the Employment Service of Slovenia, EC and the transnational network TLN-Mobility, **predecessor to ALMA Network**.



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Background information about ALMA Initiative

- **In late 2022** the Commission launched a **pilot call (indicative budget €15 million)** to help EU countries and regions to integrate ALMA in their ESF+ programmes, by piloting or scaling up an ALMA type of activity.
- **29 grant agreements were signed. Other ALMA projects are co-funded through national ESF + programmes.**



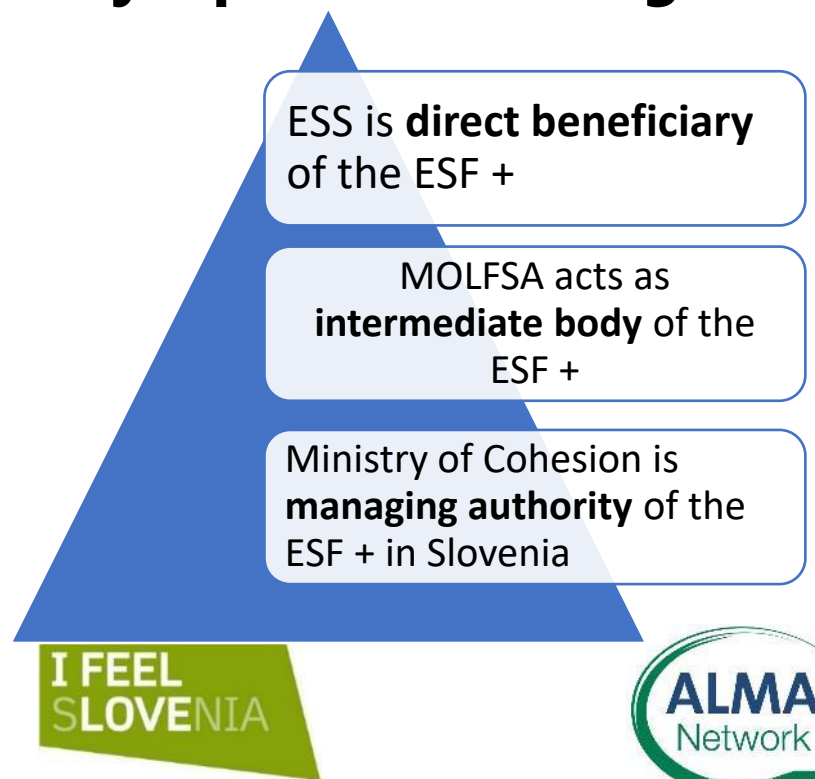
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za zaposlovanje

Implementation of ALMA Initiative in Slovenia

- Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS) is **implementing organization for ALMA** Slovenia Initiative. ALMA is a labour market measure (it complements the Slovene Active Employment Policy). ALMA Initiative is integrated to the
- **European Cohesion Policy Operational Programme 2021–2027, co-funded by the ESF +**



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ALMA Slovenia Initiative – kick off project

2017-2022
Slovene Mobility Scheme –
PILOT PROJECT

- 189 participants were included (realisation)
- TLN – Mobility Network

2024- 2028
ALMA Initiative Slovenia

- 130 participants included (goal)
- ALMA Initiative Network



Skupnina
Evropska unija



6-month MENTORING programme

IT IS A 2+2+2 stages TIMELINE

STAGE 1

PREPARATION TO
MOBILITY
(2 MONTHS)

ACTIVATION



STAGE 2

MOBILITY IN ANOTHER
EU COUNTRY AND
WORK-RELATED
LEARNING EXPERIENCE
(70 DAYS)

EMPOWERMENT-
I can do it.



STAGE 3

**FOLLOW-UP
ACTIVITIES**

EVALUATION, OF MOBILITY,
(skills and work
experiences gained,
developed, boosted)
(1-2 months)

INTEGRATION



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ALMA Slovenia Initiative – target group

- Young NEET's aged 18-35 years, mixed groups.
- Priority to inclusion is given to the long term unemployed (12 months or more) and:
 - those without relevant work experience,
 - migrant background,
 - participants with low education,
 - mentally challenged,
 - those with multiple disadvantages.



