

WorldSkills Romania | Annual Report 2020



President's Message

"WorldSkills Romania Foundation wants every young person to discover and develop their professional potential, thus contributing to a better world.

At WorldSkills Romania we believe in the power of example and inspiration provided by those who have achieved professional performance, in the power of experiential learning to discover and develop the potential of young people.



We believe in the power of collaboration and systemic approaches that need the cooperation of many organisations whose expertise and resources complement each other to help young people discover and realise their professional potential!

We believe in flexibility/agility/speed of response because the world is changing at a very fast pace and we need to be connected to existing trends to support young people to adapt faster to changes, we believe in tailor-made interventions to respond to individual needs and pace.

By promoting vocational excellence, creating learning experiences and facilitating multi-sector collaborations we ensure that young people discover and develop their professional potential."

Cosmina - Mariana Mitran,
President of WorldSkills Romania

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Mitran', positioned below the printed name.

About WorldSkills Romania Foundation

WorldSkills Romania Foundation supports professional performance among young people, for personal success and development of Romania through:

- promoting excellence in the professional field;
- providing relevant learning experiences in various professional fields;
- facilitating collaboration between the various organizations involved in supporting the orientation, training, integration and professional development of young people, for a better link between the education system and the labour market.



Vision: Every young person discovers and develops their professional potential, thus contributing to a better world.

Mission: We provide varied opportunities for young people to discover their aptitudes, inclinations, passions and develop their skills, attitudes and knowledge so that, through their professional activity, they contribute to a better world.

We develop these opportunities by collaborating with other organizations, our role is of:

- creator of vocational learning experiences for both young people and those who support them to discover and fulfil their potential;
- connector and facilitator of collaboration between organisations that can contribute to the discovery and development of young people's potential;
- promoter of good practices in the field of training, integration and professional development of young people.



WorldSkills Romania is part of the international WorldSkills movement and the European WorldSkills movement.

WorldSkills Romania is a member of WorldSkills Europe since 2019. WorldSkills Europe is a non-profit member association that promotes excellence in the field of skills and connects Members, industry partners, governments, European organizations and educational institutions to encourage world class standards of skills and competence development in Europe. 31 members are part of WorldSkills Europe.

WorldSkills Romania is a member of WorldSkills International since 2016. WorldSkills builds confidence, empowers communities, and helps to fuel economies; inspires young people to develop a passion for skills and pursuing excellence, through competitions and promotions; develops skills through global training standards, benchmarking systems, and enhancing industry engagement; influences industry, government, and educators through cooperation and research — building a global platform of skills for all. 85 members are part of WorldSkills International.

Activities

National Selection for EuroSkills Graz 2020 - Web Development Section



WorldSkills Romania organized the National Selection for EuroSkills Graz 2020, Web Development section. EuroSkills is a competition of professional skills organized every two years in the form of European Championships.

The competition was supposed to take place in 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the competition was postponed to 2021. EuroSkills will take place in Austria for the first time in the competition's history - in the city of Graz, where young people from 31 countries will compete in around 45 skills.

The selection took place following a practical online Web Development test and an intensive training period with WorldSkills Romania's Web Development expert. 18 young people registered for the practical test, of which 6 were selected for interviews. Of these, 3 were selected for an intensive period of work (organized as an internship). After the two months of internship, out of the 3 young people, the competitor who will represent Romania at EuroSkills Graz in 2021 was chosen.

"Initial professional training in European context for Romanian future farmers" KA1 Erasmus+ project

The project is an initiative of the WorldSkills Romania Foundation and is carried out in partnership with Green Academy Aarhus in Denmark and 5 agricultural high schools from Romania. The project benefits from financial support through the Erasmus+ Programme, Key Action 1, for mobility projects in the VET field.

The project started in 2019, when the first stream of students and teachers went to Denmark for mobility and exchange of experience.

In 2020, the second stream of students (21 students from "Cezar Nicolau" Technological High School in Branesti) stayed at the Green Academy and carried out activities for one week out of the 3 scheduled. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the students and their 3 accompanying teachers had to return to Romania for health safety reasons.

The next streams of students and teachers will take place when the COVID-19 pandemic measures will allow.

