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NEWSLETTER

**GREEN INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION IN
KOSOVO AND ALBANIA**

DECEMBER 2025

We are pleased to announce the official launch of the Green Industrial Transformation through Education in Kosovo and Albania (GITEKA) project, funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ CBHE Programme.

Led by the University of New York Tirana (UNYT), GITEKA aims to support green industrial transformation by strengthening higher education, fostering collaboration with industry, and promoting innovation and sustainability across Kosovo and Albania.

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION

Project Objectives

GITEKA seeks to modernize higher education and promote sustainability by encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices and modern governance within higher education institutions, strengthening collaboration between academia and the manufacturing sector, and aligning curricula with current industry trends and green skills. The project also focuses on developing innovative educational modules that reflect technological advancements while enhancing student employability through strong partnerships with industry and practical learning opportunities.

The GITEKA project is expected to deliver stronger collaboration between academic institutions and industry, improved graduate employability through industry-aligned skills and hands-on experience, and increased adoption of sustainable practices across both education and manufacturing sectors. Ultimately, the project aims to establish a modernized educational framework that is responsive to the evolving needs of industry in Kosovo and Albania.



ADVANCING GREEN SKILLS THROUGH EDUCATION



GITEKA KICK-OFF MEETING: SETTING THE FOUNDATION FOR IMPACT

The GITEKA project officially launched with a kick-off meeting held on January 21–22, 2025, at the University of New York Tirana, bringing together academic and industry partners to align on goals and next steps.



The meeting opened with a welcome address by Prof. Dr. Ali Güneş, Rector of UNYT, followed by remarks from Dr. Ina Zhupa, Chair of the Committee for Education and Public Information in the Albanian Parliament.



The kick-off was organized under the leadership of UNYT's Research, Project, and Innovation Center, ensuring a structured and collaborative start to the project.



Partners strengthened cooperation and established a shared understanding of roles, responsibilities, and communication mechanisms.

On the second day of the meeting, project partners reviewed the work packages, clarified responsibilities, and defined detailed action plans for the first project year. Discussions focused on curriculum alignment with industry needs, sustainability integration, and the development of pilot initiatives.

“Collaboration between education and industry is key to driving sustainable transformation.”

The kick-off meeting concluded with a shared commitment to delivering measurable impact through innovation, cooperation, and the integration of green skills into higher education systems across Kosovo and Albania.

<https://giteka-project.com/>

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

KOSOVA



CO-DESIGNING GREEN MODULES

“FLEXIBLE LEARNING, MICRO-CREDENTIALS, AND STRONG INDUSTRY COLLABORATION ARE ESSENTIAL FOR PREPARING STUDENTS FOR GREEN AND SMART MANUFACTURING.”



WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

On 24 September 2025, a National Workshop was held in Ferizaj within the framework of the GITEKA project – Green Industrial Transformation through Education in Kosovo and Albania, as part of Work Package 2 and the implementation of Deliverable 2.3: Co-designing of modules and training paths at universities. The workshop was jointly organized by Universum International College (UNI) and the University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj (USAF) and marked an important step toward modernizing curricula and aligning higher education with labor market needs in the green and smart manufacturing sectors.

KEY DISCUSSIONS



Participants reviewed findings from WP2 research based on surveys and focus groups involving over 100 stakeholders from Kosovo and Albania. Results showed strong demand for new, flexible learning formats, with 87% of respondents expressing interest in new modules, particularly short courses and micro-credentials.

Key challenges identified included time constraints and costs, highlighting the need for modular, accessible, and practice-oriented training closely connected to industry needs.

KOSOVA NATIONAL WORKSHOP

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

ALBANIA



CO-DESIGNING GREEN MODULES

“INDUSTRY-DRIVEN DESIGN AND FLEXIBLE DELIVERY FORMATS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING FUTURE-READY BUSINESS AND INNOVATION SKILLS.”

»»» WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The University of New York Tirana (UNYT) has selected three modules to be developed within the framework of the GITEKA project, following an extensive analysis of industry needs and skills gaps identified through project research.

The selected modules will be integrated either as updates to existing courses or as newly developed courses within the Faculty of Economy and Business. They will be offered as core or elective courses across the Business Administration, Business Informatics, and Applied Banking & Finance / Finance study programs, with the possibility of inclusion as electives in related fields.