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ALMA Slovenia Initiative – the value of mentoring support

- ☐ Each participant gets his/her own mentor.
- ☐ During individual mentoring sessions mobility plan is drafted.
- ☐ Personal and occupational skills and experiences that participants want to develop or improve during the mobility stage are being identified.



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ALMA Slovenia Initiative – target group reach out

- We are able to reach registered NEET's through Slovene ESS Regional Offices (12) and Job Centres (58).
- We do information campaigns and communicate with network of job counsellors on a regular basis about possibilities of inclusion into ALMA programme.
- We promote ALMA externally, we want to encourage also non registered NEET's to join our programme.



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THANK YOU.

ana.klinar@ess.gov.si



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Boosting Skills to Improve Employability Individual Learning Accounts

Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy

Directorate for Labour Market and Employment

Split, Croatia September 2024



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mrosp.gov.hr

The rate of participation in adult education in Croatia

● **27,3%**

The rate of participation in
adult education
(previous 12 months 2022)

● **46.6%** EU27

● **6.4%**

The rate of participation in adult
education
(in the previous 4 weeks of 2023)
INCREASE IN RELATION TO 2022(4.9%)

● **12.8%** EU27

● **long-term goal that by 2030, 55% of the adult population will participate in lifelong education**

THE IMPORTANCE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Skills as the foundation of a successful and dynamic society

Inevitability of upskilling/reskilling of the workforce in order to adapt to rapid changes

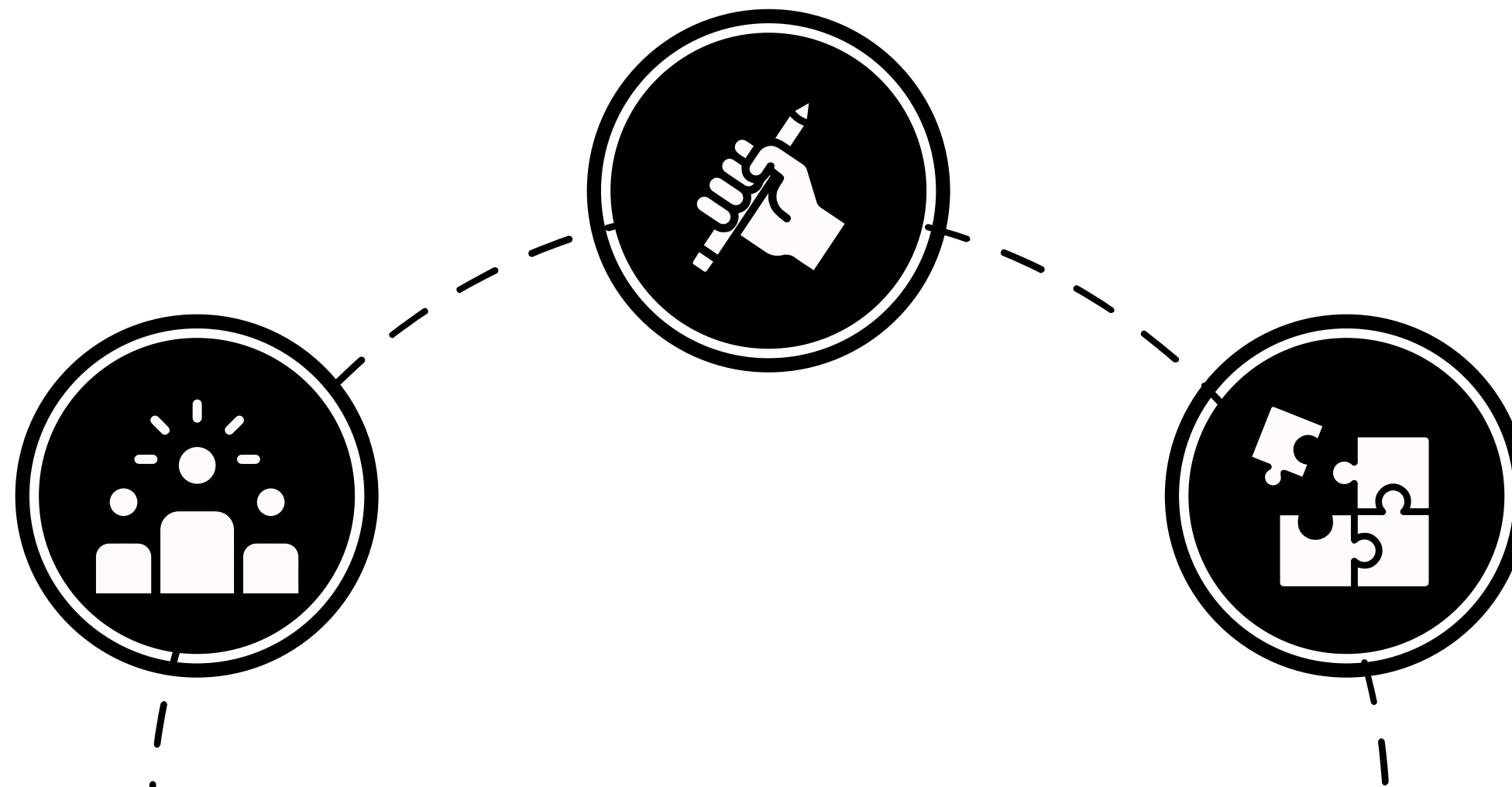
Awareness of labour market stakeholders (employers!) regarding the need for lifelong learning.

