

Albanian Vocational Education and Training Support Programme

Context

Albania is a small country in the Western Balkans bordering the Mediterranean Sea, Greece, Macedonia, Kosovo and Montenegro. It has about 3'200'000 inhabitants. About 1'000'000 people have migrated, primarily to Greece and Italy.

While the general education system has survived transition and is now challenged with European quality standards, vocational education and training (VET) requires re-building from scratch.

However, VET has considerable potential to boost the economy and to make a significant contribution to insert people into the labour market. Thus it contributes to both poverty mitigation and to making further steps towards European integration.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has supported VET projects in Albania since 1994, and the current AlbVET project represents the third project generation.



The present Albanian VET system rests on two legs and provides school-based programmes of 2-4 years duration for students at upper secondary level, and vocational courses of 1-24 months duration for employment seekers.

The VET system faces considerable challenges, including:

- Labour market relevance,
- Attractiveness for potential students,
- Quality of delivery both as regards to teaching and learning processes and to compliance with European professional performance standards,
- Participation of the private sector at all levels regarding policy development, quality assurance and training delivery.

In close cooperation with other donors and projects, namely of the European Union, Germany and Austria, the AlbVET project supports the Albanian Government in reforming its VET system. AlbVET works with actors at all levels, i.e. with individual training providers, local and regional authorities, but also with the central government and its institutions.



Financing agency

SDC-Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Implementing agency

Swisscontact

Phases

Phase 1: 01.01.2007 – 30.06.2009

Phase 2: 01.07.2009 – 30.06.2011

Financial volume

Phase 1: CHF 4'435'000

Phase 2: CHF 2'600'000

Local partners

Ministry of Education and Science

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

National VET Agency

National Employment Service

10 Vocational Schools

Private Training Providers

Business membership associations

Project office

1 International Coordinator and Policy Advisor

1 Local Project Manager

4 Component Coordinators

1 PR and Liaison Officer

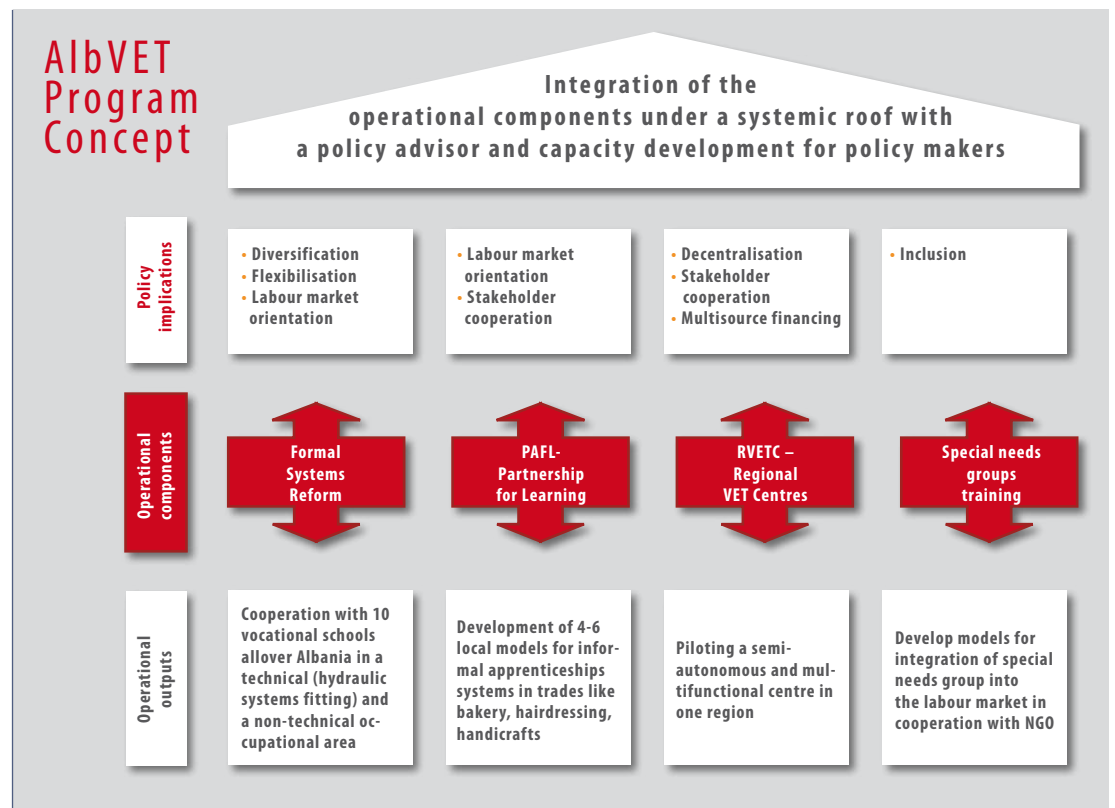
3 Administrative Staff

Internet

www.albvet.al

Objectives

The AlbVET project contributes to the overall reform of the Albanian VET system to transform it into an efficient labour market responsive system, which attracts participants and strives towards European standards. In order to achieve that, AlbVET implements four operational components. In addition, the principles and experiences from the components are integrated at the level of national policy makers through a policy adviser.



Component 1 – Formal systems reform

The formal system at upper secondary level is currently undergoing a fundamental reform. The rigid system of 3 and 5 years programmes is replaced by a flexible 2+1+1 system with different specialisation levels and exit points to the labour market. AlbVET supports the implementation in two occupational fields with a full package support, including curricula development, instructors training and equipment in vocational schools all over the country.

Component 2 – Partnership for learning

Cooperation and partnerships between public and private stakeholders, between schools and businesses, hardly exist in Albania. Relations are influenced by a deep mutual mistrust, and the organisation level of the private sector is still weak. AlbVET attempts to develop 4-6 local models of Partnerships for Learning, applying some sort of dual or apprenticeship schemes.

Component 3 - Decentralisation

The present Albanian system is highly centralised and detached from local labour markets. AlbVET supports the decentralisation process to regional and local decision makers through piloting a semi-autonomous Regional VET Centre in the region of Durres.

Component 4 – Social inclusion

VET as an active labour market measure is an instrument for labour market insertion of minorities and other special needs groups. AlbVET supports the development and implementation of respective concepts and approaches.



AlbVET

Albanian VET Support Program

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**Swiss Agency for Development
And Cooperation SDC**