



IMPACT STORY

ESS COACHES

“I have improved my advocacy and communication skills that I had never had a chance to do so before.”



Images: Liengsysavanh Phetthala Credit: Swisscontact

Mr. Liengsysavanh Phetthala is currently in charge of skills development and employment at the Department of Labour and Social Welfare in Xieng Khouang Province. He was encouraged to join the group of Employment Support Services (ESS) coaches because it directly complements the mandate of his department. “The project also deals with labour issues which I like,” he said.

Being an ESS coach is a new and challenging experience for Phetthala. “At first, learning to manage my time between my job and coaching was exceptionally challenging.” he said. It’s important to schedule your time effectively for coaching.”

He was a bit nervous at first because he did not have the knowledge or experience of being a coach, but with the training as an ESS coach, his skills have improved.

“When I first started, I didn’t know how to explain the project’s objective to the beneficiaries. And sometimes I could not answer their questions or give them clear information.”

After receiving three blocks of trainings, he has learned how to better communicate with others, especially when answering questions about the project. “I have improved my advocacy and communication skills to a level I had never experienced before,” he said.

Images: Phetthala with coaches Credit: Swisscontact



Phetthala explained that ESS training is all about organizing activities, speaking skills, teamwork, and mutual support. “I can apply them to my work, and as a result of the training, I am able to communicate with confidence,” he said.

“I have never been a coach or a member of an organizing committee before, but I can say that this project encourages everyone to express their opinions to others.”

Phetthala talks proudly about his relationship with other ESS coaches. “Everyone in the team is very supportive, we constantly consult and coordinate with each other,” he said. I was very fortunate to have a good teammate who really helped me.”

Phetthala still considers himself a novice coach and relies on his fellow coaches for advice.

Images: Phetthala with students Credit: Swisscontact



Inception phase: August 2019 - March 2020

Project duration: (4 years) August 2019 - July 2023

Funded by: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Implementer: Consortium Swisscontact / Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts

Key implementing governmental partners:

- Ministry of Education and Sports - MoES (Lead)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare – MoLSW

Target Groups:

- Early school-leavers: young people (15-35 years of age) who have completed primary, but not lower secondary education, and are subjected to income poverty.
- Wider: Teachers from IVET schools, staff from job centres or similar institutions (career counsellors, job coaches, community or youth workers, village facilitators, social workers)



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