



## 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.

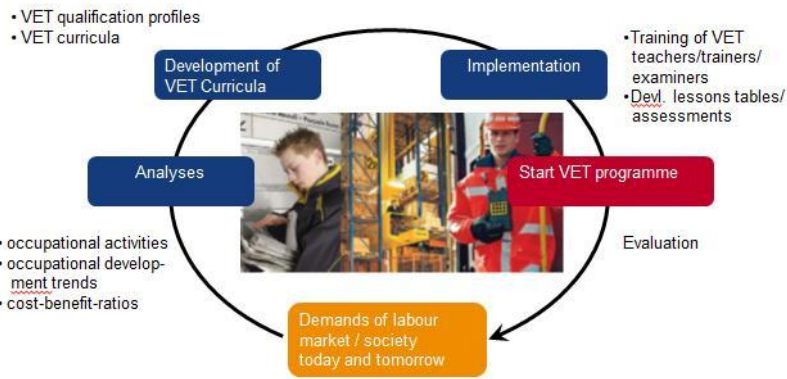
### PROJECT INTERVENTION STRATEGY

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.

### PROJECT PROGRESS IN 2015 IN BRIEF

On 15 September 2015 81 students in 4 classes in two Bulgarian schools started dual-track training in two professions – machine technician CNC machines and technologist in the production of milk and dairy products. To make this possible several legislative acts have been amended and new curricula and syllabi for these professions have been elaborated within the project and endorsed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science. The new school year 2015/2016 was officially opened by the Bulgarian Minister of Education and Science and the Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation. Partners to the two pilot schools became five big companies in the field of machine building and dairy production.

During the first year of the project 13 teachers were trained to work with the newly developed school curricula, 11 instructors from the partner companies were trained to work with the in-company training plans, and 9 dual education experts were trained on elaboration of dual education curricula and syllabi.



## 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.



First Dual Education Seminar for teachers and companies, February 2015

## KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

### OBJECTIVE

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 professional schools and their partnering business structures (companies, branch associations or chambers)

### BUDGET

CHF 3'535'000 (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

- ✓ Introduced for the 2015/2016 school year: machine technician for CNC machines and technician-technologist in the production of milk and dairy products.
- ✓ In 2016/2017 school year 3 new professions will be launched – electrician, gas technician and cook.

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT

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

Education System

[p.evtimova@mon.bg](mailto:p.evtimova@mon.bg)

[p.zlatarska@mon.bg](mailto:p.zlatarska@mon.bg)

[n.georgiev@mon.bg](mailto:n.georgiev@mon.bg)

February 2016