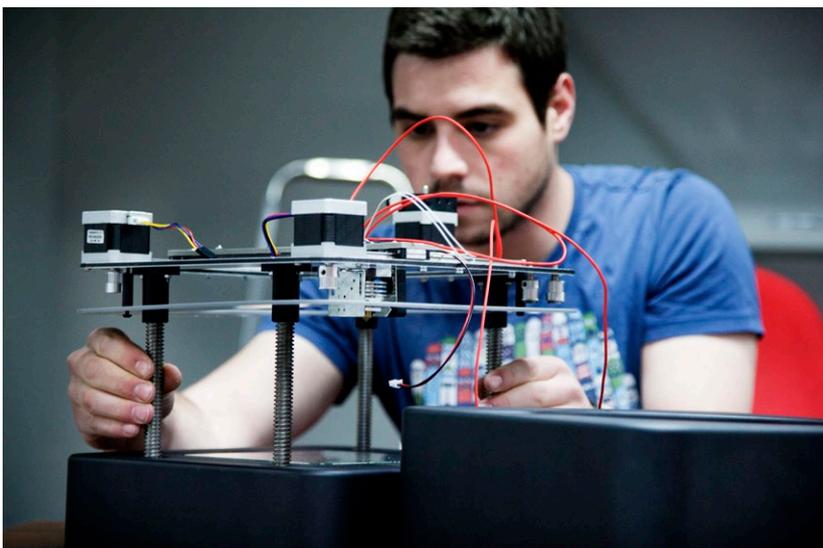




PROJECT FACTSHEET

Kosovo May 2018

AN ATTRACTIVE LABOUR MARKET FOR YOUNG KOSOVARS



Young Kosovars benefit from demand-driven training, which facilitates their integration into the labour market. ©Layla Barakè

The project «Enhancing Youth Employability» is aimed at improving job opportunities for young people in Kosovo, a population segment particularly impacted by unemployment. By connecting employers and job seekers, and by training young people in the skills in demand on the labour market, the project is helping to reduce unemployment and drive economic growth.

The 15-34 age group makes up over 55% of Kosovo's population. In 2015, 36'000 young people entered the labour force but only 17'323 new jobs were created. This has resulted in overall unemployment of 32.9%, with the rate considerably higher for women and minorities. Among the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) communities, unemployment is as high as 80%.

There are two underlying reasons for high unemployment. The first is a disconnection between educational institutions and industry: the vocational education and training available does not adequately match the labour market's needs. Secondly, even where young people have the required skills,

employers do not necessarily come in contact with them. It is a discouraging situation for young job seekers, who see no career prospects in Kosovo. The resultant frustration can be an incentive to emigrate.

Phase 1 of SDC's project has produced the following results:

1. 2'200 jobs have been created through partnerships with the private sector;
2. 9'400 people have found work thanks to the services matching supply (job seekers) with demand (employers);
3. 6'500 young people have benefited from better training given by public and private educational institutions.

PARTICULAR FOCUS ON EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN, LESS-SKILLED YOUTH AND ETHNIC MINORITIES

Phase 2 plans to continue along the same course by strengthening the public-private partnerships, encouraging practice-related vocational training and offering career guidance services. By end-2020 the project aims to have got 5'000 young people into employment, provided better training for 20'000 with the skills in demand on the labour market, and reached out to 100'000 with career guidance information.

This second phase will also focus more on the economic empowerment of women, less-skilled youth and minorities. Of the 5'000 new jobs, 40% are to go to women, 20% to less-skilled youth and 10% to members of minority communities.

To target these groups, the project will:

1. Raise awareness in the media and encourage partnerships so as to create the social and regulatory conditions that facilitate access for women to the labour market;

2. Encourage vocational education and training in the manual trades;
3. Identify and support the sectors, geographical areas and partners which offer high potential and are familiar with the needs of minority communities.

As part of Switzerland's engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals, this project works towards achieving goals 4 and 8, i.e. promoting inclusive education and sustained economic growth.

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME

Enhancing Youth Employability (EYE)

DEPARTMENT

SDC – Cooperation with Eastern Europe

TOPIC

Education

COUNTRY/REGION

Kosovo

PARTNERS

Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
Management and Development Associates (MDA), a development consultancy in Kosovo

BACKGROUND

The 15-34 age group makes up over 55% of Kosovo's population. In 2015, 36,000 young people entered the labour force but only 17,323 new jobs were created. This has resulted in an overall rate of unemployment of 32.9%.

OBJECTIVES

By contributing to a dynamic and socially inclusive labour market that offers more jobs and decent work, the project aims to secure employment for 5'000 young people, ensure better training for 20'000 with the skills in demand on the labour market, and reach out to 100'000 with career guidance information.

TARGET GROUP

Unemployed young people, particularly women, less-skilled youth and ethnic minorities.

RESULTS SO FAR

2'200 new jobs have been created, 9,400 people have found work thanks to the services matching supply and demand, and 6,500 young people have undergone demand-driven training.

DURATION

Phase 2: 01.01.2017 – 31.12.2020

BUDGET

Phase 2: CHF 5'750'000

FURTHER INFORMATION

The SDC's activities in Kosovo
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/countries/kosovo.html>

Vocational skills development – the gateway to the world of work
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/themes-sdc/basic-education-vocational-training/formation-professionnelle--developper-de-nouvelles-competences-.html>

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