"Skills for Jobs" (S4J) project

A project of the Swiss government

Implemented by the Swiss organization Swisscontact

Focus on promotion of employment opportunities and skills development
Quick facts:
**VET system in Albania (2019)**
- 34 vocational schools;
- 10 vocational training centres;
- 18.25% of students choose VET;
- traditional learning methods;
- low cooperation between VET providers and companies;
- VET programs not relevant to the labour market needs;
- apprenticeships occasionally applied;
- career orientation and guidance occasionally offered.

The vision of “Skills for Jobs” project for the future of Vocational Education and Training in Albania
- More students will choose for VET;
- Blended learning (which includes use of technology in the classroom, virtual coaching, gamification, etc.) will be a common practice;
- The private sector will lead the design and delivery of relevant VET programmes;
- Trainees and students will find attractive and gainful jobs.

In order for this vision to become a reality, since 2016, the project has supported the **Line Ministry** by focusing on ensuring systemic change, capacity development and empowerment of key actors.

**Successfully piloted initiatives (2016-1029):**
- Development Units (Career Centres), with 7 functions:
  - Teacher training;
  - School-based curricula development;
  - Career orientation;
  - Business relations;
  - Institutional marketing;
  - Development projects;
  - Provider based tracer;
- Apprenticeship Model (based on the Swiss model);
- Virtual Learning Platform (MesosVET);
- Management Information System (IMPRO);
- Career orientation for pupils in 9th grade;
- Career guidance for vocational school students;
- Certified mentors
- Updated curricula
- Provider based tracing system;
- School promotion initiatives; etc.
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<th>What happened during “Skills for Jobs” Phase I 2016 - 2019</th>
<th>Direct support for</th>
<th>433 companies in the VET network, supporting providers with apprenticeships for students, sponsorships and curricula development</th>
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<td>422 companies hosted 1422 students as apprentices</td>
<td>9707 youngsters (students in vocational education and trainees in vocational centres) benefited from the improved VET offer</td>
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<td>16 companies sponsored VET (est. amount CHF 520 000)</td>
<td>9.3% dropout rate decreased from 14%</td>
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<td>49% The employment rate of vocational school graduates increased from 34%</td>
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Snapshot of students’ employment situation one year after graduating from the VET school:

34% employed graduates of 2016

49% employed graduates of 2017

Snapshot of graduates’ employment situation before graduating from school in 2018:

53% of graduates had received a job offer before graduation

Snapshot of trainees’ employment situation one year after completing a vocational course from the Vocational Training Centre in Vlora:

42% employed trainees of 2016 / 45% employed trainees of 2017

What will happened during “Skills for Jobs” phase II (2019-2023)?

- Direct support for:
  - 11 VET providers
  - 16,000 students and trainees;
- Partial support for all other VET providers in Albania.

**Intervention lines**

During the second phase, “Skills for Jobs” project will support partner VET providers in terms of:

1. Establishing close cooperation with private sector companies and other partners;
2. Diversifying and improving the VET offer;
3. Applying innovative teaching methods and quality standards;
4. Applying Work-Based Learning in cooperation with employers;
5. Developing and empowering the institution, by introducing mechanisms for efficient management.
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