



***“Aligning education and training with  
labour market needs, ALLED Phase II”***

**Kosovo**

***ADC Contract Number 6531-00/2018***

***EU Identification Number IPA/2018/402-911***

**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL REPORT**

***Reporting Period: 1 March 2020 – 28 February 2021***



European  
Union  
Kosovo



Austrian  
Development  
Agency



With funding from

Austrian  
Development  
Cooperation

**Project Synopsis**

Project Title	<i>Aligning education and training with labour market needs, ALLED Phase II</i>
ADA Contract Number	<i>6531-00/2018</i>
EU Identification Number	<i>IPA/2018/402-911</i>
Implementers	<i>Austrian Development Agency - ADA</i>
Target country(ies) and region(s)	<i>Kosovo</i>
Type of contract	<i>Delegation agreement</i>
Start of implementation period	<i>01.03.2019</i>
End of implementation period	<i>31.08.2022</i>
Implementation period in months	<i>42</i>
Annual report # and Reporting period	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual report Reporting period: 01.03.2020 – 28.02.2021</i>
Total amount of EU contribution	<i>EUR 3,800,000</i>
ADC/ADA co-financing contribution	<i>EUR 700,000</i>
Other contributions	<i>N/A</i>

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the period from 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021. The overall objective of the project ALLED2 is to reduce poverty through increased labour market participation and improved employability for the population in Kosovo. All planned activities of ALLED2 as per Description of Action (DoA) are providing support to Kosovo's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) in aligning education and training system with labour market needs. Relevant EU policies are addressed throughout the implementation of the project.

Since March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on economic and social development. The government has implemented containment measures, including a strict lockdown during the first COVID-19 wave and other measures<sup>1</sup> during the following waves. The PIU's work was also affected by the crisis: within the reporting period, the team operated from home-office for 4 months. The majority of activities were implemented or initiated within the planned timeframe.

The project also faced its fourth<sup>2</sup> change of Government in Kosovo (GoK) when, following the decision of the Constitutional Court to dismiss the Hoti Government, new elections were held on 14 February 2021<sup>3</sup>. Throughout the reporting period the names of the project key ministries and responsibility areas changed several times<sup>4</sup>. As of 4 June 2020, the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW)<sup>5</sup> are the main government counterparts relevant for the project.

As the project implementation progressed, the need for systematic solutions for digitalisation, application of Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain technology, augmented reality and interoperability became inevitable around the world<sup>6</sup>. By the end of the reporting period, COVID-19 vaccination was not initiated in Kosovo. As per current situation and developments with COVID-19 in Kosovo and globally, it is to be expected that COVID-19 outreach will have also a significant impact on the project implementation in the third year (limitation of movement, sickness, vaccination).

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<sup>1</sup> Strict limitations of gathering and movement; home-office based work; limitations of operability of different institutions due to COVID-19 infection and sick leaves;

<sup>2</sup> Two during this reporting period

<sup>3</sup> Till the closure of this reporting period, the new Parliament as well as GoK was not established.

<sup>4</sup> MEST into MES; MLSW in MELTIESI and back to MLSW

<sup>5</sup> The reporting period is characterized by events at the global level that could not be predicted by any risk matrix.

<sup>6</sup> The project witnessed an informal mobilization of needs-driven digital literacy, but also the development of a Strategy for Digitalisation for Education System in Kosovo by MES.

**Main developments during the reporting period are as follows:**

- **University of Pristina (UP) Cluster/Hub** – Models were developed and discussed with the rector of UP. An agreement was reached to establish the institutional setting of the Cluster Hub, based on the triple helix model with three co-founders. Institutionalization with piloting phase is to be initiated;
- The “**Financial Planning for VET System in Kosovo - PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENT**” has been finalized, presented to the Minister of Education and Science and relevant staff as well as to the MES Technical Working Group.
- **VET Barometer<sup>7</sup>** – A second round of baseline assessment of the overall situation of 20 Vocational Education and Training (VET) schools and 4 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) has been done. The data sequence publicly available on the ALLED2 website – “EduNET – Schools ID”<sup>8</sup> and is regularly shared with MES<sup>9</sup>. The data also includes a baseline assessment on teacher’s skills and competences and the school needs for further training for teachers and management staff. As a part of the VET Barometer, two additional tools<sup>10</sup> for structured knowledge sharing and peer learning became operational with trainings conducted for members of the ALLED2 EduNET.
- **Kosovo Labour Market Barometer<sup>11</sup>**– For the first time in Kosovo, interoperability of different education and labour market relevant data bases (10 databases) is established and publicly launched to support evidence-based policy making and planning (real time data), and embedded in Employment Agency.
- **Cooperation between VET and businesses<sup>12</sup>** - Existing practices (intensity and quality) of cooperation have been assessed with COVID-19 developments relevant data. Proposed set of incentives for businesses are integrated in the proposed Financial Planning for VET System in Kosovo.
- **Equipment needs assessment<sup>13</sup>** – The needs assessment for the development of technical specifications<sup>14</sup>, serving as an integral part of the upcoming procurement of equipment has been initiated.
- **Skills Barometer** – The Systematic Training Needs Assessment/Skills Barometer as a planning tool of VET, based on demand driven approach in close cooperation with KCC is ongoing and