"What I liked most about the mobility was learning how to use a drone, especially a drone in agriculture field. One of the biggest challenges for me was learning how to adapt to an activity - milking cows, because I was using a new and modern system that I had never seen before." – Robert Alexe, student at "Cezar Nicolau" Technological High School, Branesti, Romania

"I really liked the fact that I learned both theory and practice. For example, for the theory I learned about animal anatomy, animal hygiene and so on. For the practice I actually worked in the barn, prepared the animal spaces, cleaned the animal spaces, fed animals, milked cows using technologies." – Roxana Grigore, student at "Cezar Nicolau" Technological High School, Branesti, Romania



"Education for Sustainable Development in Vocational and Technical Education, agricultural field" event



Educație pentru Dezvoltare Durabilă
în învățământul Profesional și Tehnic
domeniul agricol

WorldSkills Romania Foundation, in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Romanian Government through the Department for Sustainable Development, organized the event "Education for Sustainable Development in Vocational and Technical Education, agricultural field". The aim of the event was to create the context in which, in agricultural high schools, Education for Sustainable Development becomes an integrated part of the initial vocational training of future agricultural professionals.

The event was divided into two parts (online): conference and workshop.

The conference was attended by 96 people. During the conference, there were discussed topics such as the importance of agricultural education in the sustainable development of Romania, Sustainable Development Goals 2, 4, 12 and 13, a panel on Education for Sustainable Development, a panel on Responsible Production and Climate Action, presentation of the Erasmus + project "Education Requires Appliance of SDGs".

The workshop was attended by 24 teachers and project headmasters/project coordinators from high schools in Romania. Each participant prepared and then presented during the workshop: teachers - a learning activity from the specialized curriculum, in which they integrated a sustainable development goal or target; headmasters/project coordinators - they chose a sustainable development goal for which they planned to introduce in the School Action Plan actions through which that SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) would be adopted at school level, as well as introducing actions through which that SDG would be promoted in the community.



"Professions in 4.0. agriculture" project

The project is the initiative of WorldSkills Romania Foundation, in collaboration with Station Europe and Profesorul Digital (Hooked Interactive). The project is supported by the Raiffeisen Communities programme.

The aim of the the project is to give young people in agricultural high schools a vision of the agriculture of the future and to complement their training with non-formal learning experiences about related professions. In this way, we aim to increase their interest in school and their chances of integration into the labour market, contributing to a better life for them, their families and the development of agriculture in Romania, for the benefit of all.

The project consists of piloting an 8-week blended learning programme for approx. 200 students (divided in two editions) from 9 agricultural high schools, through which they create a personal skills development plan for the agriculture of the future. The programme addresses 8 themes, in which students are given online resources and learning tasks (challenges) on future agriculture professions.

From November to December 2020, we selected teachers and students for the first edition of the program, created learning materials for students, created the project website, created 4 video materials, started the first edition of the program (launched weekly themes, games and challenges for students, conducted weekly meetings with the 18 student leaders, organized 7 webinars with experts for students and teachers).



"Exchange of Good Practices in the Implementation of VET competitions" (EgpiVET) KA2 Erasmus+ project

The project is implemented over a period of 22 months with funding from the Erasmus+ programme, key action 2 - Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training. 3 partners: WorldSkills France, WorldSkills Belgium and WorldSkills Romania. The aim of the EgpiVET project is to strengthen the capacity of VET institutions (training centers, schools, colleges, associations) to develop skills competitions.



The project covers eight qualifications: cooking, bakery, patisserie and confectionery, restaurant service, hairdressing, fashion technology, automotive technology, beauty therapy. For each qualification, WorldSkills Romania selects a VET school which proposes a project team composed of 2 VET teachers and the VET school director.

During the period of the project, each project team from each VET school participates in a shadowing and a training activity run by the partners in France and Belgium on the occasion of regional and national skills competitions. After these two experiences, the project teams from the schools will organize a pilot skills competition in the qualification for which they have been trained.

In 2020, we selected 4 schools (out of 72 applications) for the activities in France. Schools applied through an application form, then participated in an interview. Following the two stages, an external jury chose one school for each qualification (4 in total). The selected schools are from Bacău, Buzău, Dâmbovița and Iași counties in Romania.

In 2020 the following meetings were organized (online): kick off meeting which gathered all the selected participants from Romania, France and Belgium for the following qualifications: cooking, bakery, patisserie and confectionery, restaurant service; informal meetings (get to know each other) for the participants of the qualifications: bakery and patisserie and confectionery.

