

Taking control of their future

Vocational re-training measures create employment opportunities for internally displaced persons and people in need

The challenge: Lack of employment opportunities for internally displaced persons

Conflict has affected around four million people in Eastern Ukraine, of which over 1.4 million are seeking protection in other regions of the country. The majority of these Ukrainians are registered as displaced persons in nearby regions such as Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava and Zaporizhzhya, as well as in Ukrainian-controlled areas of Luhansk and Donetsk. One of the challenges they and their host communities face is the lack of employment opportunities. This is made more difficult as the professional and vocational qualifications of new arrivals often do not meet the demands of the local labour markets they find themselves in. Opportunities for non-formal vocational re-training or advanced training are limited by financial or logistical issues, or due to eligibility requirements, and are therefore not accessible for everyone. Women are disproportionately affected by these barriers. Unemployment not only has a personal and family cost, but can lead to social conflict when different population groups compete for scarce jobs.



Project title:	Vocational integration of internally displaced persons
Commissioned by:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Lead executing agency:	Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine
Project area:	Administrative regions (oblasts) of Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya, Poltava, Kharkiv, and the government controlled areas of Luhansk and the Donetsk regions
Overall term:	09/2017 – 11/2023
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Our approach: New skills for the local labour market

Working on behalf of the German Government, GIZ supports IDPs and other conflict-affected people in host regions to gain access to the labour market through re-training measures.

Labour market research has identified the qualifications and professions that the host regions need most. These include: IT and maintenance specialists, administrative staff, office workers, cooks, and seamstresses. On the basis of this research, tailored training courses have been developed. Depending on the skills being taught, courses can last from a few weeks to half a year. All training courses are free of charge for participants and are given at public or private educational institutions and through non-governmental organisations (NGO) that have a good reputation in the provision of educational services.



Job seekers are being trained as sewing machine repair technicians

Vocational re-training measures can be complemented by soft-skills training, professional orientation, skills evaluation and career counselling.

In addition, representatives of the public, state and social sectors are encouraged and supported to develop and implement innovative projects aimed at improving labour market framework conditions. This approach is showing the first signs of success, such as in the government-controlled area of the Luhansk region, where a new course has been introduced that improves trainees' employment prospects in the agricultural sector. The sustainability of the project is ensured by the cooperation of local farmers with the regional employment office, a vocational training centre and a local NGO.



Providing training for future office managers

Our results: Tailored opportunities in six regions

By adjusting and developing curricula to match labour market needs, and by adapting teaching methods, GIZ helps ensure that trainees gain the maximum benefit from re-training measures. GIZ ensures equality of opportunity for all participants: women, men and vulnerable groups.

By July 2020, more than 2,000 people from six regions affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine had improved their job prospects through further training. This has boosted people's economic situation and had a positive impact on economic and social development in the focus regions.



Participants after the successful completion of a training



Ruslan Amelchenko: “I am proud of our new training courses”

Ruslan Amelchenko is the Director of the State Educational Institution Donetsk Center for Vocational and Technical Training of the State Employment Service. He says: *“I am proud that our cooperation with GIZ lets us offer new, unique and demand-oriented training courses. Our teachers have gained valuable insights and knowledge during a study trip to Germany. Given the ongoing development of technology, lifelong learning has become an integral part of the professional development of any specialist, and I am delighted that we are creating all the conditions for this at our educational institution.”*



Victoria Khmeleva: “I can now work independently”

Victoria Khmeleva graduated from a training course on the installation and maintenance of modern sewing equipment at the State Educational Institution Bakhmut Center for Vocational Education. She says: *“I am grateful to the GIZ project for the chance to learn free of charge how to set-up and repair sewing equipment. Now I can operate modern sewing machines at the school where I work as a teacher, and in my small studio.”*

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