



Vocational Education in Lao PDR (VELA III)

The VELA project supports the Government of Laos in introducing the Dual-Cooperative Training approach to develop a skilled work force that meets the needs of the labour market.

Context

Laos's economy is being held back by high inflation and a shortage of skilled workers, which also limits young people's access to quality education. A lack of practical, job-ready skills among graduates has created a significant gap between education and employment. Enrollment is down, especially for young women in key training programs, and the existing TVET system isn't meeting private sector needs.

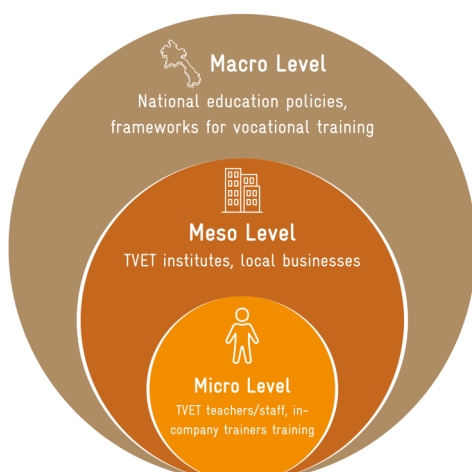
To address this, the Ministry of Education and Sports is promoting **Dual Cooperative Training (DCT)**. This innovative partnership model brings together public and private sectors to directly align training with real industry demands. The goal is to build a more skilled, job-ready workforce that can drive national development.

Objective

Demand-driven skills development, delivered through Dual-Cooperative Training (DCT), enables Lao youth to access the labour market.

Approach

VELA works closely with the key partners, including the Department of Technical Vocational Education and Training (DTVET) of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) and the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI), to improve and strengthen the national framework needed to implement the dual-cooperative training in Laos. The project further supports TVET institutions and companies in 11 provinces (Luang Namtha, Houaphanh, Luang Prabang, Xieng Khuang, Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Champasak, Attapeu, Salavanh) to jointly implement DCT courses in demand-led profession. To ensure long term success, VELA focuses on the 3 strategic levels:



Project Title	Vocational Education in Lao PDR (VELA III)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	Nationwide in Lao PDR
Leading executing agency	Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI)
Duration	August 2024 - July 2027

Policy Level (Macro)

Assist public and private policymakers in co-creating inclusive and sustainable policies and regulations to improve the operating environment for Dual Cooperative Training (DCT). Key actions include:

- **Quality Assurance:** Establishing a quality management system for DCT courses.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Facilitating partnership between government, employers and training providers to align curricula with labour-market needs and to improve employment outcomes for graduates.
- **Improved Access:** Enhancing access to career guidance for all students, including those from vulnerable groups.
- **National Standards:** Developing national procedures for creating DCT curricula and occupational standards.
- **Gender Equality:** Introducing DCT courses attractive to female students.
- **Green & Digital Trends:** Updating teacher training programs to include green, digital, and interactive teaching methods.

Organizational Level (Meso)

Support key organizations like TVET institutions, companies, and chambers of commerce to improve DCT procedures and capacities, ensuring they are ready to implement the program effectively. Key actions include:

- **Sustainability:** Aiding the LNCCI in developing sustainability strategies for its DCT Service Centre.
- **Soft Skills & Entrepreneurship:** Helping TVET institutions

integrate soft skills and entrepreneurship into their programs.

- **Peer-to-Peer Networks:** Supporting TVET institutions in creating networks to share knowledge and experiences about DCT.

Individual Level (Micro)

Develop the skills of key stakeholders involved in DCT, such as teachers, in-company trainers, and managers, to ensure they are well-prepared for their roles. Key actions include:

- **Capacity Development:** Offering comprehensive training programs to improve the technical and teaching skills of DCT staff.
- **Expert Advice:** Providing tailored guidance and training to public and private stakeholders for effective DCT implementation across Laos.

Impact

VELA II (2019-24) has successfully established partnerships between 4 TVET institutions and over 150 companies to offer DCT courses. To support these efforts, a DCT Service Centre was created at the LNCCI to boost company involvement. Key achievements include certification system for training companies, training of in-company trainers, introduction of a career guidance system at the supported institutions including a digital aptitude test (OASA) for young and developing national occupational standards. The Vocational Education Development Institute (VEDI) has also enhanced teacher skills through new training programs, including a studio for digital teaching materials. The project has also promoted Green TVET through teacher training and a new online course on sustainable hotel and restaurant management.



In-company trainer supervising students while they practice in the Food & Beverage Service & Food Production Professional course.
Photo: © GIZ/Phoonsab Thevongsa

Moving forward, VELA III (2024-27) will focus on:

- **Upscaling of DCT partnerships** between TVET institutions and companies in 11 provinces to create a more job-ready workforce.
- **Improving the DCT Service Centre's sustainability** to ensure ongoing private sector engagement.
- **Expanding the career guidance system** to help more youth, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, find suitable career paths.
- **Integrating green and digital skills** into TVET curricula to prepare students for future labor market demands.
- **Enhancing the quality and relevance of TVET programs** by further aligning them with private sector needs.

Gender and Economic Development

VELA III aims to anchor the DCT approach in the Lao TVET system, aligning with Goal 4 (Human Capital) of the Team Europe Strategy 2021-2025 (TES). The module supports BMZ's core topic of Sustainable Economic Development, Training, and Employment and aligns with BMZ's strategies on vocational education, feminist external development policy, green sectors and the German development policy with Asia, especially on gender equality. Additionally, the module aims at further developing the already introduced DCT approach in close coordination with state and private sectors to expand DCT in the economically dynamic centres of the Northern, Central and Southern regions of Lao PDR that have high demand for labour in relevant occupational fields.

About GIZ Laos

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Please visit www.giz.de/laos for further information.

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On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Other important link <https://dct.incci.la/en/>