Individuals will have at least 10 job changes in their career

Almost 140,000 workers will need to change occupations in order to remain employed (McKinsey: The Future of Work in Croatia)

Transformation of the labour market primarily under the influence of digitalisation, automatisatisation and AI;

Population ageing and demographic changes



National Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021 – 2026

ESF+ programme 2021-2027

"Labor market and social protection" component
(over 265 million euros available until the end of 2026)

1Q 2022 – 2Q 2024
60 million €

RRF

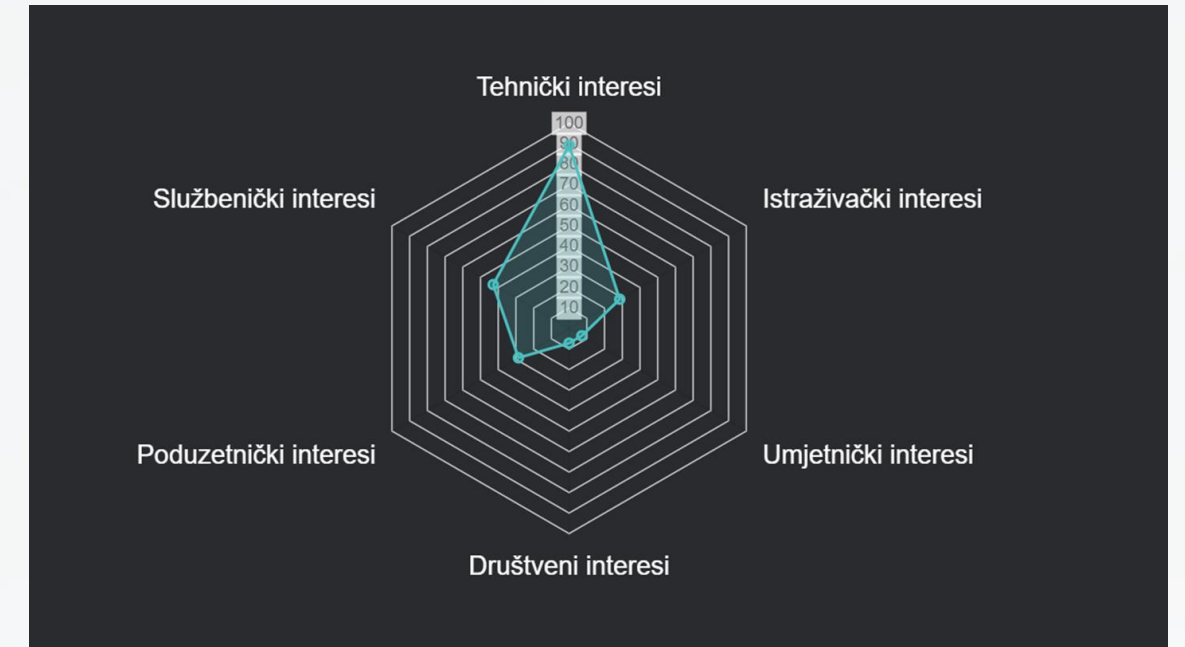
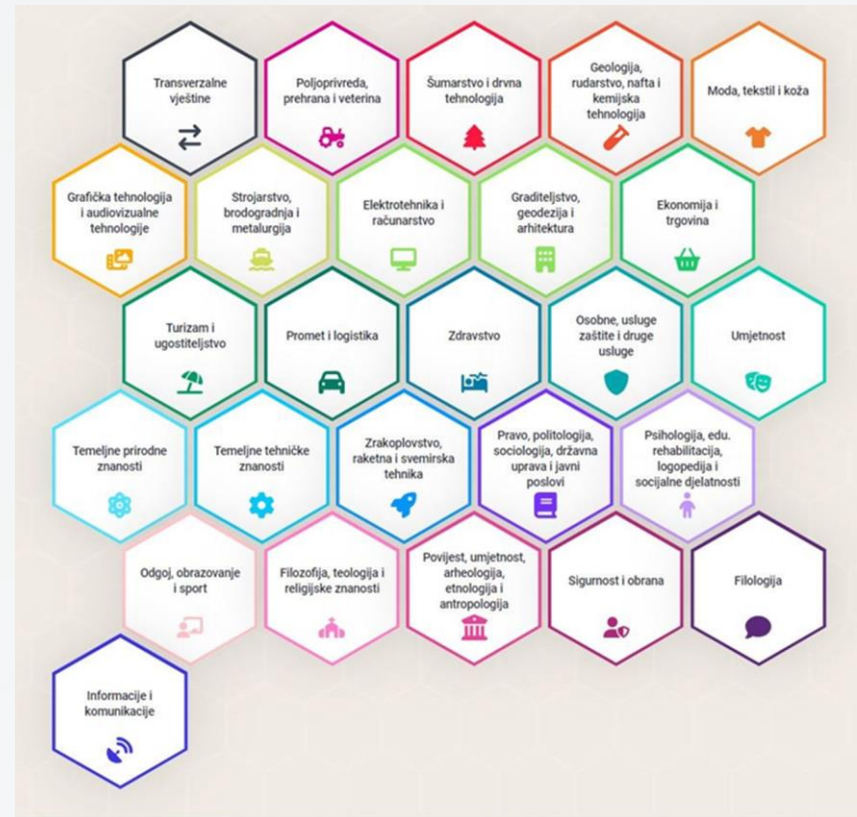
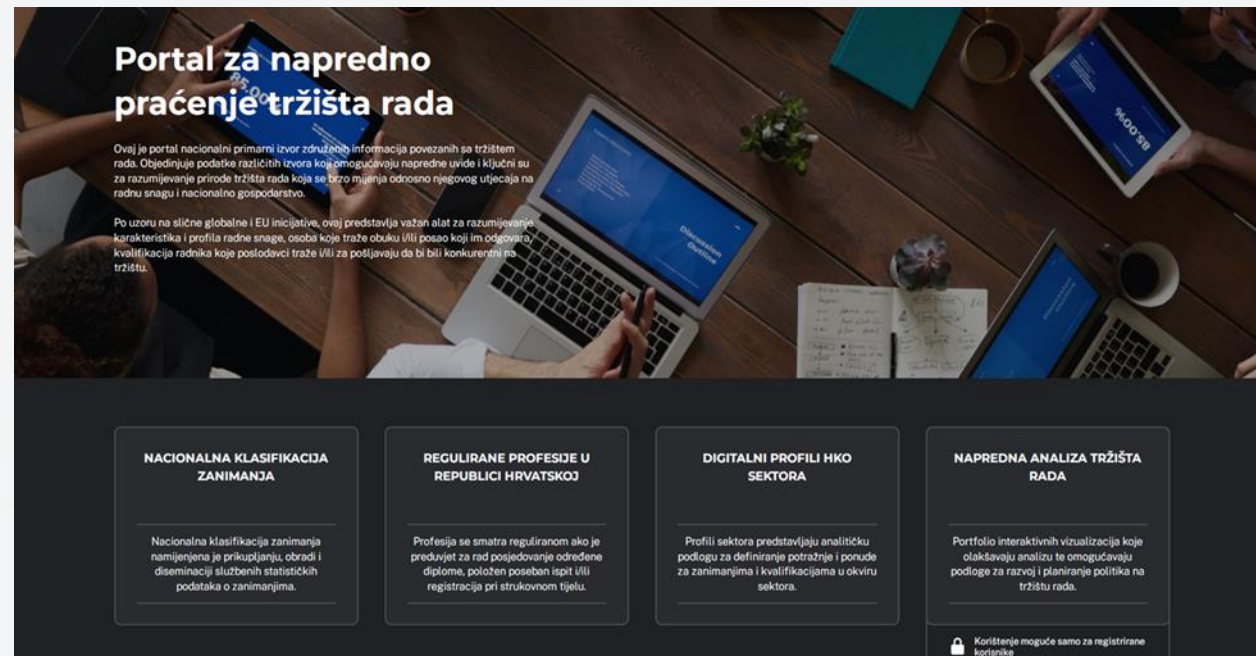
RRF :
40.000 users
12.000 from vulnerable groups
(LTU, NEET, inactive)

