



Recommendation Paper

How to ease the transition from
EDUCATION to EMPLOYMENT?

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Project vision and approach

Advance smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth by bringing youth voices to education, the job market, and the inclusion of diverse and vulnerable groups across the Danube Region.

Analysis and Discussion of Barriers and Best Practices
→ learning across countries, connecting, and fostering change.

Participatory Approach → including the new members of DYC in the process

Recommendations for scalability, connecting grassroots initiatives with policy level.

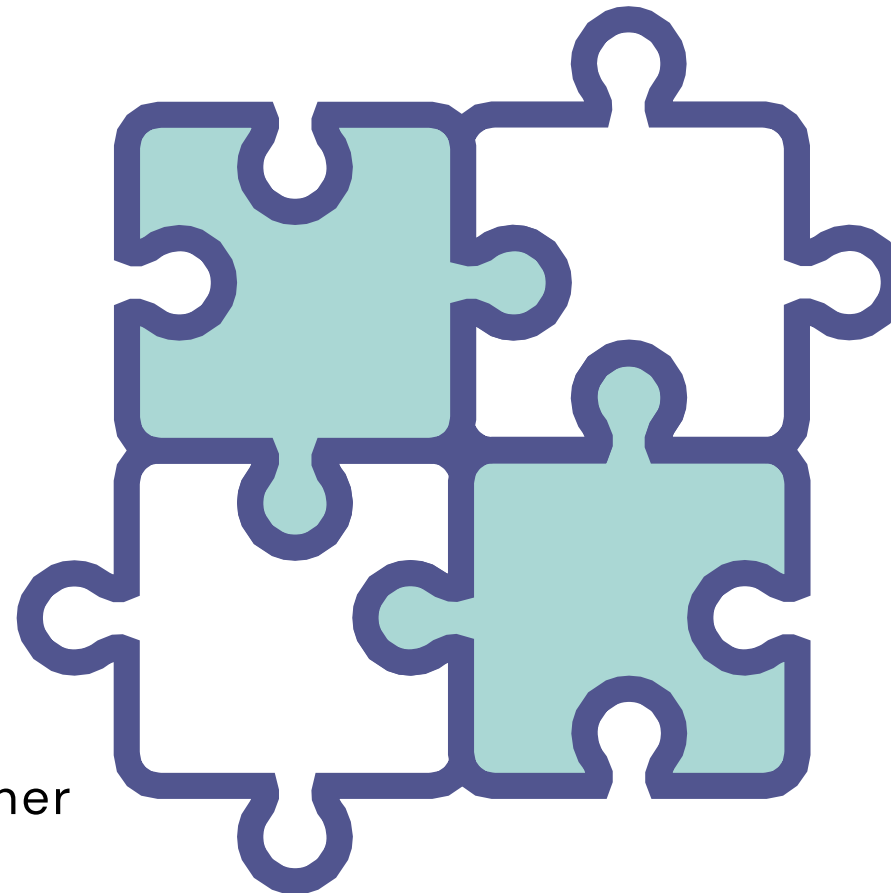
Mismatch across the Region

Geographical Patterns

Unemployment in rural areas (e.g. BG, SK) vs. in cities (AT);
Extreme NETT disparities in rural areas (BG)

Skills Mismatch

AT: 73% of companies reported a severe or rather severe shortage of skilled workers (2022)
SK: 54% of firms reported a mismatch between required and possessed employee skills (one of the highest in EU surveys)
BG: 29.1% of the extended labour force slack were available to work but not seeking a job (2023)



Transitional Barriers

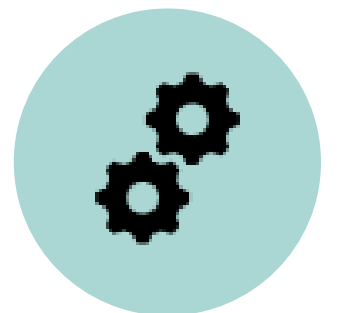
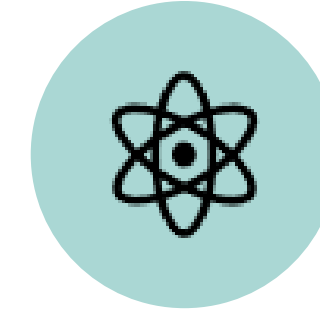
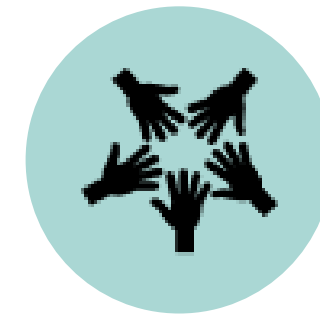
Labour Market Relevance in Curricula
Work-based learning opportunities (VET, lifelong learning)
Utility/Aspiration for VET
Systemic Exclusion

Potential Root Causes

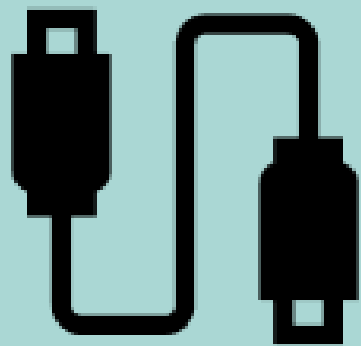
Dual Labour Market Risks/Credential Inflation
Low Lifelong Learning, Regional Opportunity Deficit
Institutional Sorting, VET Governance Rigidity, Spatial Poverty

Best Practices

- Build on successful ideas and projects
- Explore how to roll out or scale best practices across the Danube Region

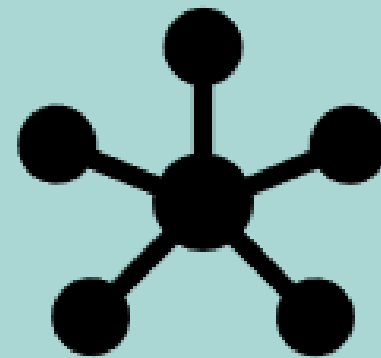


Recommendations



Promote region-wide dual education and work-based learning models.

- Strengthen and fund dual education systems combining school and company-based training;
- Develop local partnerships.



Invest in educational equity as an employment strategy.

- Fund teacher leadership and school-community partnerships in disadvantaged or rural areas.



Institutionalize career guidance and employer engagement.

- Facilitate internships and mentorships;
- Support cross-border mobility of youth;
- Involve the private sector in curriculum design.

Paper Outline

1

Executive Summary

- Problem
- Goal
- Recommendations

2

Introduction

- Policy Context
- Gap in the Danube Region

3

Analysis of Barriers

- Skills and Knowledge Deficit
- Access and Transition Hurdles
- Systemic Vulnerability & Exclusion

4

Best Practices of connecting education to employment in the Danube Region

5

Recommendations

- Skills and Curriculum Relevance
- Transition Support and Mobility
- Cross-Sectoral Cooperation

6

Conclusion

- Opportunities for scaling up best practices

Milestone Map

Milestones	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
New DYC members x PA9 meeting needed in December, latest January in order to get to know the work of PA9						
Introduction to the paper to the newcomers						
Writing the Paper						
Present the draft in DYC Meeting						
Finalise it in May						

Thank you very much!

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