



## Inclusive Sustainable Economic Development (ISED) Support to VET Reforms in Uzbekistan (VET4UZ)



The economic transition of Uzbekistan towards an open, sustainable and inclusive market economy brings new and challenging demands to the labour force. Young people need to be trained in professional capacities that match the demands of a dynamic labour market, including options to develop their own entrepreneurship.

### Rationale

Uzbekistan is undergoing a transformation from a public sector economy to privatization. In order to ensure a market-oriented VET offer and to achieve a better match between competencies of young people and the needs of the labour market in the new economic realm, it is key to strengthen the role of all actors in the VET system, in the definition and implementation of VET, and especially with regard to assessment and certification.

### Objectives and Activities

The overall goal of the VET4UZ Project (Phase I) is to contribute to more gainful employment of VET graduates through improved access to the labour market. This will be achieved through a systemic approach fostering coordination among state institutions as well as between state and economic actors, and by improving the VET offer through high quality inputs, incl. profiles, curricula, learning material, infrastructure and financing. The Hospitality sector has been selected for piloting project activities.

**Country:**  
Uzbekistan

**Duration:**  
2021-2025

**Total Budget:**  
CHF 5,5 Mio.

**Partners:**  
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MoHESI);  
Institute of Pedagogical Innovations and Retraining (under MoHSSE);  
Ministry of Culture and Tourism;  
Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations;  
Institute for Labour Market Research

**Executing Agency:**  
HELVETAS Swiss  
Intercooperation in partnership with CEMETS and SFUVET

The project aims at supporting the process of shifting roles towards private economic actors and creating coherence in responsibilities within the new set-up of the VET sector. Digitization, Green Economy and other soft skills are examples of trends that need to be addressed by the education providers and taken into account in the reform of the VET system in order to deliver competent professionals.

### **The project will pursue the following outcomes and expected results**

- VET governance: Strengthened institutional actors implement a functional regulatory framework in a coordinated manner, through better defined roles and responsibilities, and improved coordination, cooperation mechanisms and processes. Capacity building and leadership development are instrumental for institutional strengthening and for the clarification of roles among VET stakeholders.
- Quality assurance: VET providers have developed adequate structures, processes and instruments for quality assurance.
- Initial and in-service teacher training: Teachers perform in a competence-based and labour-market oriented way. The project supports the adaptation and strengthening of initial and in-service teacher and instructor training at the system level.
- Strengthen economic actors' participation in the VET system: Development of standards, guidelines, accreditation and quality assurance requirements in the form of pilot projects in hospitality sector, to gain experience and to feed this back into national policy development. Economic actors play a stronger role in the VET system, and contribute effectively to the governance, definition and implementation of VET.

The Project will transfer Swiss know-how and expertise in particular elements of the dual system, participation in the CEMETS VET Reform Leadership programme.

Mainstreaming of gender and social equality will be realized in all project activities at all levels, focusing especially on access and retention of women in attractive and gainful domains of the labour market, and on closing the gender gap in the formal employment of teachers and among staff in key institutions.

### **Target groups**

Youth (16-30 years) and adults.

### **Key results achieved include**

- VET System was assessed with the support of leading Swiss Experts (ETH Zurich, CEMETS Reform Lab) identifying the areas that need to be prioritized and further supported in the VET reform process.
- The policy dialogue has been strengthened through establishment of the VET development partners and stakeholders Coordination Platform.
- Private sector (Hospitality sector) engagement in VET improved through closer communication and collaboration with employers in the hospitality sector.

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