**Informative note about the COOPERA project ”** **Integrating Dual Higher Education in Moldova and Ukraine”**

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| Acronym: | COOPERA |
| **Project title:** | INTEGRATING DUAL HIGHER EDUCATION IN MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE |
| **Reference number:** | 617490-EPP-1-2020-1-MD-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP |
| **Project type:** | National Project / structural |
| **Total budget:** | 967.200,00 EUR |
| **Coordinating institution:** | ASEM- Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova  |
| **Project period:** | 15/01/2021 - 14/01/2024 (36 month) |

**COOPERA project summary:**

The current social environment and high youth unemployment afflicting Europe, has led European policy to favour education seeking to promote the employability of young people. The crisis and the effect it has on the high unemployment rates, especially among the youth, has led some countries to give great importance to dual education at all educational levels and to speed up policies and reforms for the development of this system of education.

The key feature of Dual (cooperative and work-integrated) Higher Education (DHE) is the unique combination of theory and practice. The university's curriculum combines higher education and on-the-job training at numerous partner companies, aiming to provide both academic skills and work-related expertise. In that regard, the academic content conveyed in classroom is complemented with workplace experience, so that real-life situations immediately test the effectiveness of classroom theory and vice versa.

The project aim is to integrate Dual Higher Education (DHE) in the Partner countries in general, and to improve individual employability and development, increase suitability and continuity between the demands of the professional world and the initial training of university students, and achieve of greater economic efficiency and social integration, in particular.

**Project's Specific objectives**:

OB1: To identify needs and specific requirements of companies in different industrial sectors and businesses for DHE and to find companies willing to participate in pilot implementations of DHE during the project;

OB2: To develop a flexible and generic DHEM to support different needs and interests of employers, HEIs and students in different industrial and business sectors and to provide recommendations to HEIs for implementation of DHE;

OB3: To test the specific DHE models generated from the developed generic DHEM, by realizing their pilot implementations during the project and to analyse achieved results;

OB4: To propose changes to legislation/regulations to adapt DHE in the Partner countries.

**Among the main results of the COOPERA project** is expected:

R1. Flexible and generic Dual Higher Education Model, developed aiming maximal effectiveness of collaboration between HE students, HEIs and companies in Partner Countries;

R2. The legislative framework, needed for establishment of Dual Higher Education Model in Partner Countries elaborated;

R3. Pilot implementations, needed to test proposed flexible Dual Higher Education Model with its variants.

**Partner Universities from Moldova:**

Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova – Coordinating institution

Technical University of Moldova

Free International University of Moldova

Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova

**Partner Universities from Ukraine:**

Uzhhorod National University (UA)

KROK University (UA)

"V.N. Karazin" National University of Kharkiv (UA)

Odessa National University of Economics (UA)

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (UA)

**EU Partners:**

Baden-Württemberg Cooperative State University (DE)

University of Lleida (ES)

Varna University of Management (BG)

WSB University (PL)

European Policy Development and Research Institute of Maribor (SE)