TARGETS

100 million euros and
75.000 users

ESF+

ICT TOOLS AS A SUPPORT TO THE LIFELONG LEARNING SYSTEM/VOUCHER SYSTEM



PORTAL FOR
ADVANCED
TRACKING OF
THE LABOUR
MARKET

SKILLS MAPPING
– SKILLS
CATALOGUE

SELF-
ASSESSMENT
TOOLS

<http://uzs.hzz.hr/>

Voucher system

Introduced in April 2022 with aim to:

- increase the rate of participation in adult education
- promote the acquisition of digital and green skills
- expanded in May 2023 to include other skills needed on the labour market

- Eligible programmes must be done in accordance with CROQF (Croatian Qualifications Framework)
- Available to all employed and unemployed persons and covers all working-age adults

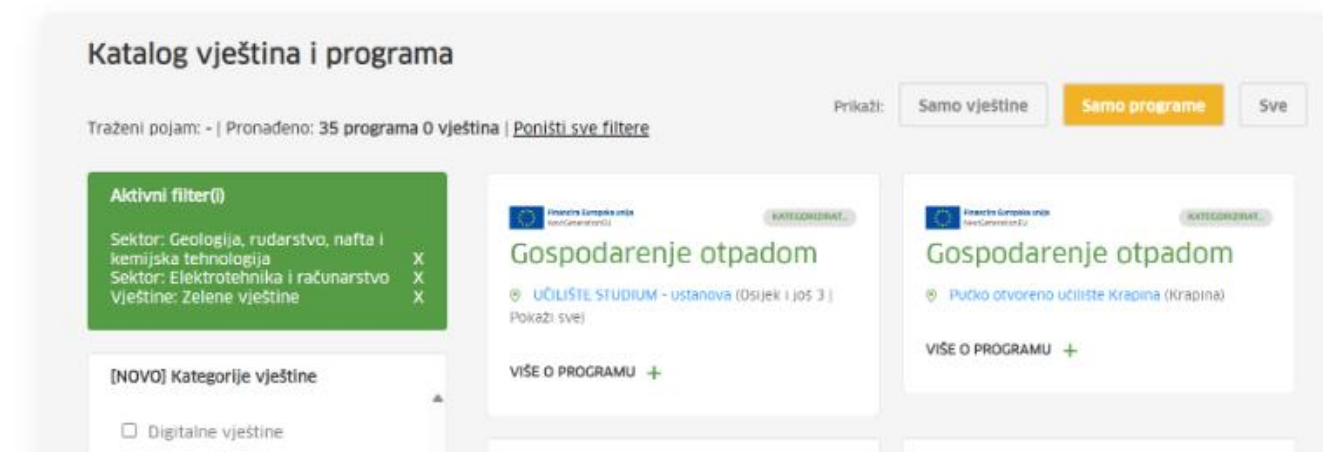
Application process:

- Request career guidance services
- Contact chosen training provider and request the offer
- Submit the application



Zeleni programi obrazovanja u posebnom su fokusu svih modernih ekonomija jer pripremaju sudionike tržišta rada za zanimanja koja su dio tranzicije prema održivom razvoju, što je strateška smjernica Europske unije, pa tako i Republike Hrvatske.

