PROMOTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

The youth employment crisis presents a major challenge for the future of the CIS countries. At the same time, workers are experiencing a lack of decent work and face long-term social exclusion. Aggravated by the global economic and financial crisis in the labour markets of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the unemployment rate is projected to remain at just over 18 per cent until 2018.

The situation requires governments, employers and workers to promote, create and maintain decent and productive jobs. In the resolution “The youth employment crisis: A call for action”, adopted by the International Labour Conference in 2012, representatives of the Governments, employers and workers of 185 countries, called for urgent and immediate action to reverse the youth employment crisis.

THE RESPONSE

The technical cooperation project, financially supported by the PAO LUKOIL and implemented by the ILO, seeks to strengthen the impact of policies and programmes on youth employment in order to support the creation of more and better jobs for young people. The project focuses on effective responses to the escalating youth employment crisis through initiatives at regional, national and local levels.

Regional initiatives form the overall framework of the project, which focuses on joint approaches between CIS countries and Georgia, by establishing a mechanism for regional cooperation, partnerships, and knowledge sharing.

The national components target Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, where the project supports the development and implementation of time-bound national action plans, pilot programmes and other initiatives that take into account the specificities of the youth employment challenge.

The local components focus on youth employment initiatives, with a view to creating a framework for cooperation between local authorities, the social partners and other relevant institutions. Three pilot areas have been selected, representing diverse demographic, geographic and socio-economic features within the Russian Federation.

RESULTS

By the completion of the project in 2017, young people from the three target countries will have benefited from improved employment services and other youth employment initiatives. Significant achievements are visible at all levels during the implementation of the project.

At the regional level, a tripartite network comprising representatives of nine countries of the subregion (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) has been established to promote cooperation and knowledge sharing on youth employment, and to develop and revise policies and strategies for decent work for youth.

Bi-annual meetings are organized for the members of the network, combining capacity building, knowledge sharing, learning sessions, and peer review. By the end of 2014, three meetings had been conducted with the participation of tripartite constituents from the nine countries, as well as representatives of other countries and international experts. Peer reviews of policies, institutions and programmes have enabled the ministries of
BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

The project goes beyond merely training individuals, and goes directly to the root of the youth employment problem by means of policy interventions at the national level. It builds on the ILO’s existing cooperation in the target countries and draws upon the ILO’s international expertise, good practices, lessons learned, and the latest employment promotion tools, while ensuring commitment to decent work and building regional and national capacities for sustainable impact. Through the regional knowledge-sharing network, all partners increase their effectiveness in formulating employment policies and strategies for youth. The project also contributes towards developing and improving targeted services and tools for existing and potential young entrepreneurs. It also supports greater participation and representation of young people in employers’ and workers’ organizations.