

MID-TERM EVALUATION

KSV/015

Support to Vocational Education and
Training Reform in Kosovo

PROJECT SUMMARY DATA

Country	Republic of Kosovo
Long project title	Support to Vocational Education and Training Reform in Kosovo: Establishment of Centres of Competence in Ferizajand Prizren
Short project title	Support to VET Reform in Kosovo
LuxDev Code	KSV/015
Version of the Report	July 2013

RATING OF THE PROJECT BY THE EVALUATION MISSION

Global rating (Effectiveness)	2 On a scale of 1 (excellent results, significantly better than expected) to 6 (the project was unsuccessful, or the situation has deteriorated on balance)
Rating using other evaluation criteria	Relevance: 1 Efficiency: 2 Sustainability: 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Framework of the mission

This KSV/015 mid-term evaluation is based on a mission conducted in Kosovo from 8 to 18 April 2013. The mission's main objective was to analyse the results and the specific objectives reached at the time of the evaluation, compared with what had been anticipated in the project document and the inception report. The project document comprises two main results: (i) the revision of curricula and instructional materials for two Centres of Competence in Ferizaj and Prizren in line with labour market needs and linked to the emerging National Qualifications Framework and (ii) the construction and equipping of the Centres in Ferizaj and Prizren.

The evaluation considered the results achieved in terms of capacity development. This judgment needs to take into consideration the fact that in the project documents the facilities both in Ferizaj and Prizren were scheduled for completion by the end of April 2012. Delays in the start-up and at both sites have had knock-on effects on other project tasks. Nevertheless the capacity development activities are on track.

The evaluation criteria for the main results included relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The cross-cutting aspects to consider were governance for development, gender equality as well as environment and climate change.

Particular attention was to be given to: (i) the administrative, operational, and financial autonomy of the Centres of Competence ; (ii) the development of models for cooperation between the Centres of Competence and the private sector and of alternative approaches to financing the institutions to assure sustainability ; (iii) the project's integration within the wider context of the Vocational Education and Training system, especially regarding policy dialogue, alignment, and harmonisation between the Ministry of education, science, and technology and the Ministry of labour and social welfare.

The evaluation was to establish lessons learned and give recommendations for the continuation of the project. It should assess the project's current timing and give recommendations on a realistic end data, considering the construction delays and other issues.

The mission leader was Mr. Richard Noonan and the national expert was Mr. Driton Berisha.

Objectives and results achieved

The project development objective is to contribute to the economic growth through the modernisation of the educational system in Kosovo, in particular the Vocational Education and Training system. Following the Kosovo war, the economy is in a state of transition toward a more European Union oriented market. Unemployment levels in Kosovo are high, especially among youth.

The primary school enrolment is almost universal and even secondary Vocational Education and Training enrolments are relatively high compared with the general upper secondary (gymnasium) enrolment, but the Vocational Education and Training system is in need of modernisation and orientation toward the European Union and regional markets.

The development objective is in line with the strategic priorities of the Government of Kosovo in the education sector, which aim to raise the quality, efficiency and effectiveness and to contribute to economic growth and improved employability. The project contributes to the modernisation of the Vocational Education and Training system by developing modern curricula linked to European qualifications framework and the Kosovo national qualifications framework. The curricula will therefore have an assured labour market value and will provide programme participants with improved employment security.

Result 1

21 technical working groups were established for curriculum development for the 21 selected occupational profiles. The project team, regional experts and coordinators from the Ministry of education, science, and technology coached these working groups.

The curriculum development has been completed for grade 10 and a first draft has been produced for grade 11. The curriculum development tasks are thus on track. The development of the instructional materials in economics, trade and tourism in Prizren are on track, but there is a risk of delay in the development of the instructional materials in nursing and health care in Ferizaj.

The occupational standards are finalised for the 21 occupational profiles. Some 90 teachers, sector experts, Ministry of Education experts and institutional experts have been trained in the development of competency based, modular and labour market oriented curricula.

The development of the teaching and learning materials will be done in consultation with the German Agency for International Cooperation and international experts. The project has elaborated terms of reference for developing teaching and learning materials and for reviewing the curricula and standards for grade 10. The tenderers have been invited for the preparation of grade 10 instructional materials based on the curricula and standards. Thus the capacity building for the (potential) teachers and others in modular competence based curricula and requirements of the national qualifications authority is on track, even if much remains to be done.

Result 2

The completion of the construction of the Centre of Competence in Ferizaj is expected by the end of July 2013 and is thus on track. The specification, tendering and commissioning for the furniture, equipment and the didactic tools and the purchase of the furniture, equipment and the didactic tools for Ferizaj are on track, but delays in the equipment delivery and installation could occur. The Centre of Competence construction in Prizren has faced serious delays and the completion is not expected until February 2014.

The capacity development for the centres is actively on going through the participation of the project team in the Vocational Education and Training sub-sector working group and the organisation of a workshop with the participation of the Ministry of Education, science, and technology and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, as well as the Kosovo chamber of commerce to prioritise and plan the project implementation and capacity development. The project is also in discussion with the municipalities and the Education Ministry for the promotional activities to take place.

Conclusions and recommendations

The project is highly relevant to the social and economic development needs of Kosovo. It will contribute to the reduction of the youth unemployment through an improved access to a relevant high quality Vocational Education and Training, thereby improving their employability and providing them with better economic opportunities in the future. It thereby also contributes to the poverty reduction in the longer term. The project is well aligned with the national priorities and strategies, such as the Kosovo development strategy and plan and the Kosovo education strategic plan 2011 - 2016.

The programmes to be offered in the two Centres of Competence will be attractive to both boys and girls. The instructional materials will be translated as needed. This investment will therefore have relatively high gender and social equity impacts.

The project will be effective in providing young people from the local community the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that have a good economic value. No dormitory facilities are planned at this time, so according to the mid-term evaluation opinion the catchment area may be limited mainly to the local community, but that will not necessarily hinder effectiveness.

In time, higher levels of the vocational and professional training may be added to the programmes (post-secondary, non-tertiary) and according to the evaluation team opinion possibly with the construction of supervised dormitory facilities, more students from other parts of the country would attend these schools, giving them a more national character.

The total level of the investment for the two Centres of Competence, including the physical facilities and capacity development is not unduly costly for a European development project. Thus if the learning and labour market outcomes correspond to expectations, then the investment will be efficient.

The main threat to the sustainability is the financing of the operating costs. In the medium- to long term, if the investment is effective and efficient, the stakeholders will find a way of retaining the benefits of the investment – it will be sustainable. Developing a close linkage between the institutions and the private sector business community is one of the most important ways of assuring the sustainability.

A number of recommendations are made. Some recommendations could be implemented for relatively small re-allocations within the current framework of the project activities and timetable. It is recommended that the completion be extended to the 30 November 2014 from the present date of 31 August 2014.

Additional activities are also proposed, some of which might be carried out within the current budget and time framework. Some are aimed at the capacity development, some at improving the sustainability and one at enhancing the equality. Taken collectively, however, the proposed activities could with great advantage be taken as the base for a follow-up to the KSV/015.