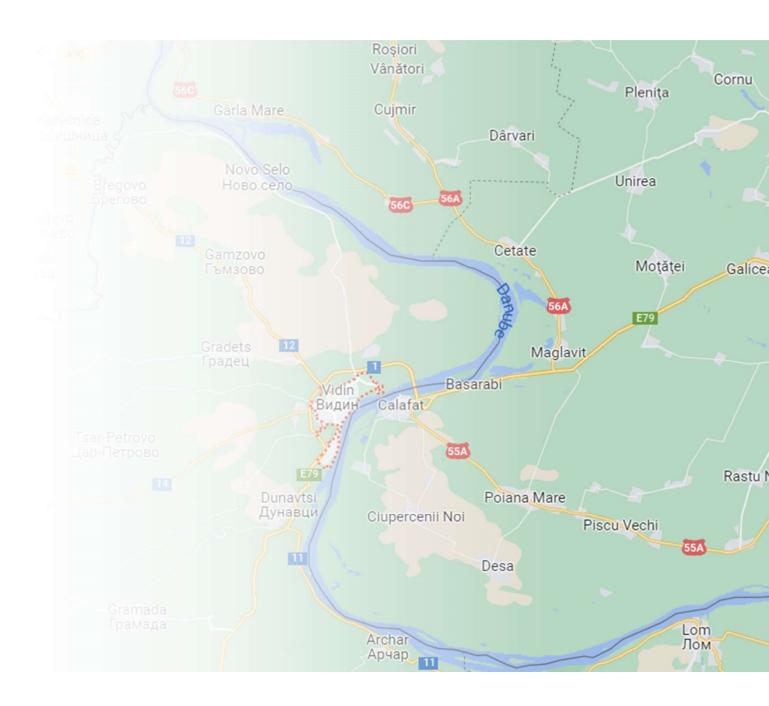
NEW SKILLS FOR A BETTER JOB

Measures to facilitate cross-border inclusion in the cross-border Dolj- Vidin region

THE SET-UP/ CHALLENGES

- The labor market in Dolj-Vidin area is affected by the high level of inactivity;
- The potential offers of employment are poor and very poorly diversified, especially in rural areas;
- Mobility on the various sectors is reduced;
- Labor force is unqualified for the needs of local businesses which frequently require highly skilled personnel;
- Low motivation for unemployed individuals to seek new qualifications;
- The language barrier;

A joint project team from Romania and Bulgaria tried to overcome some of these challenges



THE OBJECTIVES

- Development of human capital in the area
- Increased competitiveness by linking education and lifelong training with the labor market requirements;
- The certification of 416 individuals who graduated from the course;
- Through the Cross Border Mobile Business Incubator, supporting business development in startup activities on both sides of the Danube;
- Developing a study to identify the main economic sectors that can enable workforce mobility;
- Creating a cross-border integrated website that will inform more than 5,000 people in Vidin-Dolj on jobs available in the two zones. www.jobskills.ro

MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO OVERCOME CROSS-BORDER CHALLENGES

A comparative study was conducted in the Dolj-Vidin border area on social security, labor law, legal regulations and fiscal issues. Subsequently, the study was disseminated to the target group by organizing 10 common thematic sessions for dissemination of results in the two cross-border regions. A legislative proposal has been submitted.

A study was developed in the cross-border area of Dolj-Vidin in order to identify the key economic branches with employment potential. Consequently, areas in which training programs were to be carried were identified. Training programs were organized according to the competences and abilities which the 416 inactive persons part of the target group had shown.

A designated database for both employers and job seekers on both sides of the Danube was created, thus facilitating mobility in the labor market. The site provides employers the possibility to communication and mediate contact with the potential candidates.

THE ACTIVITIES

The target group was made up of 416 inactive individuals aged 16-64 years who were involved in activities such as:

- individual counseling sessions in which professional problems were evaluated;
- group counseling sessions to communicate the availability of jobs, access to vacancies, access to recruiting portals, development CVs and cover letters, preparation for job interviews;
- support for labor market mediation sessions with beneficiaries who had been in contact with employers with vacancies;
- Two job fairs in Dolj county and one in Vidin in order to raise awareness on employment opportunities present in the border area;
- The training programs were completed with foreign languages learning courses and entrepreneurship training providing workers with more concrete and valuable information.

THE CROSS-BORDER BUSINESS INCUBATOR

The cross-border incubator's impact was developed as a means of economic and social change for individuals, families and communities in need.

The general objectives of setting up a cross-border business incubator were:

- To promote managerial culture for 42 young people part of the target group by facilitating their access to funding sources, increasing competitive economic activities, strengthening the investment climate and reducing the unemployment rate in the targeted areas;
- Improving management performance of 10 social enterprises in the Dolj- Vidin area;
- Providing also the following services: secretarial services like sending mails, scanning documents, printing documents, filing invoices, ensuring correspondence;

SALIENT ISSUES

- Border crossing times and border crossing procedures still present – which delay mobility on a daily basis
- Border crossing taxes road toll on the bridge uniting the border between Romania and Bulgaria in the region (around 30EURO daily) which can be a deterant for laborers
- While the region remains rich in both agricultural, turistic and industrial potential and resources, the time employed and the financial resurces spent by individuals and deterr them from the willigness to access potential opportinities