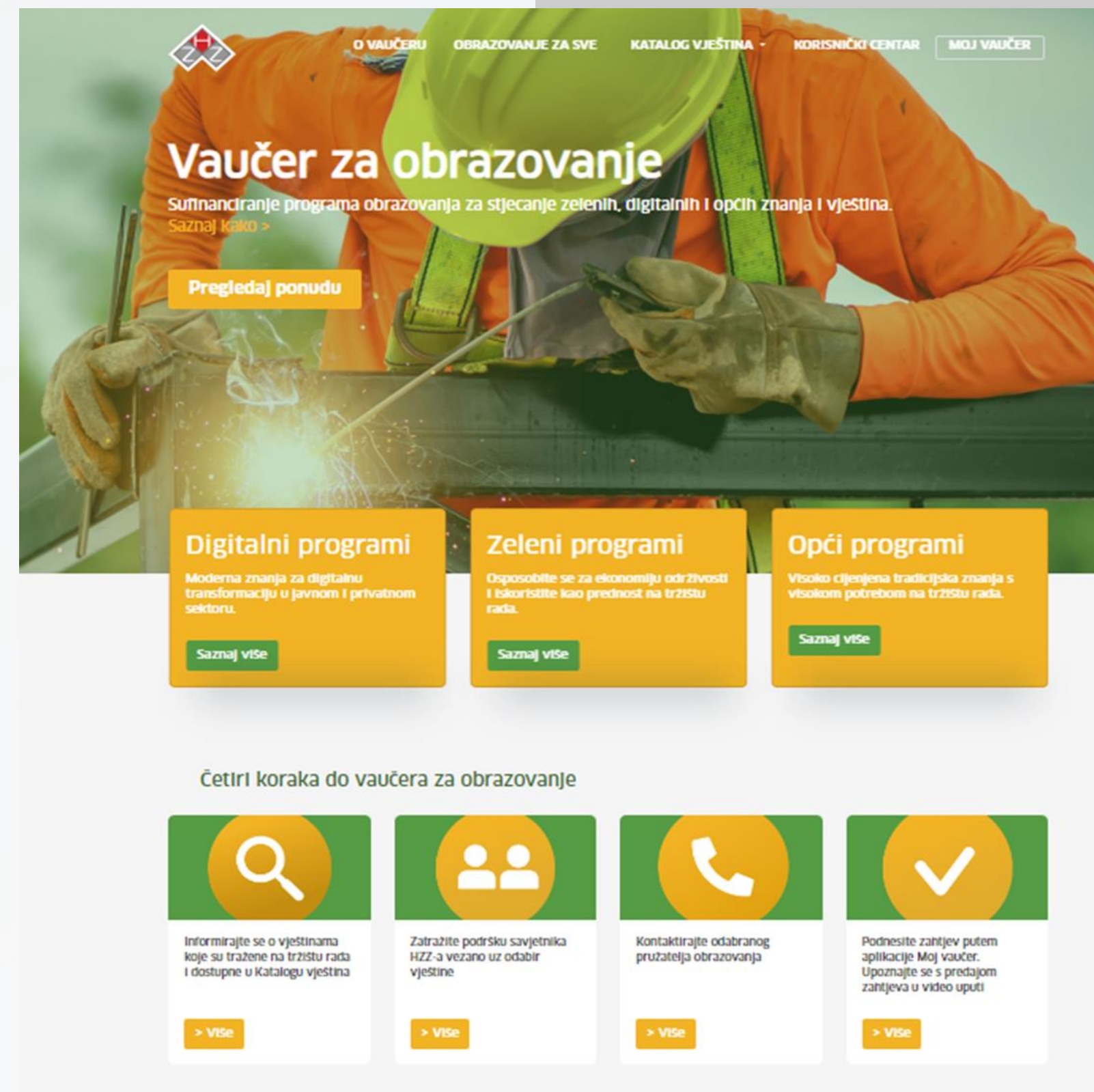
Zeleni programi su trenutno dostupni za zaposlene i nezaposlene osobe. Koristite filter Zelene vještine za odabir programa koji su iz ponude zelenih programa:



