

	EUR 29 800 000 for budget support
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: - Budget Support: Sector Reform Performance Contract

1.2 Summary of the Action

The EU will provide support to the Republic of Tajikistan for assisting implementation of the reforms in the field of Primary Vocational Education and Training¹ (PVET) with a special focus on youth, women and returnee migrants on one hand, and promotion of professions mainly in the industrial as well as important sectors for the economy (agriculture and energy sectors), on the other, particularly in the green and digital industries which will provide a perspective for a growing young and dynamic population, as well as through increasing the level of digitalisation in PVET. The Action will be targeted at addressing primarily SDG 4, as well as SDG 5 and SDG 8.

Overall, the new programme will contribute to the Tajikistan government-owned National Education Development Strategy (NSED) and its Action Plan (AP) 2021-2023 and the successive 2024-2026, and the Programme for Professional Training of the Citizens (PPTC) of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2025, within the recently introduced 2022-2026 roadmap for performing the sector policy priorities, particularly those reflected in the two above documents.

The proposed new PVET and Employment Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC) is envisaged to be implemented during the period 2023-2026, and is built on the achievements of past and ongoing EU assistance to the Education Sector, namely the Quality Education Support Programme (QESP) I, which ended in December 2021 and PFM Technical Assistance (TA) to the Ministry of Finance (MoF), which ended in mid-2020.

The proposed Action has a country-wide coverage, and is targeted at increasing both initial and continuing PVET governance effectiveness and funding efficiency, improving the PVET (including adult training) learning outcomes and enhancing cooperation with the employers (both private and public). This is to be achieved through supporting the Government of Tajikistan (GoT) in performing a number of policy measures formulated in the corresponding sector policy documents, namely: streamlining PFM planning and monitoring in TVET and employment sectors, operationalising an integrated and high quality Management Information System (MIS) for PVET and labour market integration, and leveraging digital education for learner-centred and high quality PVET, establishing effective standards and curricula development system, particularly with due participation of employers and line ministries, as well as arranging their involvement in other TVET aspects, where relevant. The Action is supposed to contribute to the increased access and improved vocational skills (including basic digital skills) for youth, women and returnee migrants (including those with disabilities), thus making them more competitive in the national labour market.

The EU's geopolitical engagement in Tajikistan has the objective of reducing dependency from Russia, which can be achieved through key initiatives in energy and water sector projects and human development, such as creating employment and preventing youth radicalisation, which this Action is supporting to. The proposed Programme will also promote imbedding the 'greening' elements into TVET through supporting development of corresponding standards and curricula, and introducing PVET professions related to green economy and/or renewable energy sources. The proposed Programme has the potential to reduce inequalities by strengthening the knowledge and skills of the poorest individuals and groups.

¹ In Tajikistan, the system of TVET is divided into two levels, i.e. Primary Vocational Education and Training (PVET) which mainly prepares skilled workers and craftsmen, and Secondary Vocational Education and Training (SVET) preparing mid-level managers, technologists, etc.