



SHOEpro stands for
Integrated Action for Building VET Curricula and Training Opportunities in Croatia & Portugal for Digital and Green Transformation in the Footwear Sector



From project launch to concrete progress

Since the launch of the ShoePro project in October 2024, partners from the Croatian Employers' Association (HUP), the Faculty of Textile Technology, and the Portuguese Footwear Technological Centre (CTCP) have been working together to design innovative and agile curricula for the footwear sector.

Following the successful kick-off meeting and collaborative workshop in Portugal last November, the project has now moved into a decisive phase, transforming collected data and industry feedback into a ready-to-use training programme.



Surveying the industry: key insights

From **26 May to 6 June 2025**, ShoePro partners surveyed 18 Croatian and 11 Portuguese footwear company representatives to assess the state of digitalization, sustainability, and innovation.

Highlights include:

Only 22.2% of Croatian and 27.3% of Portuguese respondents have an ESG department

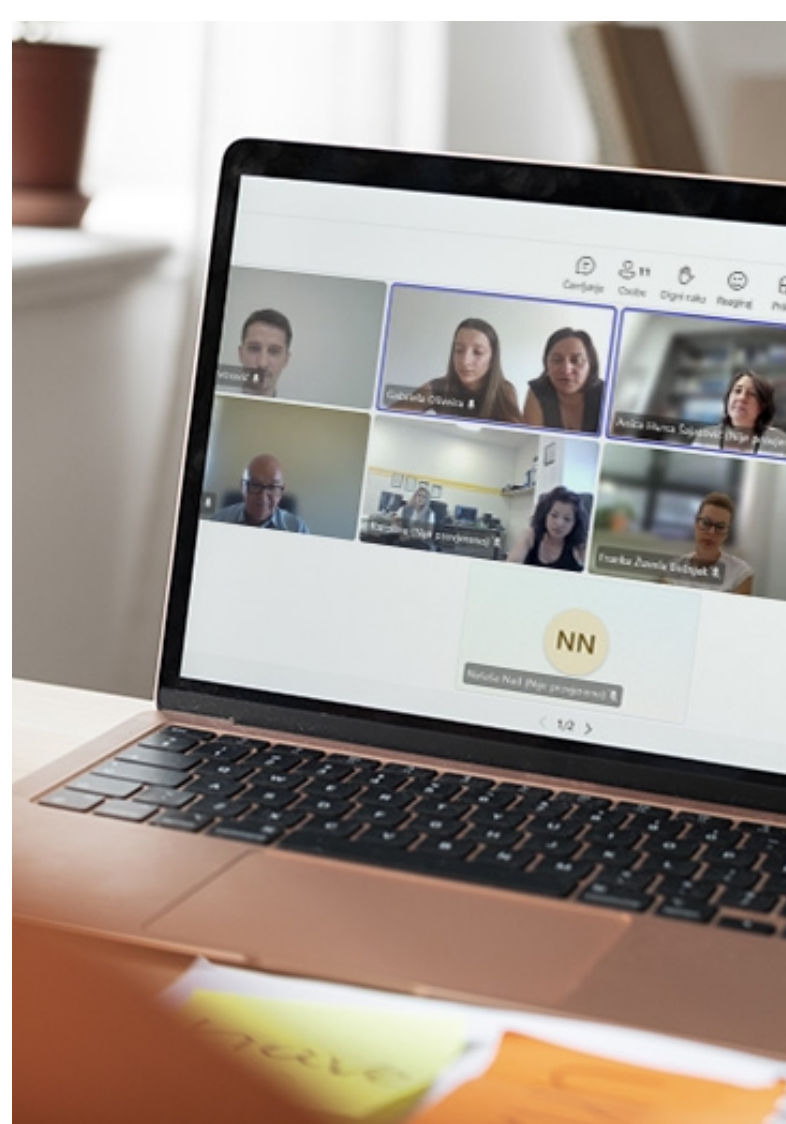
55.6% of Croatian vs 18.2% of Portuguese respondents monitor the full product life cycle during production

Main barriers to digital and green transformation in Croatia – insufficient use of digital technologies (55.6%), complex processes (33.3%)

Main barriers to digital and green transformation in Portugal – need to adapt to sustainable production (45.5%), complex processes (45.5%)

Lack of skilled workforce is a shared challenge (Croatia 88.2%, Portugal 72.7%)

Top skill to develop: managing and optimizing production processes (Croatia 70.6%, Portugal 63.6%)



Online Validation Workshop Aligning with industry expectations

On **26 June 2025**, the project hosted an Online Validation Workshop bringing together company representatives, educators, and project partners. The session aimed to offer deeper insight into the survey results and to present the **proposed curriculum topics**. The feedback gathered will ensure that the training content is both **practical and aligned with industry needs**.

[Know more](#)

Next steps:

Integrating knowledge from the Portugal collaborative workshop, survey results and validation workshop, **into the curriculum.**

Creating a **Manual for Trainers** to help them deliver effective learning experiences in digital and green footwear production.

The first full implementation of the curriculum with selected trainers in the form of **Training-of-Trainers** session.

Are you a company, trainer, student, or stakeholder interested in contributing to SHOEpro?

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