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<sup>7</sup> Through the collection of data, consisting of more than 110 variables split into 8 sections in the first cycle of data collection and more than 190 variables collected in the second annual round of data collection.

<sup>8</sup> <http://alled.eu/en/edu-net-2/>

<sup>9</sup> The collection of data will continue for the whole duration of the project, which will serve the implementation of project activities and also will serve MES for their purposes.

<sup>10</sup> Schools/VTCs IDs - including essential information about Schools/VTCs regarding their characteristics and/or specifics and available education programs; and Community of Practice (CoP) – with teaching materials for online teaching process in VET collected with more than 100 teaching/lesson plans and available online for EduNet members;

<sup>11</sup> <https://sitp.rks-gov.net/>

<sup>12</sup> It is important to mention that the COVID-19 pandemic situation has postponed some of the activities due to the very difficult situation and challenging time the business community is going through.

<sup>13</sup> A detailed report has been prepared before COVID-19, including a list of existing equipment in 20 VET schools and 4 VTCs (ALLED2 EDUNet) and a list of most needed equipment for the functionalization of the workshops of these VET providers.

<sup>14</sup> COVID-19 specific needs to be included. ALLED2 is investigating possibilities to address Internet of Things (IoT) technology through new equipment with augmented reality and Classroom 3.0 teaching/learning tools.

first version of data collection tool has been developed.

- **Accreditation and validation procedures for VET providers** – The State of Play (Analysis) has been defined, including international good practices and their applicability and relevance to Kosovo.
- **Post-accreditation and monitoring** (ongoing) – The draft study has been developed. This includes follow up support with digital solutions for both institutions (National Qualifications Authority -NQA and Kosovo Accreditation Agency - KAA), contributing to a system building towards digitalisation.
- **E-accreditation<sup>15</sup> for Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)** – In line with ENQA<sup>16</sup> recommendations, e-accreditation was developed and has been operational since 1 October as an added value of this project, and contributes to the overall system solution for post-accreditation.
- **State of Play on School and VTC based quality assurance (QA) processes and application in every day work** – The analysis was conducted and finalized, a training package developed (4 modules) and first teachers training conducted.
- **Progression pathways** from VET to Higher Education (HE) with focus on **National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 5** – The analysis on EU good practices with their applicability for Kosovo is finalized and will serve as basis for development of policy solution for the Kosovar NQF level 5.
- **12 Occupational standards (OS)** (as per agreement with MES and Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo (EARK)) are developed and ready to be officially submitted to MES for further proceeding in the first half of March 2021.

Two **Advisory Board (AB)** and two **Steering Board (SB)** meetings were held prior to submission of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual as well as semi-annual project report, which were endorsed by the SB and approved by the EU with no objection. The **Communication and Visibility** Plan was successfully implemented throughout the reporting period and novelties were applied. Especially a variety of social network tools as well as media coverage exceeded the plans and ALLED2 became a good practice recognised by beneficiary institutions and the general public.

By the end of the reporting period, total **budget utilisation** equals EUR 900,981 or 21.19% of the overall planned budget. Expenditure verification report and payment request are an integral part of this report. The evaluation was planned to be conducted halfway through the project, and since ALLED2 started on 01.03.2019, the **mid-term evaluation** is foreseen to be conducted in the first half of 2021.

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<sup>15</sup> As per information received from KAA director Mr Naim Gashi, with this development, Kosovo was recently ranked No 2 in Europe related to digitalization of accreditation process;

<sup>16</sup> European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education