

Project Partners

- Universiteti Politeknik i Tiranës (Coordinator)
- University of Elbasan "Aleksander Xhuvani"
- University of Gjirokastrë "Eqrem Çabej"
- University of Sarajevo
- University of Mostar
- University Mediterranean Podgorica
- University of Pristine
- Kolegji Nderkombtar për Biznes dhe Teknologji
- University of Coruña
- IES Ribeira do Louro
- Asociación Empresarial de Investigación Centro Tecnológico del Mármol y La Piedra
- Università Degli Studi di Roma La Sapienza
- C.P.I.P.E. - Scuola Edile di Padova
- National Technical University of Athens
- Transilvania University of Braşov

BKSTONE

Higher Education–Enterprise platform
for fostering, modernisation and sustainable growth
in natural stone industry
in Western Balkans

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Objectives

BKSTONE project has the main objective of fostering the modernization and development of the stone sector in Western Balkans partner countries through strengthening the relationship between the higher education institutions and the industry, and internationalizing curriculum and methods.

To meet the requirements of current international demand of natural stone products according to EU standards, the partner countries industry has to perform important changes in quarrying methods, processing methods, quality controls following European and international standards (p.e. CE marking, ASTM, etc.), marketing strategies, international trade, e-commerce etc. These changes require the participation of all local agents, including the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and Vocational Education and Training (VET) organizations, which should develop their training strategies to meet the challenges explained in the rationale of our project in terms of quality, delivery and especially relevance, in response to the industry needs.

Specific Objectives

- To contribute through the outputs of the project to develop National/ Regional innovation strategies for specialization in the natural stone sector.
- To put in value each country/region's strengths, competitive advantages and potential for excellence in the stone sector through benchmarking existing training initiatives and incorporating elements into the educational materials to be developed in the project.
- To support technological, as well as practice-based innovative training based on the approach and format of the courses to be developed.
- To contribute to get stakeholders in the stone industry fully involved, encouraging their participation in the conception and testing phases of the development of materials.
- To promote among students active and constructive learning as a necessary means to work in the stone sector, testing new possibilities in partner countries like Tertiary VET levels.
- To create a network platform involving Stone Sector representatives, High

Education Institutions (HEI) and VET organizations of EU programme and Partner Countries based on the full implementation of the project

Project Results

Taking into account the specific objectives, the results of the project will be the following:

- To benchmark existing training initiatives & incorporate elements into project training outputs
- To support technological & practice-based innovative training based on courses approach and format.
- To encourage participation of industry stakeholders in outputs conception and testing phases.
- To test new High Educational possibilities of Tertiary VET levels in partner countries.
- To contribute to National/regional innovation strategies for specialization in the natural stone sector with project outputs.
- To create a Stone Sector network platform involving stakeholders in programme & partner countries.