

## WHO WE ARE

### About KulturKontakt Austria

KulturKontakt Austria (KKA) facilitates educational co-operation between Austrian education institutions and relevant partner institutions in East and South Eastern Europe as well as regional co-operation in SEE. One of KKA's priorities is the promotion of labour market relevant and inclusive VET in support of increasing the employability of young people, especially vulnerable youth. Inclusive education has been a co-operation priority for over 10 years, especially in the co-operation with the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro.

### About Speranta Center, Republic of Moldova

Active since the year 2000, the NGO "Speranta Center" is one of the leading organizations in Moldova contributing to developing best practices for inclusive education in the mainstream education system. Starting with 2015, the organization is focused on providing vocational orientation and labor inclusion services for youth with disabilities.

### About Staze, Montenegro

The NGO "Staze" has 15 years of rich experience in supporting the improvement of inclusive education in Montenegro at all levels. Current activities focus on individual transition in social inclusion, supporting the development and the quality of social inclusion policies and practices, inclusive education and employment of children and youth with Special Education Needs.

## CONTACTS

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## Project I-VET

## INCLUSIVE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING – CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO RELEVANT EDUCATION AND TRAINING PATHWAYS



The project is part-financed by the **European Union** and the **City of Vienna** and **KulturKontakt Austria**

Funding provided by:

Partners:



City of Vienna



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

### Background

Ensuring equal access to education, training and the labour market is a priority in the entire Danube region, including Austria, Moldova and Montenegro. Progress has been made in general education, however access of young persons with Special Education Needs (SEN) to Vocational Education and Training (VET) is still low. Establishing high quality career guidance and counselling programs is important in any well-functioning VET system and is a key success factor for inclusive VET. Tailored career guidance and counselling (CGC) is essential to help SEN students to access education pathways which open the opportunity of employment and a self-determined life and to reduce the number of drop-outs.

### Objectives

With this project the three partner organisations from Austria, the Republic of Moldova and Montenegro aim to contribute to improving career guidance and counselling services for SEN students to ensure equal and optimized access to VET and increased employability.

The project will facilitate the exchange of good practices and policies on inclusive career guidance and counselling services and inclusive access to employment.

### Main activities

The partners are closely co-operating in achieving the project goals, through joint development of products and meetings for sharing experience and best practices. An interdisciplinary approach and collaboration between social and economic partners will enhance sustainability of project results.

#### **Activity 1. Screening of existing career guidance and counselling services in Moldova and Montenegro and identifying gaps to meet the specific needs of SEN students**

A comprehensive analysis of existing CGC services for SEN students will provide the basis for improving services and identifying capacity building needs.

#### **Activity 2. Design optimized career guidance and counseling services for SEN Students with special focus on VET**

Stakeholders from the education, social and economic sector will be involved in national and regional workshops to derive comprehensive recommendations for optimizing CGC on 4 levels:

- 1) Mainstreaming of special education needs into career guidance during compulsory education
- 2) Optimization of career counselling provided in VET institutions
- 3) Optimizing linkages between different service providers, specifically those provided by schools and those provided by labor market and social services
- 4) Required qualification and profile of career counselors and resulting staff development needs, specif. in education institutions.

#### **Activity 3. Capacity building for enhanced career guidance and counselling for students with SEN**

A manual on CGC for SEN students with a focus on access to relevant VET pathways will be developed. The manual targets career counselors in compulsory education and VET. In a modular approach it will outline the most important elements of effective orientation and counselling, good practices in networking of existing services and introduce tailored instruments that will support SEN students in making best choices when a) transitioning from compulsory school to VET, and b) in VET to enhance future employability. Capacity building seminars are held for future users of the manual.

#### **Activity 4. Mainstreaming and system impact**

The national Ministries responsible for Education will be supported in mainstreaming the identified instruments and key stakeholders in the responsible institutions will be trained. Synergies with ongoing changes at the strategic and regulatory level will be used to anchor project results. Austrian experts will summarize lessons learned for the Austrian context. Project outputs will be made available to relevant inclusive education networks throughout the Danube Region.