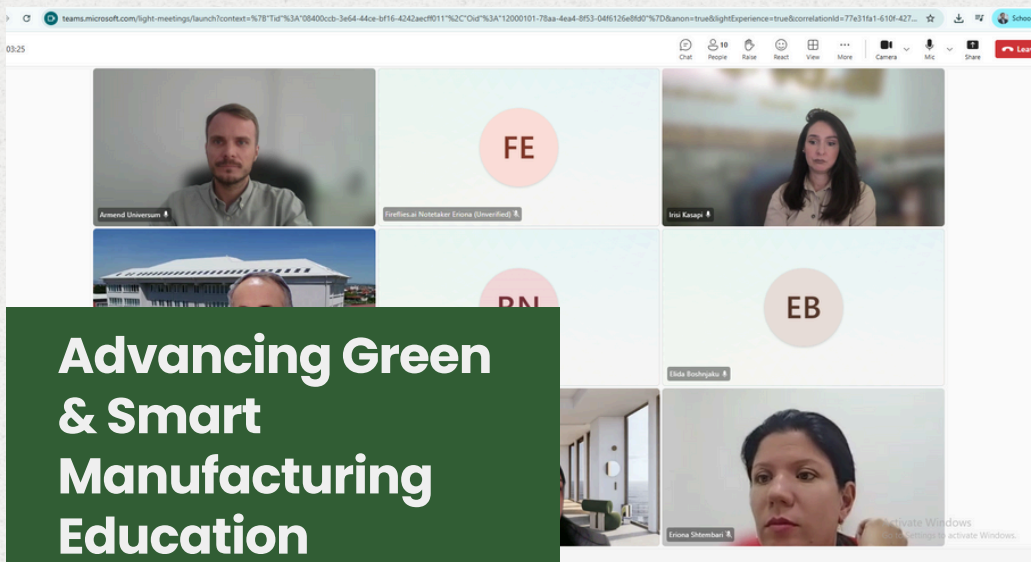
KEY DISCUSSIONS <<<

UNYT actively contributed to key project activities supporting module development. These included a Focus Group Session held on 26 June 2025, hosted by UET, where academic representatives, industry stakeholders, and experts provided feedback on module concepts aimed at supporting green industrial transformation in Kosovo and Albania.

UNYT also hosted the Albanian National Workshop on 23 September 2025, organized in collaboration with UET. The workshop brought together faculty members, curriculum developers, and industry experts to advance the design of modules aligned with national and regional priorities.

**ALBANIA
NATIONAL
WORKSHOP**

JOINT HYBRID WORKSHOP



Advancing Green & Smart Manufacturing Education

On 29 September 2025, the Joint Hybrid Workshop was successfully held within the framework of the GITEKA project, bringing together key higher education institutions from Kosovo and Albania. The workshop marked an important milestone in aligning higher education curricula with labor market needs in green and smart manufacturing.

The event was jointly organized by Universum International College (UNI), University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj (UShAF), European University of Tirana (UET), and University of New York Tirana (UNYT).

● Key Results

The workshop successfully consolidated complementary national perspectives from Kosovo and Albania, enabling partners to align their approaches toward curriculum modernization in the field of green and smart manufacturing. Through constructive discussion, the workshop clarified key aspects of module design, learning methodologies, and assessment frameworks, and resulted in the establishment of a shared roadmap to guide the implementation phase.

Key agreements included the integration of micro-credentials within existing courses in Kosovo, the development of new stand-alone courses in Albania, and the recognition of the critical role of targeted training for academic staff. This training will be supported by experts to ensure that educators are equipped with the necessary competencies to effectively deliver the newly designed modules and achieve the project's learning objectives.



STAFF WORKSHOP

HOW TO INTRODUCE THE PROGRAMME



The workshop successfully consolidated complementary national perspectives from Kosovo and Albania, reinforcing a shared understanding of how green and smart manufacturing education should be designed and implemented across higher education institutions. Through structured discussions and the exchange of best practices, partners clarified module design approaches, pedagogical frameworks, and assessment strategies, ultimately establishing a common roadmap to guide the next phases of implementation. Key agreements included the integration of micro-credentials within existing courses in Kosovo and the development of new stand-alone courses in Albania, reflecting national contexts while maintaining a unified project vision.

Strong emphasis was placed on capacity building for academic staff, including targeted training and expert support. This will ensure the effective delivery of innovative, student-centered learning that responds to labor market needs and supports the goals of green and sustainable industrial transformation.



In addition, partners emphasized the critical importance of targeted training for academic staff, supported by expert-led workshops and modern teaching methodologies. This approach ensures that educators are well equipped to deliver innovative, student-centered modules aligned with labor market needs, sustainability goals, and the long-term impact objectives of the GITEKA project

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