"Education Requires Appliance of SDGs" (ERASDG) KA2 Erasmus+ project

The project is implemented over a period of 24 months with funding from the Erasmus+ programme, key action 2 - Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training. The project is a partnership between 8 countries: Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

The objectives of the project are: 1) To encourage students to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; 2) To develop VET system in the agricultural sector by a) implementing innovative, learner-centered pedagogical approaches and b) finding new ways of cooperation with social partners, community and international networks; 3) To share innovative solutions and good practices related to sustainability.

The four partners from Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland and Spain will organize four workshops in which an innovative learner-centered pedagogical approach is presented in practice to the other four partners from Austria, Hungary, Poland and Romania. During the workshops, teachers will learn the innovative pedagogical approach (Living Lab, Innovation Camp, Team Learning and Gamification) and assess how it needs to be adapted to better fit their context. Back home, each will organize a similar workshop, piloting the pedagogical approach observed in mobility.

In 2020, during the "Education for Sustainable Development in Vocational and Technical Education, agricultural field" event, we presented the project to the agricultural schools in Romania and launched the selection process for the teachers who will participate in the activities.



"European Platform for Urban Greening" (EPLUG) KA3 Erasmus+ project



With a duration of 4 years, the project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme, key action 3 Support for Policy Reform. The European Platform for Urban Greening is one of the seven European Platforms of Centres of Excellence in vocational training selected by the European Union in 2020. Partners in the project are from Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Romania and the Czech Republic.

The project aims to increase the knowledge and skills required to address climate adaptation, biodiversity and well-being in the urban, green living environment, and to broaden the expertise among professionals in Europe.

The European Platform for Urban Greening (EPLUG) aims to intensify the collaboration within the knowledge triangle (VET - Research & Development - Business) to facilitate these adjustments and to develop high quality curricula and qualifications focused on these urban greening skills needs and societal challenges.

The network aims to increase the quality and adaptability of the skills ecosystem (VET, Companies, Policy setting, Individuals) for urban green landscaping. As driver of excellence and innovation, each European CoVE on Urban Greening promotes the proactive role for VET in local/regional development.

In Romania, the project partnership consists of an NGO, a VET high school and a construction company: WorldSkills Romania Foundation, "Cezar Nicolau" Technological High School and Terano Construct SRL.

In 2020, informal introductory meetings were organized, where partners from each country presented themselves.

"InternPrize: Business Ideas Generation" (BIG InternPrize) KA2 Erasmus+ project

With a duration of 30 month, the project is funded by Erasmus+ programme, key action 2 Strategic Partnerships for vocational education and training under the leadership of Akdeniz University in Antalya, Turkey, which includes 15 organisations from 11 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey.

BIG InternPrize aims to: establish a new structured and permanent form of relationship and cooperation between the VET system and the business environment through a Community of Practice; introduce the use of bite-size-learning: A new form of non-formal education complementary to formal education, which is totally mobile, flexible and easy to use with a very wide variety of learners, both with those in initial training and those in continuing education, as well as those who might be at risk of leaving school early; train VET trainers in entrepreneurship education; experiment (with a view to further development) with the use of peer review in improving students' business ideas by entrepreneurs who will in turn serve as role models.

In 2020, a series of meetings between partners were organized. WorldSkills Foundation Romania wrote two mini research papers on Gamification and Digital Storytelling as part of a project activity.



Social Media

#skillskeepmoving campaign

WorldSkills Romania Foundation took part in one of the WorldSkills initiatives - the #skillskeepmoving campaign. This initiative aimed to celebrate those whose work has kept the world moving since the beginning of the pandemic.

While the frontline worked to combat COVID-19, others worked tirelessly to support the whole of society. Hospitals, homes and businesses have been running with water, electricity, food, internet connection and more. How? Because the people who work in these industries have worked hard so that we have the best conditions to live and work in.

As part of this campaign we shared stories of those working in essential fields (competitors in international WorldSkills competitions) and promoted the 4 thematic conferences: 1) WorldSkills: keeping moving during a global pandemic; 2) Can skill competitions, training, and assessments be effective online?; 3) Ensuring that skills reflect societies: Diversity and Inclusion in competitions and beyond; 4) Youth, skills, and resilience: the view from WorldSkills Champions.

The campaign ran from 15th of June to 15th of July 2020.



Financial Report

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