

DERHE Project Newsletter

<https://derhe.si>

Edition #3



June, 2025



Advancing Digital Education and Industry Collaboration in the Western Balkans

The DERHE (Digital Education Readiness in the Field of Higher Education) project aims to enhance digital education in Western Balkan higher education institutions and strengthen their connections with the industrial sector.

- Strengthen HEIs' capacity for networking, digitalization, and skills development.
- Enhance student employability through improved skills and curricula.
- Boost company competitiveness by increasing added value.
- Foster collaboration between HEIs and businesses for mutual growth

Top News

- Multifunctional centers set up in all partner universities to boost training and innovation.
- Partners met at University of Montenegro to align on course development and next steps.
- Building Stronger Connections Between Academia and Industry



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



DERHE Workshop & Management Meeting – Podgorica

- 📖 Focus: Presentation of blended learning courses for students and industry
- 🖋️ Activities: Lab visits, consortium meeting, and project coordination discussions
- 🎯 Outcome: Strengthened collaboration and alignment on digital education goals

DERHE Workshop and Project Meeting in Podgorica

The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Montenegro hosted a two-day DERHE Project Workshop and Management Meeting on 12–13 February 2025 in Podgorica.

The event gathered partners from across the region to present progress on blended learning courses developed for students and industry professionals. Presentations were delivered by teams from the University of Tirana, Polytechnic University of Tirana, University of Sarajevo, University of East Sarajevo, University of Banja Luka, and University of Montenegro. The sessions were followed by lab visits and a consortium management meeting to align on future steps and deliverables.

The workshop reinforced the DERHE project's mission to enhance digital education readiness and foster stronger university-business cooperation across the Western Balkans.



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Event Highlights

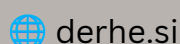
- DERHE was promoted at four major events, engaging students, academics, and industry representatives.
- The project highlighted its role in advancing digital transformation and strengthening university–industry collaboration within the Erasmus+ programme.

DERHE Project Presented Across Key Info Events at Polytechnic University of Tirana

The DERHE Project has been promoted through a series of events at the Polytechnic University of Tirana, strengthening its visibility within academia and among future professionals. From October 2024 to May 2025, the DERHE team participated in several key forums and fairs, including the Erasmus+ Info Day (16.10.2024), the Work and Study Fair (27–28.02.2025), the event on “Digital Transformation with Autodesk Technologies” (23.04.2025), and the Digital Transformation Forum (13.05.2025). These events brought together students, academic staff, and industry representatives to explore the role of digital innovation in education, research, and professional development. At each occasion, the DERHE team highlighted the project’s contributions to the digital transformation of higher education institutions in Albania and its alignment with the broader goals of the Erasmus+ programme.



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Event Highlights

🏢 Stronger collaboration built between universities, companies, and chambers of commerce

💡 Focus on practical training, digital transformation, and applied optimization models in companies

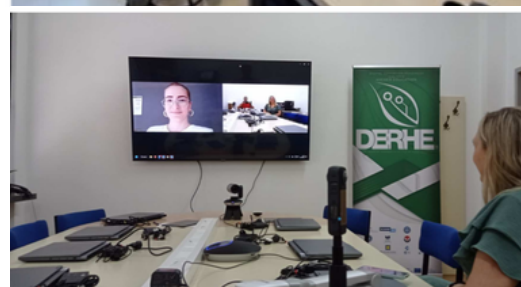
✅ 5 Learning Centers installed across Western Balkan Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)



Multifunctional Learning Centers Installed Across Partner Universities to Strengthen Industry–Academia Linkages

As part of the third work package of the DERHE Project — Capacity Building and Training of Company Staff — five Multifunctional Learning Centers have been successfully installed across the Western Balkan partner universities. The goal of these centers is to serve as dynamic learning hubs where students and industry professionals can come together for practical learning, applied research, and collaborative problem-solving. The centers will also support the implementation of specialized training courses for students and industry, foster optimization model applications within companies, and drive curriculum innovation across partner Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

With the involvement of chambers of commerce and business actors, this activity reinforces DERHE's mission to modernize education while equipping students and professionals with future-ready skills.



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Event Highlights

- 🌐 Each Western Balkan partner university offers a tailored course package aligned with local and regional market needs
- 💼 Focus on digitalization, Industry 5.0, energy efficiency, process optimization, and more
- 🤝 Platform strengthens ties between higher education institutions and the business sector



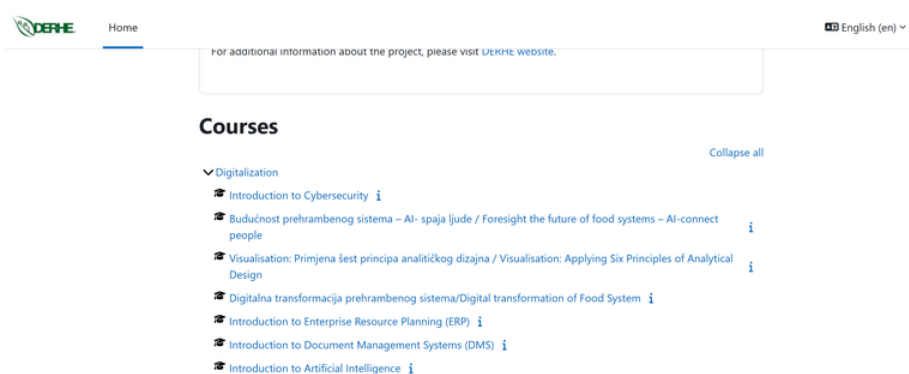
DERHE Launches New Learning Management System

The DERHE project has officially launched its Learning Management System — a digital platform supporting blended learning for students and staff across partner universities in the Western Balkans.

The platform offers 12 industry-relevant courses on topics such as digitalization, Industry 5.0, and energy efficiency, developed in collaboration with regional chambers of commerce. It plays a key role in modernizing higher education, improving student employability, and strengthening university-business cooperation.

This learning platform is part of DERHE's broader Erasmus+-funded mission to enhance digital education readiness and foster stronger university-business cooperation.

🔗 Explore the platform and learn more at: www.derhe.eu



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Event Highlights

- Participants visited the University of Montenegro laboratories to explore modern educational and research facilities.
- The visit promoted practical learning and the exchange of good practices in university–industry collaboration.



Partners Explore Laboratories at the University of Montenegro

As part of the DERHE workshop in Podgorica, participants visited the laboratories of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Montenegro, gaining first-hand insight into modern equipment and facilities that support practical education, research, and collaboration with industry.

The study visit showcased advanced laboratory infrastructure and provided an opportunity for partners to exchange experiences on integrating laboratory-based learning into newly developed courses. The visit reinforced the project's commitment to combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on experience, supporting the modernization of higher education and fostering stronger links between universities and industry.



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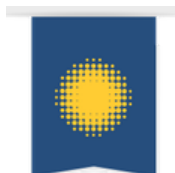
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Digital Education Readiness in the Field of Higher Education (DERHE)

Partners



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