



MetaTech Exchange

BRIDGING INDUSTRY 4.0 IN WESTERN BALKANS

MetaTech Exchange: Bridging Industry 4.0 in Western Balkans (METATECH4.0)

During the period of 16-18 June 2026 in Montenegro there was organized the Experts Study visit within the project METATECH4.0. The Montenegrin Employers Federation hosted partners from Poland, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo within the framework of the Erasmus+ project *MetaTech Exchange: Bridging Industry 4.0 in Western Balkans (METATECH4.0)*. The project aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the metal industry and improve vocational education and training systems through the application of modern technologies and Industry 4.0 principles. METATECH4.0 project is aligned with the European Union's strategic priorities in the fields of digitalisation, innovation, and human resource development. It focuses on identifying challenges and developing solutions for the metal sector in the Western Balkans. Particular attention is given to empowering small and medium-sized enterprises, enhancing workforce competencies, and strengthening cooperation between the education system and industry.

The delegation consisted of representatives of partner organisations, experts from academia, and representatives of the business sector, who had the opportunity to learn about examples of good practice in education and industry during their stay in Montenegro.

Herebelow you may find details of the implementation of this activity.

16. jun 2026.

On the first day of the study visit, the delegation visited the Secondary Mechanical Engineering School "Ivan Uskoković" and company 3D Soba.

At the Secondary Mechanical Engineering School, participants were welcomed by the school principal, Ms Sonja Dabetić, and her associates. During the meeting, the school's educational programmes, activities aimed at developing students' professional competencies, and the challenges faced by vocational education in adapting to the needs of the modern labour market were presented. Discussions also focused on opportunities to enhance cooperation between educational institutions and the business sector.



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MetaTech Exchange

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The delegation then visited 3D Soba, one of the first companies in Montenegro to pioneer the professional application of 3D technologies. Participants had the opportunity to learn about 3D modelling and 3D printing processes, as well as innovative solutions developed by the company for various industries. The company's advanced capacities for product development, training, and the application of cutting-edge technologies in manufacturing processes were also presented.

Following the tour of the company's showroom, the visit continued at the production facility, where participants had the opportunity to explore the company's environmental and circular economy initiatives. Through its "PETko" programme, plastic bottles are transformed into filaments for 3D printers, while the "Eko-daska" initiative uses plastic waste to produce a wide range of products, including benches, tables, chairs, waste bins, and planters. Due to company policy, photography was not permitted inside the factory.



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MetaTech Exchange

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17. jun 2026.

As part of the project activities, a roundtable discussion was organised, bringing together international partners, representatives of Montenegrin companies from the metal sector, the Centre for Vocational Education, and trade union organisations.

During the discussion, participants exchanged experiences regarding the state of the metal industry and vocational education in the partner countries, as well as the challenges faced by businesses and labour markets. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for accelerated digital transformation, the



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implementation of new technologies, and the development of competencies required by modern industry.

Participants also attended expert presentations delivered by specialists from Poland and Germany on the topics “*Artificial Intelligence in the Metal Industry: Opportunities, Challenges and Best Practices from Germany*” and “*Standardisation of 3D Printing*”. These presentations highlighted current trends and experiences from both countries in the application of artificial intelligence, automation, and the standardisation of manufacturing processes.

It was concluded that digitalisation, innovation, and continuous investment in knowledge and skills are essential prerequisites for strengthening the competitiveness of the metal sector and ensuring the sustainable industrial development of the region. The importance of closer cooperation between the education system and labour market needs was also emphasised, in order to prepare a workforce capable of meeting the challenges of Industry 4.0.



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MetaTech Exchange

BRIDGING INDUSTRY 4.0 IN WESTERN BALKANS



18. jun 2026.

On the third day of the study visit, the delegation visited the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Montenegro and the company Remid Vis.

The delegation visited Remid Vis, where they were welcomed by the company's director, Mr Boban Stanić. During the tour of the production facilities, participants were introduced to the company's manufacturing processes, the development of mechanical components, and activities related to the servicing of industrial equipment. Particular attention was drawn to the company's extensive machine park, including machines that remain fully operational despite their age. For this reason, some participants referred to the company as a "small industrial museum".

The visit to Remid Vis provided participants with an opportunity to learn about a successful example of domestic manufacturing based on knowledge, expertise, innovation, and continuous technological advancement.

At the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, participants were welcomed by Vice-Dean Prof. Dr Uroš Karadžić and his associates. During the meeting, the faculty's study programmes, research capacities, and activities were presented, followed by a tour of its laboratories and teaching facilities. Participants had the opportunity to become acquainted with the modern equipment and opportunities the faculty provides to both students and industry.



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Project activities will continue throughout 2026, with implementation scheduled until the end of the year.



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