

Career Centres for Youth+

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SLOVENIA

Timeline

2025 Implementation

ID number 50654

Background

The Career Centres for Youth+ (KCM+) initiative was launched in response to persistent challenges in supporting young people's timely and well-informed transitions from education to the labour market in Slovenia. Despite earlier investments in career guidance, gaps remained in access, regional coverage and the inclusion of vulnerable groups, particularly young people at risk of early disengagement from education and training. At the same time, skills mismatches and shortages in key sectors highlighted the need for stronger links between education, VET providers and local labour markets.

Objectives

The main goal of the projects is to support young people's integration into the labour market by better connecting the education process with the local environment and economy. The purpose of the programme is to provide better access to career guidance services for the young people in education (children and adolescents aged between 6 and 19) and NEETs (young people not in education, employment, or training aged 15 to 29). By fostering better links between education, employers, and regional labour market needs, the project seeks to empower young people to make informed decisions about their career paths and better prepare them for the future workforce, with a particular focus on addressing skills shortages in key sectors such as green and digital industries

The responsibilities of the KCM+ are:

- (a) ensuring comprehensive and accessible career guidance services;
- (b) empowering youth through individual and group career planning;
- (c) supporting parents and school counsellors in delivering career guidance;
- (d) developing new, tailored approaches for career orientation;
- (e) facilitating career exploration and employer engagement, especially in shortage and future-oriented professions;
- (f) providing information on labour market entry;
- (g) strengthening cooperation among labour market stakeholders and career guidance providers (e.g. Employment Service of Slovenia, Slovenian Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training, chambers, schools, and PUM-O+ (Project Learning for Young Adults+) programme providers and other relevant stakeholders).

Description

In April 2025, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities launched an open call to co-finance two multi-year Career Centres for Youth+ (KCM+) projects, aiming to expand access to high-quality career guidance across Slovenia by establishing two regional consortia that form a coordinated network of youth career centres.

In the Western cohesion region, the lead partner is the Public Institute Cene Štupar – Centre for Education Ljubljana, implementing the project titled *Karierni plac – Career Centre for Youth+*. The consortium covers six territorial units. In the Eastern cohesion region, the project is led by the PRIZMA Foundation for Improving Employment Opportunities under the title *Career Centre for Youth – VšečkAM in GREM+*. This consortium operates across seven territorial units.

Building on the previous initiative implemented from 2019 to 2022, KCM+ aims to broaden its reach by including NEETs (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) aged 15-29 in its target group. Through this approach, KCM+ seeks to provide individuals in the target group with practical support for understanding their strengths, interests, and competencies, exploring future-oriented and shortage occupations, and making informed decisions about education, training, and employment. The initiative also aims to respond to regional labour-market needs by strengthening links between schools and employers, developing tailored guidance approaches, and empowering young people to plan their career paths with greater confidence and awareness of opportunities.

It also places greater emphasis on involving parents and school staff in career counselling. With its expanded geographical coverage across all statistical regions of Slovenia, the KCM+ aims to enhance its impact, particularly by focusing on regional labour market demands and preparing youth for the evolving job market.

2025 Implementation

Following a public tender for the co-financing of Career Centres for Youth+ (KCM+), co-financed by the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), two multi-year KCM+ projects were selected by a committee appointed by the Minister responsible for labour specifically for this call. The projects are implemented over the period September 2025 to September 2029. They will focus on:

- (a) providing expert support in career exploration and decision-making.
- (b) identifying labour market needs and regional specifics, especially by connecting local schools and employers.

In the Western Cohesion Region, one KCM+ was established, comprising 6 partners (6 KCM+ units), operating in four statistical regions, with the aim of reaching at least 13 230 young people. In the Eastern Cohesion Region, one KCM+ consortium was established comprising 7 partners (7 KCM units) operating in eight statistical regions and aiming to reach at least 13 770 young people.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MDDSZ)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Young people (15-29 years old)

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Lifelong guidance

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

VET promoting equality of opportunities

Osnabrück Declaration

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Project website](#)

Related policy developments

2023 Completed

Career centres for youth

The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is implementing the programme 'Career centres for youth', jointly financed by the ESF.

 SLOVENIA

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

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