

# PROJECT FACTSHEET

## TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

Bosnia and Herzegovina – May 2025



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Bosnia and Herzegovina



## SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) system in Bosnia and Herzegovina faces many challenges. The latest international reports highlighted that TVET governance is one of the weakest in the Western Balkans.

TVET related reforms in BiH are advancing at a slow pace at all governance levels. TVET is governed by 14 educational authorities responsible for overseeing educational developments across state, entities, cantons, and district. This governance structure has resulted in over 70 policy documents, including framework laws, strategies, legislation, and guidelines.

TVET as such also faces challenges in terms of weak structured dialogue between world of education and world of economy which is precondition for high quality, industry relevant dual oriented TVET and human capital development in general. Further, the absence of a systematic approach and functional mechanisms hinders structured social dialogue, limits potential of TVET to contribute to sustainable economic growth and development, competitiveness and resilience of society as whole. Lack of capacities of social partners puts additional burden to TVET efficiency.

This has led to a shortage of a qualified workforce and well-paying jobs, as well as low productivity, competitiveness and transition to Industry 4.0. These issues are primarily due to the poor alignment between vocational education and the labor market.

### PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal is to improve and strengthen coordinated TVET governance framework system in Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with evidence-based policy making (EBPM) and European Framework for Quality Assurance in TVET (EQAVET) principles.

### EXPECTED RESULTS AND INDICATORS

- Education authorities across the country, that are committed for change, fulfil their roles and responsibilities more effectively and bring policy to practice for inclusive dual-oriented TVET and system financing reforms.
- Businesses are proactively engaging with governments on dual-oriented TVET reforms.
- Strengthened policy framework for dual-oriented TVET at cantonal and entity level
- Improved Capacities for dual-oriented TVET Evidence Based Policy Making
- Strengthened capacities for application of quality assurance in line with European standards
- Sustainable implementation of dual-oriented TVET
- Dual-oriented TVET Business Dialogue Platform established and functional.

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## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project is expected to improve TVET governance efficiency at all levels by strengthening TVET stakeholders capacities, their roles and responsibilities for effective application in line with the strategic document “Riga Conclusions for Improvement of Quality and Relevance of TVET in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2021-2030” and in the country’s priorities for the “EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans”. This is to be achieved through structured dialogue and peer learning, provision of high-quality work-based learning/dual-oriented TVET, and empowering committed actors to develop and implement needed policy reforms.

The project utilizes a modular approach (MRAS), which offers a stakeholder-centered methodology which can be easily adapted to meet the diverse needs and objectives of TVET stakeholders. This approach builds on their resources, capacities and expertise to engage in systemic policy dialogue focused on dual-oriented TVET.

Demand-driven, multi-stakeholder partnerships in TVET requires the active participation of all relevant stakeholders as a key condition for establishing a SMART TVET system based on commitment and political will. This approach encompasses policy planning, policy development, policy implementation and its revision and improvement. Ultimately, it aims to promote and enhance the visibility of TVET excellence.

This approach is grounded in key reference documents, extensive consultations with stakeholders and development partners, as well as an analysis conducted as part of the project’s inception phase.



## PROJECT IN BRIEF

### NAME:

Technical Vocational Education and Training System Strengthening Phase 1

### DOMAIN:

Sustainable economic and migration cooperation

### LAND/REGION:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

### IMPLEMENTER:

GOPA Worldwide Consultants GmbH

### PARTNERS:

Ministry of Civil Affairs, Ministries of Education, Pedagogical Institutes, TVET schools, support structures for SMEs, chambers of economy, employer and industry associations, companies

### STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The quality of the TVET system in Bosnia and Herzegovina is still below international standards and has led the country into a situation of significant skills shortages and low productivity. The skills mismatch between the TVET system and the labour market causes difficulties in school-to-work transition and contributes to high youth unemployment. TVET related reforms in BiH are advancing at a slow pace at all governance levels. TVET is governed by 14 educational authorities responsible for overseeing educational developments across state, entities, cantons, and district.

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

The project aims to improve and strengthen coordinated TVET governance framework system in Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with evidence-based policy making (EBPM) and European Framework for Quality Assurance in TVET (EQAVET) principles.

### TARGET GROUP:

The target group includes education authorities, TVET schools, employers and their associations/chambers. TVET students are the end beneficiaries of the Project.

### COSTS:

Swiss contribution: CHF 3,250,000

### DURATION:

1 December 2024 – 30 November 2028

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