

## Boosting business integration through joint VET Interregional vocational education and training in the Baltic Sea Region

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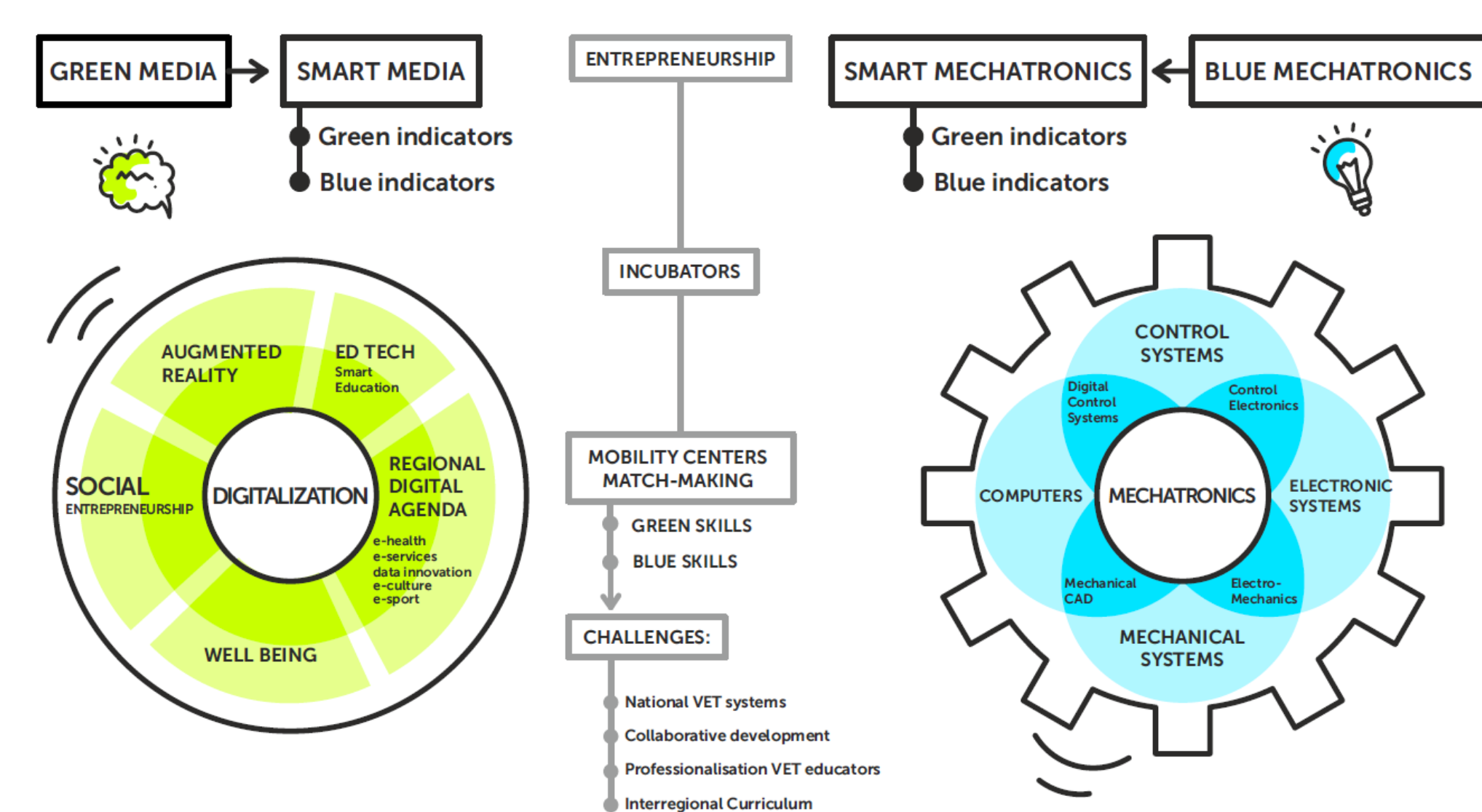
The **Interreg South Baltic Programme** aims at unlocking the region's potential for growth through cross-border cooperation between local and regional actors from Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. Building on the maritime character of the region, the programme designates "blue growth" as economic potential, growth and jobs across the shores of the South Baltic. At the same time, "green growth" emphasises the need to pursue economic growth in balance with the environment, in particular by utilising the South Baltic's rich natural and cultural heritage in a sustainable manner.

Launched in 2012, the **South Baltic Training Programme (SBTP)** supported internationalisation of vocational education and training (VET) as well as cross-border entrepreneurship. This includes interregional collaboration between policy, economy, science, education and civil society. The project also aimed to educate the youth labour force in the South Baltic Region in international corporate culture and worked for this group's mobility between countries. SBTP was completed in 2014.

**BBVET – Boosting business integration through joint VET** is defined as a research and development project broadening the internationalisation of VET in the Baltic Sea Region. Funded by the INTERREG South Baltic Programme and embedded in the EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION, the project focuses on Denmark, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. Various projects and interregional cooperation in economics, policy, education and science have recently led to a revitalised joint education and labour market in the Baltic Sea Region. The growing number of internationally active professionals requires a rethink regarding existing qualification structures at all education levels. The distribution of knowledge within current education and labour markets around the Baltic Sea must be reconsidered as a whole.

Based on successfully implemented model projects for interregional VET in the Baltic Sea Region, i.e. SBTP, the BBVET project strives for development and piloting internationally recognised and ECVET certificated educational programmes within the sectors "Green Media" and "Blue Mechatronics". This offer intends to increase the mobility of South Baltic trades, primarily focusing VET apprentices as participants of the project, to promote entrepreneurial thinking and acting within the framework of international networks and to develop a "global occupational competence".

### The concept of the project and economic sectors



- Development, pilot testing and evaluation of
  - Modularised interregional VET programmes in the South Baltic Region, focusing on initial VET and continuing VET structures in "Green Media" and "Blue Mechatronics"
  - Validation procedures and instruments on the basis of ECVET-criteria
  - Interregional training modules to achieve an international qualification and professionalisation of VET educators
- Development of internationalisation strategies and structures for VET institutions
- Development and establishment of institutional expertise and network structures to strengthen, support and organise occupational mobility processes for target groups involved in VET
- Development and establishment of economic cooperation in the various fields of VET
- Support and consulting in regard to education matters affecting systemic and political developments in the field of internationalised VET in the Baltic Sea Region
- Development, realisation and evaluation of mixed-method research designs
- Dissemination of project results concerning interdisciplinary or disciplinary expansion and macro-regional/ EU-wide sustainability

### Expected results (selection)