Voucher system

<https://vauceri.hzz.hr>

- Access to voucher portal for voucher users and training providers is done via NIAS (National Identification and Authentication System), using digital credentials
- Career guidance services are also available
- Allows cost-sharing between different institutions (beneficiaries or employers can co-finance part of the cost in case the cost of training is higher than the cost of voucher), additional entitlements for unemployed persons (transportation costs and medical check-up costs if needed for the training)



Results of the voucher system so far

- More than 23.400 voucher requests were approved (RRF and ESF+)
- acquisition of micro-credentials and partial qualifications for digital skills – more than 17.600
- There are currently 200 educational institutions that offer a total of 300 educational programmes registered in the database of education service providers

- Little involvement of vulnerable groups – employed people are the beneficiaries of over 70% of approved vouchers

Katalog vještina i programa

Traženi pojam: - | Pronađeno: 205 programa 0 vještina | [Poništi sve filtere](#)

Prikaži: [Samo vještine](#) [Samo programe](#) [Sve](#)

Aktivni filter(i)

Sektor: Geologija, rudarstvo, nafta i kemijska tehnologija X

Sektor: Elektrotehnika i računarstvo X

[NOVO] Kategorije vještine

☐ Digitalne vještine

☐ Zelene vještine

☐ Opće vještine

[NOVO] Status zaposlenosti

☐ Za zaposlene

☐ Za nezaposlene

Administrator baze podataka/Administratorica baze podataka

Visoko učilište Algebrā (Solit i još 10 | Online | Pokaži sve)

VIŠE O PROGRAMU +

Front-End developer/Front-End developerka

Visoko učilište Algebrā (Kutina i još 13 | Online | Pokaži sve)

VIŠE O PROGRAMU +

Gospodarenje otpadom

UČILIŠTE STUDIUM - ustanova (Osijek i još 3 | Pokaži sve)


VIŠE O PROGRAMU +

Gospodarenje otpadom

Pučko otvoreno učilište Krapina (Krapina)

VIŠE O PROGRAMU +

Zeleni programi financiraju se iz Nacionalnog plana oporavka i otpornosti.

