

Professional Green Skills for Central Asia

Context

The governments of Central Asian countries have adopted strategies for a transition to a greener economy. However, companies are still suffering from a shortage of qualified specialists in future-oriented sectors such as renewable energy, energy-efficient housing, e-mobility as well as water management or waste processing. The availability of 'green' skills is therefore an indispensable prerequisite for the introduction of innovative and eco-friendly technologies, production methods and services. The new requirements for professional qualifications and skilled labour need to be sufficiently reflected in the strategic documents in the region.

Education systems (vocational training, higher education, and training, retraining and upskilling programmes) must be geared towards the needs of the green economy; teachers and curricula must be developed to meet the requirements of the labour market.

Educational systems (vocational training, higher education and training, reskilling and upskilling courses) should be geared towards the needs of a 'green' economy and have prepared teachers and labour market-oriented curricula and didactic materials, addressing the existing demand of private sector. As a result, young people and adults have professional qualifications needed for employment. Women can get more information and access to vocational training programmes that would give them better employment and income prospects in the 'green' economy.

Our objective

Young people and adults in Central Asian countries have improved employment prospects in the 'green' economy.

Project name	Green Skills for a Green Economy in Central Asia (PROGRESS)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
Main partners	Ministries of labour and/or education
Duration	08.2025 - 07.2028

Our measures

The project supports the systemic, institutional and human capacity development of regional vocational training systems addressing the needs of the 'green' economy. Particular attention is given to training of specialists for the energy sector (with a focus on solar energy, energy efficiency and e-mobility) as well as to water (irrigation technologies and resource-saving water use) and waste management.

To integrate professional 'green' skills into the legal framework for the 'green' economy, the project supports analyses of employment potential. Based on identified needs, strategies, action plans and programmes are developed to expand employment opportunities, particularly for women. Ministries receive expert support in integrating environmentally and climate-relevant aspects into sectoral strategies and vocational education and training programmes. Established platforms for dialogue between government, education and private sector contribute to ensure that national processes reflect the existing demands of the economy.

The project team and experts advise partner organisations and educational institutions to develop and modernise vocational and higher education programmes as well as short-term training, retraining and upskilling courses in line with labour market



L. to r.: Participants of the regional workshop in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Solar panels and collectors at Green Yurt Camp in Issyk-Kul region, Kyrgyzstan.

Pg 2: : Staff training on solar panel durability testing, Uzbekistan.

Solar panels in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.



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needs. Teachers and trainers participate in trainings on technical, pedagogical and other relevant topics (e.g. digitalisation and inclusive education). Cooperation with European educational institutions and applied research promote innovation and collaboration on 'green' skills in Central Asia.

The project activities include cross-border exchange formats on best practices in vocational training and eco-friendly business models. New practices and employment opportunities, particularly for women and young people, are promoted. For example, students participate in hackathons where they present their 'green' and digital solutions to potential employers. The project supports participation of regional experts and partner organisations in regional events (such as environmental forums and conferences) and study visits to strengthen the network and improve knowledge on the educational standards and certification of 'green' skills.

Expected results

- Government agencies have adopted strategies, action plans or programmes that include recommendations to promote green skills, including explicitly for women, for employment in the green economy.
- Graduates of labour market-oriented vocational and higher education programmes for green economy sectors are employed in relevant jobs.
- The modernized or new educational programmes and training courses meet the needs of companies.
- Participants in transnational, innovation-oriented peer-to-peer learning measures have developed implementation plans of their projects.

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