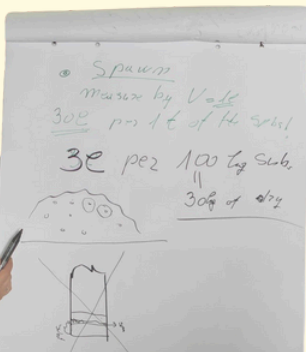




Why?

Mushroom farming is a fast-growing, climate-resilient, and profitable sector that transforms local bio-waste into high-value food. It offers **new opportunities** for rural youth, farmers, and green entrepreneurs.

All five partner countries (Serbia, Albania, Greece, Montenegro, Kosovo) show excellent conditions for mushroom production, including abundant bio-waste materials. However, mushroom cultivation is still at an early stage and not yet part of national agricultural strategies.



What is missing?

- Mushroom farming is **largely absent** from formal curricula or only mentioned in theory-based lessons (no practice)
- **Lack of teacher expertise:** 50–66% of VET teachers state they cannot teach mushroom cultivation
- **Lack of infrastructure:** Schools have no grow rooms, labs, or demonstration units.
- Educators unanimously support integrating mushroom cultivation into agricultural education (70–100% approval)



What the region needs!

- To unlock the full potential of mushroom farming, countries should invest in:
- ✓ **Modern VET curricula** and teacher training
 - ✓ Demonstration farms and bio-labs
 - ✓ Public–private partnerships
 - ✓ Funding schemes for new growers
 - ✓ Better market linkages with restaurants and retailers
 - ✓ Awareness and promotion campaigns





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The Benefits



The project will develop:

- A structured training format for VET schools
- A capacity-building framework for work-based learning
- A digital learning platform
- Local bio-labs supporting hands-on training
- Together, these efforts will foster green skills, rural employment, and sustainable circular economies in the Western Balkans.

Promoting Mushroom Farming in Western Balkan through strengthening linkages between VET provider and the business sector

