Reform of the Bulgarian Vocational Education and Training System

FORUM ON DUAL EDUCATION

The project “Swiss Support for the Introduction of Dual-Track Principles in the Bulgarian Vocational Education System” was launched within the Swiss-Bulgarian Cooperation Programme. The project is implemented jointly by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Economy. Main partners in the project are the Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training and the Bulgarian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE FORUM ON DUAL EDUCATION
The main objective of the Forum is to contribute to the successful reform of the Bulgarian vocational education using the positive experience and the results of the above-mentioned project.

THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
The specific objectives of the Forum are to coordinate the efforts of all stakeholders aimed at implementing the dual-track system in Bulgaria, to ensure exchange and consensus among them on the main parameters of the secondary vocational education.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE FORUM ON DUAL EDUCATION
- State institutions – Ministries
- Local institutions and organisations – Municipalities and schools
- Branch associations and chambers
- Employers’ organizations
- Leading companies
- Professional organisations and trade unions
- NGOs working in the field of VET
- Project management Unit
- External consultants

THE LAUNCHING SESSION OF THE FORUM ON DUAL EDUCATION
The launching session of the Forum on Dual Education took place on 16 September 2015. It was officially opened by the Bulgarian Minister of Education and Science Prof. Todor Tanev and the Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation Mr. Mauro Dell’Ambrogio.
**STRUCTURE AND RULES OF WORK**

Each stakeholder group occupies a separate table (see the scheme) with 6 to 9 participants. Following the old tradition, the tables are arranged in a circle, which symbolizes their equality. Usually, the members of each table discuss among themselves the stated topic or sub-topic and after they reach a common standpoint, they present it to the other participants. At the second level the discussion is led between all tables where each participant can take a stand not only as a representative of their group but also based on own experience. The discussion is guided by a moderator who summarises the expressed opinions, identifies common elements between them and supports the consensus-building process. As a rule, the moderator is an external person, not involved in the topics and issues discussed, which guarantees his/her neutrality. At the launching session of the Forum, the participants adopt its rules of work (Code of Ethics) and are bound to observe certain norms and behaviour, which contributes to the constructive work intended solely to the achievement of the Forum goals. The work of the Forum is organized in several sessions, within the first two years of the project implementation.

**THE FORUM ON DUAL EDUCATION TOPICS**

**1st Session** (September 16, 2015)
Launching Session, Adoption of Code of Ethics

**2nd Session** (November 23, 2015)
Main parameters of the dual education: labour contracts for students and procedure for registering companies

**3rd Session** (planned for March 7, 2016)
Main parameters of the dual education: criteria for selection of companies and control over quality of training

**4th Session**
Professions appropriate for dual education

**5th Session**
Legislative changes needed for the successful implementation of dual education in Bulgaria

**6th Session**
Involvement of the business (branch associations, clusters, companies and other stakeholders) in the implementation of dual education

**7th Session**
Financing opportunities for the companies involved in dual education

**Closing Session**
Summary of the results, conclusions

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**PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT**
Swiss Support for the Introduction of Dual Track Principles in the Bulgarian Vocational Education System

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