

# Project Brief



International  
Labour  
Organization



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

**Duration:** January 2013 – December 2016

**Countries covered:** Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States

**Donor:** OAO "LUKOIL"

### Introduction to the project

The global economic crisis has exacerbated the difficult situation that already existed in youth labour markets of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The crisis resulted in a dramatic increase in the youth unemployment rate, jumping from 17.0 per cent in 2008 to 20.5 per cent in 2009. The rate decreased between 2009 and 2012, but it has not yet returned to pre-crisis levels.

**Unemployment and under-employment tend to have adverse consequences on young people.** These include deterioration of skills and negative perceptions of youth who have only been in short-term and informal jobs for prolonged periods. The observed results on young people's labour market



achievements can be a long period of transition before finding decent jobs. This has an impact on wages and spending capacity of individuals and families that extends over many years of the working life. Youth unemployment and inactivity can lead to social exclusion, idleness and frustration. This can lead, in some cases, to anti-social behaviours, including drug addiction and juvenile delinquency.

the specificities of the youth employment challenge. Policy reviews constitute the foundation from which programmes and policies are formulated and implemented. In Azerbaijan, the project will pilot labour market programmes targeted at youth. In Kazakhstan, a comprehensive policy review and a national action plan on youth employment is supported. In the Russian Federation, interventions at the national level will focus on the development of national youth employment strategies.

***Pilot innovative partnerships by pooling local resources and expertise around the shared objective of promoting decent and productive work for youth.***

The sub-national components focus on youth employment action in three pilot areas of the Russian Federation. Through these pilots, the project will establish a framework for cooperation among local institutions, the social partners and other actors. These partnerships for decent work for youth will be implemented at in selected districts or other local territories.



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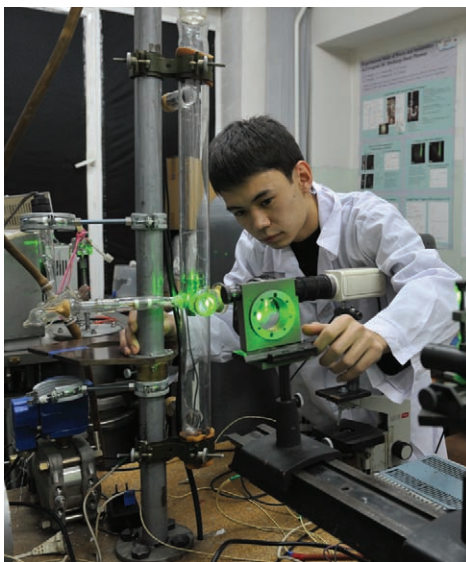
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Against this backdrop, the crisis of youth employment was a main subject discussed by the Conference of the International Labour Organization in June 2012. Representatives of governments, employer organizations and trade unions of 185 countries called for urgent and immediate action to reverse the youth employment crisis and the threat of losing a generation of young people whose skills and talents are underestimated or wasted.

## The strategy and expected results

The technical cooperation project “Partnerships for youth employment in the CIS” is funded by the OAO “LUKOIL” and implemented by the ILO. It is a response to the pressing need for action



as expressed by the International Labour Conference. **The project supports institutions and other actors in the identification of effective responses to tackle the youth employment crisis,** including through cooperation and partnerships at regional, national, and sub-national levels.

The main objective of the project is to **improve the effectiveness of policies and programmes for youth employment in order to support the creation of more and better jobs for young people in CIS countries.**

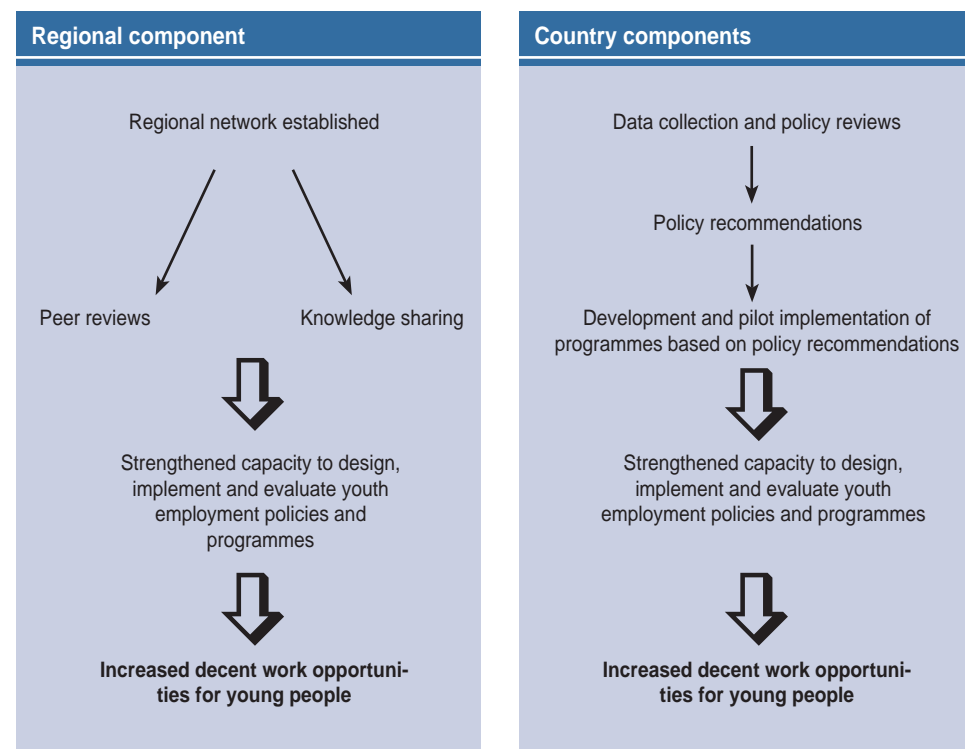
Figure 1 below depicts the strategy for implementation of the project.

More specifically, the project will:

***Set up a regional network of experts and practitioners of eight countries that will foster cooperation and knowledge sharing on youth employment, with a view to developing or revising policies and strategies for decent work for youth in CIS countries.***

The regional intervention constitutes the overall framework of the project. It serves to develop joint approaches to address youth employment issues common to CIS countries and to establish a mechanism for regional cooperation on youth employment. The network will share experience and knowledge on youth employment

**Figure 1: Strategy for implementation of Partnerships for Youth Employment**



policy and programme development and implementation. One of the features of the network is a peer review mechanism, where participating countries review and assess each other’s youth employment policies, thereby promoting cross-country

***Support the formulation and implementation of time-bound national action plans and programmes for youth employment in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation.***

cooperation and sharing good practices.

The design and implementation of these action plans and programmes rely on extensive consultations and strategic partnerships among national institutions, social partners, and the private sector. The national components target Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation. In these countries, the project supports the development and implementation of pilot programmes and initiatives that take into account