

Project Brief

Country	Republic of Moldova
Project Title	CONSEPT - Strengthening of Vocational Education and Training in Moldova
Cooperation Partners	Ministry of Education, Technical University of Moldova, Educational Centre Pro Didactica.
Basic belief of LED regarding VET	<p>The availability of competent human resources is a decisive factor for economic growth and the creation of wealth. VET is a service that provides the productive sector/labor market with the required skilled manpower. High quality training in state of the art VET schools can be an attractive alternative entrance door to the world of work.</p> <p>Human resource development and VET are a joint responsibility of all stakeholders, primarily of the economic agents and the state. Moreover, innovative VET schools need a minimal degree of autonomy within a clearly defined framework.</p> <p>Changes are chances. Only VET providers with initiative staff that look forwards and are ready to meet the challenges of the future are worthwhile to be supported.</p> <p>In a fast changing world life-long learning is as important as a sound general education and basic vocational education and training.</p>
Assumptions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At present, Moldova is at the beginning of the reform of the VET system towards a competency based and demand driven approach. There exists the political will to reduce the number of VET schools and to make the remaining schools more competitive and increase their autonomy.2. The VET system welcomes the active participation of the customers (learners and economic agents) in the decision making at all levels, especially in needs assessment, financing, training delivery and assessment & certification.3. The Liechtenstein funded project is able to work with other VET projects.
Description of the Project	<p>General objective: <i>Develop a more demand-driven and flexible support system for the integration of all types of job seekers into the labor market.</i></p> <p>Approach: <i>CONSEPT supports VET providers in delivering/assuring high quality and demand based trainings according to the requirements of the productive sector /labor market and customers like ANOFM.</i></p> <p>Partner VET schools are selected according to the criteria set up by the project and agreed upon by the Ministry of Education. The three most important criteria are: readiness to offer short courses, offer of trades in high demand and commitment of staff towards modernization.</p> <p>The specific support for each partner VET school is fixed in a contract between the school and the project. The full support package given by CONSEPT, consists of three components:</p>

1. Organizational development: managerial skills

The required links to the economic agents, the substantial input of resources and the increased autonomy of the schools call for new management systems and new managerial skills.

School managers equipped with right sets of knowledge, qualities and attributes, effectively plan and manage the functioning of their institution in order to enhance school performance and individual development.

The school's mission and vision, strategies and processes, as well as the action plan for improving the school's effectiveness are embedded in School Development Plan.

2. Staff development: instructional and occupational skills


In today's demanding and dynamic world wherein technologies change fast, the VET teachers have to constantly upgrade their knowledge and skills. VET schools are to offer demand-based educational programs that will enable every student to achieve rigorous performance standards, practical skills and strong habits of personal development and life-long learning. Therefore, CONSEPT project trains master trainers in Learner Centered Teaching Methodology who provide training courses for their fellow colleagues from VET sector. The project also helps the partner VET schools to identify suitable occupational trainings provided by companies and facilitates the teaching staff attendance to the trainings.


3. Procurement of equipment: support based on the development plan of the VET school

Vocational education is a hands-on learning and the creation of effective learning environment is of emerging significance. While providing the students with technical experience relevant to the employers' needs, the use of materials and operation of tools and machinery is crucial. Hence, to develop the students' practical skills, VET schools need standard equipment and implements used in the productive sector. In this respect, LED allocates a separate budget to each partner school to modernize and strengthen the workshops by getting the needed tools and equipment based on the school's profile and School Development Plan.

Although CONSEPT focuses on the long-term training, the demands of short-term training benefit from the support as well. Better equipped workshops and upgraded teachers should lead to increased quality of training delivery.

Each partner VET school gets project support for a period of two to four years. Then it is replaced by a new one.

Duration  01.10.2008 – 31.12.2011 (Phase I)

Investment by LED  Phase I: CHF 2'214'418
Partly in kind, partly in foreign and local expertise.