TKAEDiTE (Transforming the Kosovo and Albanian Education System by Introducing Digital Technology in Teacher Education)

The digital age in which we are living has witnessed very rapid and diverse developments in the field of ICT. As a result of this transformation imposed by the development of technology, many fields, professions, functions, jobs, and tasks change and are modified daily, some of them even disappear or are completely replaced by digital technology.

Immune to this development and transformation is not even the field of education (including teacher education), as the most important field of any society.

In order not to lag the developed world, Kosovo and Albania (as a country in transition, not associated with the programme) must be prepared for the integration and most effective and efficient use of technology and digitalization in its education system, in order to modernise and improve the quality of this system.

Analysing the situation from a cause-consequences perspective, it is evident that in Kosovo and Albania, pupils start to learn IT subject only after the sixth grade. In both countries, the ICT teachers at primary and middle school levels have in most cases a professional degree other than in ICT and are nevertheless involved in the ICT course instruction.

The lack of programs tackling issues related to ICT in education is problematic and such a situation necessitates we act urgently and address immediate needs towards capacitating future teachers at pre-university level with knowledge, skills and values related to digital transformation in education.

The aim of the project TKAEDiTE (Transforming the Kosovo and Albanian Education System by Introducing Digital Technology in Teacher Education) is the creation of a Teacher Educators ICT competence profile, crash course program for existing teachers to match these profiles, modification of ICT learning path for pupils in pre-university curriculum and creation of non-existing Bachelor Program and modernisation of existing teacher education programs with respect to ICT competences.

The objectives of the project are detailed as below:

- Objective 1: Analyse the learning path of IT related subjects in the Core Curriculum of pre university studies in Kosovo and Albania and modernise the Kosovo pre-university education curriculum, including the ICT competencies in the horizontal subjects.
- Objective 2: Establish a task force of Education Technologists that will have the main responsibility for transforming the education processes through technology in the school system.
- Objective 3: Create open learning resources for specific subject and offer through the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation eLearning repository (that will be accessible for both Kosovo and Albanian population and teacher community and students).
- Objective 4: Train and retrain the IT teachers with the new digital competences with respect to their learning materials.
- Objective 5: Create a non-existing Bachelor program in the Faculty of Education (UP) in Kosovo with respect to training ICT teachers (that will also target students from Albania) and modernise the existing teacher education programs and courses in Kosovo and Albania by including ICT competences.

With respect to objective 1, the learning path is composed of the ICT subjects in the vertical system, starting from primary school to university. Through this objective each of the subjects will be analysed and transformed as part of the system, by avoiding the overlapping and conflicts among each of the subjects.

With respect to objective 2, The Education Technologists as a group will be composed during the implementation phase of the project, who will be trained to transform the education processes within the schools who have been selected for the pilot phase. These experts will be used as the main drivers for transforming the education processes within the schools and beyond this.

With respect to objective 4, Oulu University as a leading university for the working package 3.2 in collaboration with LNU and NTNU will train a selected group of teachers and teacher educators, who further will continue to offer the training for the future to the local schoolteachers. The program will be institutionalised in Teacher Education institutions in participating partner country institutions.