



EUROPEAN UNION



MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SECONDARY
SPECIALIZED EDUCATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

PRESS RELEASE

EU-UNESCO launches 9.6 million euro programme to support the agriculture sector in Uzbekistan through development of vocational education and training system

Tashkent, 28 July 2020 – Today the European Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) jointly with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MHSSE) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the Republic of Uzbekistan launched a new programme “Skills Development in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan” funded by the European Union.

The European Union (EU) provided a 9.6 million EUR contribution to this initiative, which will be implemented by UNESCO within the period of 2020-2024 in selected regions of Uzbekistan.

"The project is very timely and relevant in terms of assisting our government reforms to promote rural people who have most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, lost their jobs and revenues. It also helps us to nurture the young generation in the post-COVID period and increase its resilience to meet future challenges", says H.E. Mr Aziz Abdulkhakimov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Chairperson of the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO.

"The EU Member States and their partner countries exchange best practices and learn from each other to make lifelong learning and social mobility a reality; to improve the quality and efficiency of education and training; to promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship; and to enhance creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. I truly believe that the new EU-UNESCO programme will improve quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the vocational education and training (VET) system in modernised agriculture sector and contribute to the recent reforms initiated by Uzbekistan in the education sector", - says H.E. Eduards Stiprais, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In the context of this initiative, UNESCO will provide assistance in developing, testing and piloting new initiatives and approaches, including the training of teachers and trainers in the agriculture and irrigation sectors with a view to scaling up transversal methods, high-technology agriculture and food processing, and innovative approaches throughout the country.

"We are available to provide our expertise and assistance to developing and scaling up transversal methods, high-technology agriculture and food processing, and innovative approaches throughout Uzbekistan. By testing and piloting these new and innovative initiatives and approaches for a more efficient agriculture, including the training of teachers and trainers in the agriculture and irrigation sectors, the project could have the potential to serve as an example for transitioning to smart farming and precision agriculture in the region and beyond", - says Ms Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education.

About the Programme

"Skills Development in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan" is aimed to enhance the living standards in rural areas through better employability. The specific objective is to equip women and men in Uzbekistan with relevant skills for a sustainable, diversified and modernised agriculture. The expected outputs are: 1) VET policy implementation supported and governance arrangements modernised, strengthened and adapted to the evolution of the agriculture and irrigation sectors; 2) VET qualifications and methodology modernised to serve the needs of the labour market and women and men learners and workers in the agriculture sector; 3) Efficient VET colleges with competent management and teaching staff able to use modern equipment, technologies and learning methods.

About UNESCO

UNESCO was established on 16 November 1945 as a United Nations Specialized Agency. It contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. UNESCO's intervention in Uzbekistan is planned and managed by the UNESCO Office in Tashkent in close cooperation with its Headquarters, regional offices in Bangkok, Jakarta and Almaty, and the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO.

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About the European Union

The European Union, composed of 27 Member States, is the world's biggest aid donor. Uzbekistan is getting the bilateral assistance of €168 million for 2014-2020. Uzbekistan also receives regional and thematic assistance in areas like border management and drug control, education, democracy and human rights, energy, transport, SME development, peace and stability and water/environment and nuclear safety. The European Union has been active in Uzbekistan since 1996 and provides approximately EUR 24 million annually in development assistance.

Website: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uzbekistan>

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