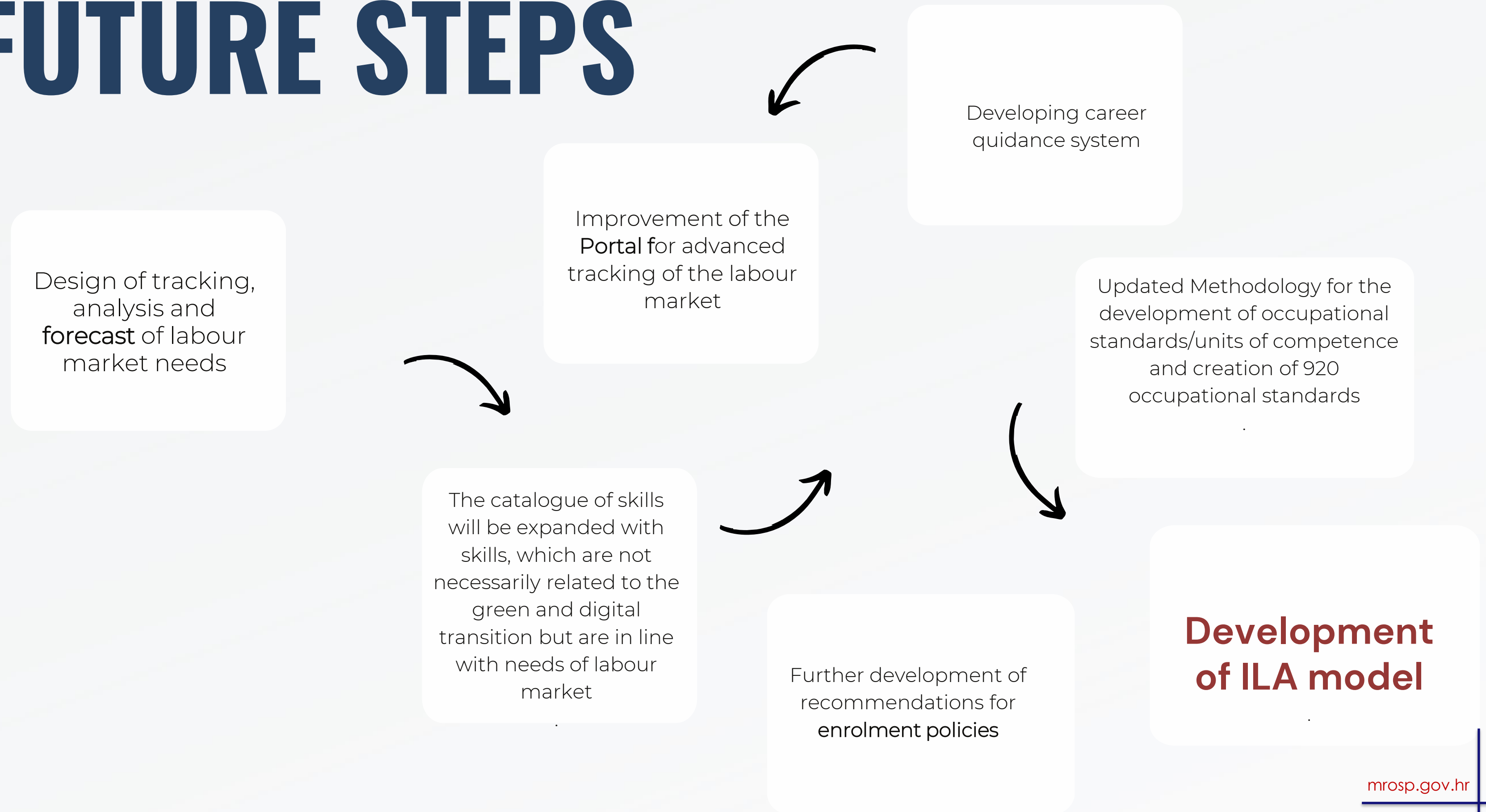
 **Financira
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NextGenerationEU

- Voucher is an option, not an entitlement
- currently it can't be used by pupils/students in regular education or retired persons
- Voucher cannot be transferred over time (from one year to the next) and across professional status
- accumulation of funds is not possible.
- the voucher system enables a "virtual account", which covers the cost of education and is paid directly to training provider.

Monitoring and evaluation system is in place

– First evaluation of voucher system has been finalized in January 2024, with further evaluations to take place in the future. Based on the results of the evaluation, certain training providers were removed from the training register due to dissatisfaction of users in the training provided. Some trainings are also removed from the training register due to lack of interest from the users. Also, trainings lasting more than 10 months are going to be included in the voucher system based on the requests from voucher users.

FUTURE STEPS



Next steps – moving from vouchers to ILA

Through the ESF+ financed project „Strengthening the connection between education and the labour market” – development of Individual Learning Account model for Croatia by the end of 2027 (based on the evaluation of the voucher system and case studies from other countries using similar models) that would ensure sustainability from national funds after EU funding. The project is expected to start with implementation in 4Q 2024.

Establishment of working group that will develop national model for ILA implementation in Croatia. The working group will be established by the decree of the minister of labour, and will include representatives of all relevant ministries, institutions and social partners.

Next steps – moving from vouchers to ILA

- National model will include the following:
 - definition of governance mechanism,
 - target group(s),
 - types and amounts of financial entitlements,
 - sources of funding (both short-term and long-term),
 - transferability of entitlements,
 - outreach and awareness raising activities.
- The goal is to include all working age adult persons in the scheme; however, the final scope of the ILA scheme will depend on the availability of funding. If the financing for the scheme proves to be limited, options will be explored whether to target the scheme only to the vulnerable groups, or specific economic sectors. Also, options for the voucher users and employers to participate in the training costs will be defined.

HVALA!



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