

Continuation of vocational education and training reform and development of an employment strategy

General Information

<i>Sector:</i>	Education
<i>Duration:</i>	5 years
<i>Implementation period:</i>	2010-2015
<i>Overall Budget:</i>	EUR 15 mln
<i>Budget support:</i>	EUR 14 mln
<i>Complementary support:</i>	EUR 1 mln

Project Description

Objective: To continue providing support to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper of the Government of Armenia through increasing the quality of vocational education and training sector in order to make it more relevant to the needs of the labour market and individuals.

Specific objectives:

- Objective I:** To introduce competency based vocational education.
- Objective II:** To modernise the quality monitoring mechanisms.
- Objective III:** To create a technical support and quality assurance infrastructure.
- Objective IV:** To improve the cost efficiency and educational outcomes.
- Objective V:** To optimise the vocational education and training financing
- Objective VI:** To build a national capacity for vocational education and training modernisation, implementation and monitoring.

Scope of reforms

- Improvement of conditions for the vocational education and training (VET) reform through establishing an operational VET Council, implementing the necessary changes in the statute of the National Centre for VET Development and registering of the chosen colleges as Regional Multifunctional VET Centres;
- Increasing importance of employment strategies through establishment of operational Regional Conciliation Councils chaired by the Local Employment Centres and managed by the State Employment Service Agency, development of descriptors of at least 30 occupations in accordance with the National Classifier and relevant to professions offered in the Regional Multifunctional VET Centres and conduction of analysis of the poverty issue linked to the employability of vulnerable groups;
- Enhancement of conditions for the delivery of vocational education through establishing networks for the provision of VET under the lead of the Regional Multifunctional VET Centres, merging the existing colleges, developing curricula in line with the requirements of labour market, organising relevant teachers training sessions, adopting a strategy to formalise the transfer of all middle professional and preliminary education institutions under the administrative authority of the Ministry of Education and Science and increasing the number of free seats;
- Improvement of targeting of active employment measures through giving an opportunity to the Regional Multifunctional Centres to conduct at least 10% of the training organised by the State Employment Service Agency.