

Vocational Training and Employment Promotion

Background

Even after two decades of independence, the living standards of the majority of the population of Kyrgyzstan remain low. The situation is aggravated by poverty, adverse economic framework conditions and weak public institutions. According to estimates, young people make up more than 50% in the total population. Among them, females are more likely to be unemployed. Despite the positive developments in vocational training, labor market and employment, ongoing measures still fail to improve vocational guidance.

For the most part, vocational education offers available do not meet the requirements of the labor market. The content of vocational education is completely out of date. Employers are not involved in the development of training programs, both management and training personnel is not sufficiently qualified, teaching and learning materials are not adequate due to lack of funding from the state. Besides this, the education and training process does not match the needs of the reality and is characterized by insufficient interaction with businesses and insufficient use of student-focused / action-oriented forms of learning. Very few services at the labor market are provided using modern information technology systems. Collection and proper management of timely and reliable labor market data are just now being implemented.

Project Goal

Improve the quality of training, labor market services and the promotion of youth employment.

Project concept is based on an integrated approach to the reform of vocational education, improvement of the quality of vocational training and promotion of employment for youth and adults of both sexes. The project thereby contributes to the strengthening of economic and social framework conditions

Project name	Vocational Training and Employment Promotion
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Kyrgyzstan
Lead executing agency	the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, executive agencies such as the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth of the Kyrgyz Republic (MLMY), the Agency for Vocational Education (AVE), the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic (MES), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic (CCI), the Republican Scientific and Methodological Centre (RSMC)
Duration	01.2014 - 12.2016

in the private sector in Kyrgyzstan, and sustainable and comprehensive economic development. The project covers macro-, meso- and micro-levels, supporting partners in Kyrgyzstan, in particular MLMY and MES, in the implementation of vocational education reforms. To achieve the goal of the Project, **counseling is provided in five key areas:**

Reform of Vocational Education (Activity 1) is aimed at developing the provisions and funding models for the implementation of the new education law. Advice will be provided to MLMY and MES on amending the existing regulations with provisions on approved accreditation and certification processes, and on developing financing models for sustainable implementation of accreditation and certification. MLMY and MES will be consulted on the establishment and operation of accreditation institutions and standards, and their use, on the basis of European experience. CCI will be given advice on the institutionalization of vocational education; AVE and RSMC will be relayed successful approaches to the promotion of employment and crisis prevention.



Unemployed youth during the vocational courses



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Improving the Quality of the Labor Market Services (labor market information, consulting clients, mediation, Activity 2). This Activity is aimed at building the capacity of MLMY branches in offering relevant labor market data to MLMY, employers and job seekers. In this regard, MLMY will consult participating branches with regular labor market researches, and the development of effective labor market information systems (LMIS). Eventually, the branches will be connected to the unified network.

Improving the Quality of Vocational Education and Training (Activity 3). This Activity is implemented through the establishment of new accreditation and certification procedures, and new financial structures / models in selected schools and fields. At the same time, schools will be consulted during the second stage of accreditation, with the consolidation and distribution of the pilot certification model in initial vocational training (level of specialists) and the transfer of best models to the level of secondary vocational education (level of technicians). The selected schools will receive support in the management of accreditation and certification from special boards of equal representation based on agreed standards and procedures, and consistent models of financing.

Youth Employment (Activity 4) aims to develop new qualification-raising measures to employ youth in industries with high demand, such as welding / metal fabrication, production and processing of agricultural products, and energy-efficient construction, including appropriate proposals for their financing from interested parties (employers, vocational schools and employment services). Selected vocational schools, AVE and RSMC will be supported in the development of teaching and training materials and course concepts within qualification-raising measures, and their implementation in learning and training. At the same time, AVE and RSMC will be consulted on the distribution of model short courses focused on employment, such as conflict prevention and resolution, interna-

tional computer rights in other regions of the country, and on receiving funding from the state to promote employment. Technical short courses will be supplemented by training on start-ups.

Centers of Competence in Vocational School No. 4 in Bishkek, Vocational Lyceum No. 16 in Osh and Building Colleges in Bishkek and Osh have received support in the form of vocational-pedagogical / didactic advanced training in particular in the field of thermal insulation in construction. In this context, a conceptual approach to energy-efficient construction and renovation should be adjusted and transferred from the initial vocational education (level of specialists) to education in secondary technical schools (level of technicians).

Improving Education and Training of Teachers of Vocational Education (Activity 5) includes the implementation of student-focused/action-oriented forms of learning in education and training. In this regard, Tokmok Engineering and Pedagogical College (TEPC) will be consulted with o the incorporation of such forms of learning into training of teachers practitioners. RSMC in Bishkek will be relayed mechanisms on the inclusion of student-focused/action-oriented forms of learning in advanced training of teachers.

The Program is cooperating, among others, with the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the field of labor market information and employment promotion, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the reform of vocational education institutions. Together with the European Union (EU) and other donors, the Program supports the broad coverage of education. Besides this, it is planned to establish cooperation with the European Training Foundation in the field of the labor market.

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