



Structural Reform in Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Background

A serious barrier to investment and the creation of new jobs is the lack of a qualified workforce to match labour market requirements. Reasons for this are the exclusively state-controlled Vocational Education system, an outdated infrastructure of public education providers, an imbalanced ratio between theoretical and practical education, as well as the low level of social partners' involvement in shaping and implementing vocational training measures.

The reform of the VET system towards a better demand-orientation has been initiated with the support of the project: Private companies are being increasingly involved in vocational education. This shall lead to a better match between the educational offer and the labour market requirements. A relevant VET system, which is co-shaped by employers and attractive for young people, is supposed to strengthen the competitiveness of Moldovan enterprises and thus create new jobs.

Project goal

Enhanced education policy and institutional framework for the implementation of demand-driven dual VET.

Project approach

The project is a module of the overarching programme „Sustainable Economic Development in the Republic of Moldova“. It supports the political partners, as well as diverse private sector stakeholders, social partners and education providers to embark into a constructive dialogue in order to jointly identify ways to strengthen the regulatory framework for dual VET. Measures include technical advice through a team of experts as well as capacity development. The main areas of intervention are:

Intervention area (1) „Policy advice for strengthening the framework conditions for dual VET“: The Ministry for Education, Culture and Research is being advised on

Project data

Duration: 11/2015 – 12/2018.

Commissioning party:

- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with a total contribution of 2,0 Million EUR.
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) with a financial contribution of 0,43 Million EUR (12/2017 – 12/2018).

Implementing Agency: German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

Political Implementation Partners: Ministry of Education, Culture and Research of the Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova

Other Partners: Apprentices, training companies, vocational schools, social partners, employers' associations, municipalities

strengthening the legal provisions, Curricula and occupational standards, institutional structure as well as financing models for dual VET, jointly with the private sector and civil society.

Intervention area (2) „Promoting involvement of economic operators in piloting dual VET models“: The project shall strengthen the involvement of selected enterprises and agricultural producers in shaping a demand-driven VET. This involves pilot implementation of dual VET models in selected private enterprises, in close cooperation with public education providers. At the same time, employers' associations, social partners' organizations, as well as the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of the Republic of Moldova (CCI) are being supported to enhance their contribution in the policy dialogue at national level with

regard to demand-driven VET. This will lead to a better cooperation between stakeholders from both the education and business sectors in adopting elements of a dual VET concept.

Intervention area (3) „Improving the image of VET “:

The partners involved in the development of dual VET models receive support in identifying good practice examples of dual cooperation and disseminate them to the media and the wider public. This will lead to the overall enhancement of the reputation of VET and thus to an improved attractiveness of VET for both young people and businesses.

Results achieved to date

The government regulation on dual VET in the Republic of Moldova was approved in January 2018 with the support of the project, embedding a system of cooperative, dual VET. As a result, Moldova offers – as the only country in the region of South-East Europe – a dual VET system with shared roles (state, companies, chambers). This entails a significant competitive advantage to attract employment-relevant investments.

The project supported the establishment and implementation of 15 dual cooperation agreements in the academic year 2016/2017, with a total of 220 apprentices, in sectors ranging from automotive supply, metal processing, agricultural machinery assembly, electrical engineering, for example by training 30 in-company trainers. Through occupational analyses, a number of 8 occupational profiles were drawn up to further define knowledge, skills and competences of the future graduates, as required by the training companies. The elaboration of outcomes-based school curricula, alongside with corresponding in-company training plans, as well as the development of teaching and learning materials is also part of the project support. A wide-ranging capacity development programme for stakeholder staff ensures the establishment of a local pool of competence, to ensure sustainability of project efforts subsequent to its conclusion.

Targeted information campaigns carried out at local level intended to reach out to a wide number of enterprises, as well as schools, young people and their families and make them familiar with the advantages of dual VET; as a result, for the academic year 2017/2018, already 49 companies participate in dual VET programmes, training more than 600 apprentices in various trades.

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