



Project Brief



International
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Boosting Youth Employment – Development of Integrated Youth Employment Strategies for Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan

In Azerbaijan the implementation of the National Action Plan on Youth Employment is in the first place the responsibility of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, with whom the project closely cooperates. The network consists of Youth Information and Counseling Centers and NGOs. The project works closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population (employment service and labour inspection), the Employers (ASK) and the trade unions (ATUC). The Ministry of Education, State Committee on Family, Women and Children issues are directly involved in project implementation. The project partners in Azerbaijan with networks promoting entrepreneurship and a number of business training institutions.

In Kyrgyzstan, the Parliamentary Jogorku Kenesh's Committee on Youth, Gender and Sports in cooperation with the Project has identified an inter-institutional framework for addressing Youth Employment issues in the country. The project is giving support to the initiative of the State Committee on Migration and Employment in developing the National Action Plan on Youth Employment. The State Agency on Vocational and Technical Education is the main project partner in terms of improving short skills training courses. The Department of Economic and Social Policy under the Presidential Administration has become a major project partner on Gender Mainstreaming. The project assists the Ministry of Labour in the promotion of Social Dialogue on Youth Employment issues. Expert groups have been set up around the themes of gender mainstreaming,

the textile sector and small enterprise development. The project supports the Employers and Trade Unions in developing their own vision and policy on Youth Employment.

The project is part of UN Theme Groups in both countries, through which networks gender and youth employment issues are addressed in order «to deliver as one UN» (parliamentary hearings, gender mainstreaming, skills and entrepreneurship development).

Key ILO Publications

- Global Employment Trends for Youth. 2008
- Guide to the Preparation of National Action Plans on Youth Employment. 2007

Available at:

www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/yen/

Contact

ILO Subregional Office in Moscow
Walter Verhoeve, Chief Technical Advisor
15, Petrovka St., Moscow, Russia
Tel.: (+7 495) 933 0818
Fax: (+7 495) 933 0820
e-mail: moscow@ilo.org

ILO Project Office in Azerbaijan
Rashad Farajov, National Project Coordinator
3, UN 50th Anniversary St.,
Baku AZ 1001, Azerbaijan
Tel.: (+994 12) 498 9888
e-mail: moscow@ilo.org

ILO Project Office in Kyrgyzstan
Aziz Kirgizbaev
215, Tynystanova St., Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Tel/fax: (+996 312) 624539
e-mail: moscow@ilo.org

ILO Bureau for Gender Equality
4, route des Morillons, 1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland
Tel.: (+41 22) 799 6730
Fax: (+41 22) 799 6388
e-mail: gender@ilo.org

ILO International Training Centre
10, Viale Maestri del Lavoro,
10127 Turin, Italy
Tel.: (+39 011) 693 6111
Fax: (+39 011) 663 8428
e-mail: communications@itcilo.org

The Youth Employment Network
www.ilo.org/yen

Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan address youth employment issues

Of the world's over 1 billion young people, 85 per cent live in developing countries with a high incidence of poverty and inadequate employment opportunities. Youth unemployment and underemployment impose heavy social and economic costs, resulting in the loss of opportunities for economic growth, increased welfare costs and unutilized investment in education and training.

During economic downturns the lack of vacancies takes a toll on young workers when they are less equipped to find new employment. Unfortunately, too many young people do not have access to decent work. A significant number of youth are underemployed, unemployed, seeking employment or between jobs without the possibility of personal and professional development, and working below their potential in low-paid, low-skilled jobs without prospects for career advancement. The youth unemployment rates have for long been standing as twice as higher than the adult unemployment rates and compared to adults, the youth of today are almost three times as likely to be unemployed. Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan, like most countries in the former Soviet Union,

In Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan more than 40% of the working population consists of young people between 15 and 29. School-to-Work surveys in these countries showed that young people on average wait for more than a year to find some kind of employment.

have not yet developed specific responses to better involve youth in the labour market. In both countries Integrated Youth Employment Strategies that respond to such specific reality of groups of young people are now designed, implemented, tested and documented in order to have more adequate responses to the burning youth employment problems and the specific needs of the more vulnerable ones. In both countries specific attention is given to the rural communities, remote areas, the smaller towns and to the informal economy where it is hard for many young people to develop their future prospects.



ILO Conventions and Recommendations relevant for Youth Employment under the Decent Work Country Programmes

- Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81), and Recommendation, 1947 (No. 87)
- Employment Service Convention, 1948 (No. 88), and Recommendation, 1948 (No. 83)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), and Recommendation, 1951 (No. 90)
- Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952 (No. 103), and Recommendation, 1952 (No. 95)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), and Recommendation, 1958 (No. 111)
- Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122), and Recommendation, 1964 (No. 122)
- Employment Policy (Supplementary Provisions) Recommendation, 1984 (No. 169)
- Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Convention, 1988 (No. 168)
- Human Resources Development Convention, 1975 (No. 142)
- Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), and Recommendation, 1981 (No. 164)
- Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156), and Recommendation, 1981 (No. 165)
- Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), and Recommendation, 1997 (No. 188)
- Job Creation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Recommendation, 1998 (No. 189)
- Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 2000 (No. 183), and Recommendation, 2000 (No. 191)
- Human Resources Development Recommendation, 2004 (No. 195)
- Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187), and Recommendation, 2006 (No. 187) (including ILO-OSH 2001)



Photo: UN DPI Azerbaijan

The project

The ILO's Boosting Youth Employment project (funded by The Netherlands, project duration 2007–2010) is based on the national priorities, identified by the governments, employers and workers leading to the development of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP) in Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. Boosting employment is viewed by the tripartite constituents of these countries as a decisive factor for national economic growth and poverty reduction. In recognizing the importance of youth employment, Azerbaijan has stepped forward as a Lead Country of the Youth Employment Network (YEN)¹.

¹ The Youth Employment Network (YEN) is a partnership of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, and the World Bank. YEN was created in 2001 to mobilize action on the commitment of the Millennium Summit for decent and productive work for young people.

Kyrgyzstan, with the support of the project, is also entering the ranks of YEN Lead Countries. In both countries the development of a National Action Plan on Youth Employment is in progress.

The project is making efforts to expand the outcomes of the previous initiatives and reinforce youth labour market interventions at both supply side (improvement of employable skills and entrepreneurial abilities of young women and men) and demand side (supporting conducive labour market policies and environment for safe job creation), accompanied by better assessments and monitoring of the youth labour market and better dissemination of Youth Labour Market Information (LMI).

This is achieved by applying an integrated approach to boosting youth employment that draws on various ILO tools and methodologies already piloted in the sub-region and further streamlined with existing and proven strategies for boosting youth employment.

The project is strongly oriented to strengthening the capacities of social partners to develop their approaches to youth employment, and use social dialogue and expert advice as effective instruments to address the existing employment-related challenges. The ultimate goal is to combine job creation with decent and safe working conditions so as to simultaneously boost productivity. These conditions vary from region to region and from sector to sector. It is therefore that the project calls for an integrated approach to close policy gaps between the formulation of National Action Plans and the realities of young women and men.

Expected results

- Constituents' capacities increased in addressing youth employment challenges
- Tripartite support ensured to National Action Plan on Youth Employment
- Integrated Youth Employment Strategies developed for specific locations and sectors
- Enhanced network of Youth Information and Counseling Centers for Career guidance and introduction to the World of Work
- Modular Skills Training institutionalized in vocational training schools
- Entrepreneurship Training institutionalized in and out of school



Photo: ILO

Project partners

The project supports the formulation and implementation of National Action Plans on Youth Employment, with clearly defined partners in both countries.