

Future Professionals: Skills for the Green Economy

Initial situation

Brazil is the largest economy in Latin America and has great potential to strengthen green economic sectors and thus provide positive boosts for climate protection and sustainability. This is why political and economic players are increasingly calling for a green transformation, which includes renewable energies, investments in bioeconomy and sustainable agriculture, as well as promoting a circular economy. Research estimates that several tens of thousands of new jobs will be created in these sectors in the coming years.

However, parts of the Brazilian professional education system are not sufficiently prepared to meet the skill needs for the country's economic, social and environmental development and to improve the employment prospects of large groups of society. In the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI, 2019), Brazil ranked 96th out of 141 countries in terms of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), below the Latin American average. In a study carried out by the National Industry Confederation (CNI) in 2019, half of the companies stated that they lacked skilled workers.

Even though there is a shortage of skilled workers, certain groups of the population face challenges in their access to vocational training and employment: 27% of young people are not in employment or training (Not in Education, Employment or Training, NEET). Young women (31%) are much more impacted than young men (19%).

National initiatives of the Ministries of Education and Labour seek to address these challenges: In addition to increasing the number of places in TVET, they aim to make qualitative improvements, among other things, by orienting TVET more strongly towards the needs of the private sector, with a focus on future green sectors.

Objective

The project is part of several national modernization efforts and supports their implementation aiming at improving the employment prospects of TVET as well as higher education graduates. Accordingly, the project can contribute to a green economy development with regard to renewable energies, circular economy and bioeconomy, as well as with regard to their digitalization.

Project name	Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Green Economic Development and Employment (Future Professionals)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing partners	Ministry of Education (MEC), Ministry of Labour (MTP), National Service of Industrial Training (SENAI), Universities, Business associations and companies
Country	Brazil
Political partner	Ministry of Education (MEC)
Budget	€ 6.000.000
Duration	2021–2024



Photos 1 and 2: Practical training at Casa Solar in Brasilia, Brazil



Photos 3 and 4: Solar panel installations at the Federal Institute (IF) - South of Minas Gerais and Poços de Caldas, Brazil

Our approach

The project advises the Ministry of Education (MEC), the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTP), the National Service of Industrial Training (SENAI), the Federal Network of Professional, Scientific, and Technological Education (IF), as well as Brazilian universities, companies, and associations on how to develop proposals for continuous education and training geared towards the demands from the economy's green sectors.

The strategy foresees a multi-level approach:

At the national level, the project fosters dialogue on modernization and innovation in vocational training, providing international experience on the development of vocational training systems (e.g. digitalization in the sector, approach between schools and companies), focusing on green economy sectors.

At the level of the technical-methodological networks of vocational training schools, more comprehensive and new training proposals are developed jointly with the business community and introduced at the local level ideally in cooperation with interested companies.

Close cooperation with German and Brazilian companies, chambers of commerce, and associations contributes to the expansion and improvement of further education and training programs in line with existing demands.

The target group are people with or without training or employment, including women, young people, and people from vulnerable groups in several regions of Brazil.

Impacts

The project builds upon the results of the previous "Energy systems of the future" project and its approach to vocational education and training. Between 2016 and 2021, approximately 800 teachers and more than 7,800 qualified technicians were trained to support the dissemination of solar and wind energy in addition to energy efficiency in the construction sector and industry. In the "Future Professionals" project, this approach will be further developed by including bioeconomy, circular economy, and energy transition topics (electromobility, energy storage, smart grids, etc.), with a growing demand for skilled workers, into the concept.

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