

# Project Brief



International  
Labour  
Organization



youth employment challenges and suggesting policy recommendations.

The project implementation strategy is based on the strengthening policymakers' and practitioners' capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate evidence-based and gender sensitive policies, programmes and approaches on youth employment and youth related labour market challenges, and on delivering results through partnerships and strategic alliances. The institutional capacity building approach ensures that the work done during the project life becomes sustainable and is replicated in the long run. The involvement of public institutions, the social partners and other actors helps creating synergies and replicating effective delivery models across the national contexts.



Figure 1: The overall project strategy



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## Partnerships for Youth Employment in the Commonwealth of Independent States Phase II

**Project duration:** January 2018 – December 2022

**Countries covered:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan. Regional component covers these four countries as well as other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

**Donor:** Public Joint Stock Company LUKOIL (PJSC LUKOIL)

## Introduction

In the recent years, youth unemployment rate has stayed persistently high in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region ranging from 15 to 17 per cent or three times higher than the adult rate.

Gender dimension is also pronounced, with young women having consistently higher unemployment rates compared to young men. In some countries, there are also high regional disparities in the youth unemployment rate. Moreover, the quality of jobs accessed by young people



remains a cause for concern as they are over-represented in informal jobs, which means that they don't have access to social security and do not enjoy basic rights at work. At the same time, young people are more mobile in the labour market, including self-employment and entrepreneurial initiatives, and demonstrate great capacity to adapt themselves to changes in the world of work, and to develop skills for new jobs and innovative technologies. Youth are the great asset for the economies facing economic diversification.

The global youth unemployment crisis has led to a number of strategic policy responses calling upon the key stakeholders to undertake concerted

actions to provide more quality jobs for young people. This includes the 2012 ILO Resolution "The youth employment crisis: A call for action", the 2013 "Oslo Declaration: Restoring confidence in jobs and growth", 2014 ILO Resolution concerning the second current discussion on employment, and 2016 UN Initiative for Decent Jobs for Youth.

In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in 2013–2017, the ILO has implemented a Project "Partnerships for Youth Employment in the Commonwealth of Independent States" (YEP CIS)<sup>1</sup> with financial support of the Russian company LUKOIL. The project improved the effectiveness of youth employment policies and programmes in the CIS by



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment/projects/cis-partnership/lang--en/index.htm>



establishing a framework for regional cooperation and knowledge sharing on youth employment. New five-year project is a continuation of the first phase.

### The strategy and expected results

The second phase of the project aims to further improve the effectiveness of policies and programmes promoting decent jobs for young people in the countries of 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 countries of the sub-region and enhance the

existing mechanisms for sub-regional partnership on youth employment.

- The *country level component* targets Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan, supporting the implementation of country specific youth employment policies and programmes.
- 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 a framework for partnerships among local institutions in the labour market, the social partners and other stakeholders.

The Project builds on the synergies created by the UN Initiative for Decent Jobs for Youth, and initiates thematic research on selected topics highlighting