The Russian Federation has been an ILO member State since 1954 and an important partner in promoting the Decent Work Agenda. It has ratified 77 ILO Conventions and two Protocols, including eight Fundamental Conventions, three Governance Conventions and 66 Technical Conventions.

Cooperation between the ILO and the Russian Federation builds on the National Development Goals, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the ILO Centenary Declaration and Programme for Cooperation. Taking into account social and economic contexts, the priorities of this cooperation include:

- Improving labour legislation in response to changing conditions in the modern economy, lifelong learning and skills development
- Promoting non-discriminatory and inclusive employment policies
- Supporting universal social protection throughout the life cycle
- Enhancing workforce agility to changing labour market demands and conditions, including technological transformations.

Russia’s international assistance priorities

The Programme of Cooperation for 2021-2024 emphasizes the importance of a human-centered approach to the Future of Work and accounts for the challenges facing the world of work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key priorities include:

- Strengthening social dialogue, developing the system of collective agreements and tripartite collaboration, and promoting international labour standards
- Safe and healthy work conditions as a fundamental factor of decent work
- Broadening employment opportunities and increasing labour productivity, modernizing labour legislation and qualifications systems.
As part of its commitment to promoting the G20 Skills Development Agenda, the Russian Federation prioritizes strengthening national skills development systems, policies and strategies to enhance employment opportunities. This includes supporting the two-phase project ‘Applying the G20 Training Strategy’ in Armenia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Viet Nam and Tajikistan. In its first phase, the project strengthened skills development systems, developed and tested methodological and training tools and facilitated knowledge-sharing.

The second phase (2017-2021) focuses on strengthening skills and employability. The project has trained more than 1,5 national staff, of which 30 per cent were women, to critically analyse and improve national and sectoral skills development systems. The interventions prioritise people facing the greatest barriers to finding employment or remaining employed, such as youth, women, the long-term unemployed, low skilled workers, single parents, people with disabilities and older workers.

Results in the project countries have included:

Armenia: development of a Skills Strategic Plan to guide national reforms on skills development and a comprehensive analysis of skills demand in the changing COVID-19 work environment.

Jordan: The harmonization of on-the-job training for Jordanians and Syrians as part of the ILO’s Syrian Crisis Response programme in collaboration with UNHCR as well as the establishment of sector skills councils and development of occupational standards and a national framework on quality apprenticeships.

Kyrgyzstan: The development of occupational standards and competency-based curricula for a number of occupations, TVET Strategic Plan to guide national skills development reform, a short-term skills needs assessment methodology to inform TVET priorities, and recommendations for improved governance of skills development at regional (sub-national) level.

Russia Federation: The development a national strategy (2030) for a Skills Development system.

Tajikistan: Recommendations for improvements to skills development systems in the country’s mid-term and long-term national development plans.

Viet Nam: The establishment business-TVET institution collaborations, improving the Labour Code, setting-up sector skills councils and institutionalizing a career guidance system.

In cooperation with the School of Management SKOLKOVO in Moscow, the TVET manager simulator tool was launched to enable education leaders to implement effective changes and organizational strategies, in order to create modern curricula in targeted areas in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as well as Jordan and Viet Nam.
Knowledge sharing and BRICS cooperation

The Russian Federation is a valued member of the ILO-BRICS development cooperation. In 2020, it hosted the 12th BRICS summit, which emphasised the role of education for enhancing human capital, re-skilling and up-skilling workers in the post-COVID-19 recovery, achieving sustainable development and supporting inclusive economic growth. Government leaders committed to enhancing cooperation, particularly on TVET and higher education, through exchanges of best practices, knowledge and expertise, including on digital technologies for distance and blended learning. In 2016, the Labour and Employment Ministers of BRICS Nations also met in the Russian Federation to deliberate on core labour and employment issues such as informality, labour mobility, social security and ensuring decent work, and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Russian researchers actively participate in the BRICS Network of Labour Research Institutes to produce knowledge and put forward recommendations that inform the policy discussions of the BRICS Employment Working Group.

Voices from the world of work: Enhancing youth employability

After graduating as a geodesist, Ruslan Mikhno moved to the city of Nizhnevartovsk in Russia’s Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug-Yugra region. In this oil-rich region, where his profession is in great demand, he was sure that he would easily find a job. However, reality proved to be different. At 25, Mikhno joined the ranks of highly qualified, unemployed young people.

Thanks to his participation in the ILO pilot programme supported by LUKOIL, Mikhno was offered a paid apprenticeship that allowed him to upgrade his skills and gain invaluable work experience. In Mikhno’s own words, “without this programme, I would not have found job in a solid organization. I feel that I am where I should be.”

Russian Federation - ILO Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme

In October 2019, a Memorandum was signed between the ILO and the Russian Federation’s Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to fund five positions for young professionals at the ILO as part of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme. During 2020, all five positions were filled, with staff members joining four ILO offices in diverse areas of work. In joining the ILO, these young professionals engage in a unique international experience, and the Organization is able to attract exceptional young talents to energize its work. The first ever Memorandum on JPOs concluded by the Russian Federation with a UN organisation, the signature of the agreement marked a new milestone in the development of a strong partnership between the ILO and the Russian Federation.
The youth unemployment rate in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region ranges from 15 to 17 per cent – three times higher than the adult rate. This youth unemployment crisis is a global trend that requires concerted action to provide more quality jobs for young people. As a response to the pressing need for action, the ILO launched the project “Partnerships for Youth Employment in the Commonwealth of Independent States” (YEP CIS) with the financial support of the Russian private company LUKOIL. The project improved the effectiveness of youth employment policies and programmes in the CIS by establishing a framework for regional cooperation and knowledge sharing on youth employment among tripartite stakeholders.

Building on a first phase and with continued support from LUKOIL, the ILO now implements the second phase of the project, 2018-2022. It seeks to improve the effectiveness of policies and programmes promoting decent jobs for young people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia through interventions at the sub-regional, country and sub-national levels as follows:

• **The sub-regional** component constitutes the project’s backbone. It further develops joint approaches to address youth employment issues common to the governments and social partners of the sub-region and enhance the existing mechanisms for sub-regional partnership on youth employment as well as facilitate voluntary policy reviews, mutual learning and country-to-country cooperation.

• **The country level** component supports tripartite constituents in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan to mainstream youth employment into national development policies as well as implement country specific youth employment policies, innovative active labour market programmes for facilitating the school to work transition and quality employment services for youth.

• **The sub-national** component focuses on youth employment actions in three regions of the Russian Federation (Astrakhan and Kaliningrad Regions, and the Republic of Komi) to foster strategic partnerships between local, governmental labour market institutions, social partners and other stakeholders.

The project builds on the synergies created by the [Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth](http://www.globaljobinitiative.org). Focusing on strengthening policymakers’ and practitioners’ capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based and gender sensitive policies, the project is working to address youth employment and youth related labour market challenges. An institutional capacity development approach helps ensure the sustainability of project results.