Promotion of Employment and Vocational Qualification

**Objective**
The target audience in pilot regions has received professional orientation and relevant qualification for their successful integration into the Kyrgyz labor market.

**Challenges:**
The youth unemployment rate reaches nearly 16%. In particular women are more affected by unemployment than men. This situation is aggravated by the fact that many education and further training offers do not meet the requirements of the labor market. Only to a small extent, qualification and labor market measures are designed and implemented in cooperation with the private sector. Graduates and job-seekers are usually inadequately informed about career opportunities and qualification paths. The lack of qualified specialists is an important barrier to economic growth. The project duration: 2014 – 2018. Budget: 3 000 000 EUR. (“Vocational Education and Employment Promotion” from 2014-2017). The project prolongation is expected until December 31, 2020.

**Services and modes of delivery**

1. **Improving the quality of labor market services:**
   A Labour Market Information System has been developed and implemented countrywide. Employment offices developed a systematic approach on labour market services. Schools are supported to take on a strong role in career guidance: Schools develop and test a career guidance program for 9th grade students. Social partnership networks are established with the aim to jointly organize career guidance activities for youth.

2. **Youth and Women Employment Promotion:**
   Employment-oriented qualification measures have been established at vocational schools countrywide. They train youth in specialties which are in high demand on the labour market, such as welding, energy-efficient construction, processing of agricultural products, plumbing and greenhouse management. New short-term qualification measures, especially targeting women in rural areas, will be developed.

3. **Improving the quality of vocational education:**
   Procedures and methods of independent certification and accreditation have been developed. A system for the independent certification of occupational competencies in the catering industry has been established and will be disseminated to other sectors. The aim is to engage all social partners in an industry-driven process of improving the quality of vocational education. A further goal is to develop a validation procedure of previously (informally and non-formally) acquired professional competencies.

**Selected results and impacts:**

- 1 881 were trained in qualification measures
- 6 employment-oriented qualification measures established at vocational schools
- 1 labour Market Information System developed and implemented countrywide
- 1 industry association established
- 36 agricultural cooperatives founded
- 16 schools developed a career guidance program for 9th grade
- 186 students were independently certified
- 22 educational programmes accredited
- 650 9th grade students are participating in the career guidance program
- 58 employment offices developed a countrywide systematic approach on labour market services
- 4 social Partnership Networks on career guidance founded