

Education sector cooperation between Vietnam & Denmark, Annual report for 2019

Danish Authorities in International Cooperation



Project description

The overall objective of the project is to address gaps between the actual skills and competences of Vocational Education and Training (VET) school graduates and the skills and competences required by industries operating in Vietnam. Developing the right skills for Vietnam's increasingly internationally competitive industries remains a high priority for the Government of Vietnam, and steps have been taken to implement a vocational system where students alternate between school and company – the so-called dual-system. Vietnam targeted providing technical vocational training to 2.2 million people in 2019, through more than 1,900 vocational training establishments. Engaging the various sectors that have aired dissatisfaction with technical skills, soft skills and inter-personal competencies among vocational school graduates does however remain a challenge.

The vocational educational sector is undergoing structural adjustments with increased independence in content planning (curriculum), management and financing. This rewards vocational institutions with strong industry ties and proved records of accomplishment in providing real job opportunities, and increases pressure on low-performing institutions. A reform of the structure of the sector is a potential outcome that could support stronger and more agile institutions, but many challenges remain for the full autonomy and efficient operation of responsive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions.

The main focus of this Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) has therefore been: (1) to set-up of Local Occupational Skills' Councils (LOSCs) (2) develop curricula based on the dual-system (3) establish

apprenticeship schemes (4) Train teachers, in-company trainers and schools managers and (5) make policy recommendations.

Key activities in year 2019

The closing conference on 21 March 2019 marked the end of phase I and presented the findings and learnings of the pilot project in a White Paper Report. Activities in 2019 leading up to the conference revolved around finalizing the White Paper, meeting activities (steering committee, project working group) and preparing for the conference. Besides the participants in the pilot project, interested colleges and enterprises also participated in the conference on their own initiative.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

Due to the short period of time in 2019, achievements and lessons learned in 2019 encompasses the entire project (please refer to the White Paper report¹ for details). The fact that Vietnam and Denmark have decided to continue the cooperation in a 3 year project phase II shows that the results and positive feed-back from all stakeholders reflected in the White Paper also impacted governance, implementation, execution and quality assurance of vocational education and training in Vietnam. In spite of a relatively small project and a short project period, the results in all areas are positive and have influenced the way the Vietnamese government is developing TVET.

At college and local level, the revised curricula are being implemented in 2019 onwards in selected classes; the students are introduced to apprenticeships; the LOSCs are working to enhance the cooperation between college and local enterprises and the teachers and managers are implementing new and modern teaching and management methods.

At national level (governance), MOLISA is now dedicated to implement the dual-based system including LOSCs as a national model. The dual-based model and the project initiatives have proven effective and the work to further develop and implement this is in progress, and will be continued in the SSC phase II.

¹ White Paper Report – SSC EDU Vietnam, 2019 (not attached)

Status: Inception Phase I

Project period: January/2019 to September/2019

Partners: Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and Ministry of Education and Training (MOET)

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Education SECTOR COOPERATION BETWEEN Vietnam & DENMARK, Annual report for 2019 – phase II

Danish Authorities in International Cooperation



Project description

To support productivity gain in the private sector, which is still far from satisfactory and much needed to sustain growth to meet the medium term goals of Vietnam, upskilling the workforce is highly needed. Strengthening of the vocational education sector in Vietnam is a very high government priority², challenged however by the structure of the Vietnamese economy.

The phase II project addresses Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at the central, regional and decentral levels. At the central and policy level, the project addresses financial mechanisms, institutional reforms, institutional autonomy and good governance, contributing to improving and shaping the framework conditions for institutions to adapt to the rapidly changing conditions for and demands from enterprises. By working at the regional level, the project engages regional political and business associations holding broader sector perspectives. This is particular relevant given the structure of the Vietnamese economy with many micro and few medium sized companies, the latter being significantly more relevant in a context of engaging in college-enterprise educational cooperation.

At the local level, the project has established Local Occupational Skills Councils (LOSC), to formalize the school-enterprise dialogue. The dialogue will insure industry input for curriculum revision, updating, support quality apprenticeships, enforcement of regular

lecturer-enterprise exchanges, and eventually lead to improved relevance, quality and continued adaptability of vocational education in Vietnam, within the prioritized sectors.

Key activities in year 2019

Activities in 2019 have included meetings with the twelve LOSC, industry associations, international donors and participation in a MoLISA conference on Vocational Education and Training. A Project working Group meeting was held in Hanoi to plan the activity implementation until summer 2020.

In December DACUM³ workshops were executed on the eight new colleges to initiate the curriculum revision process to extend the time for student apprenticeships.

Main achievements and lessons learned in 2019

Due to the short period of time in 2019, achievements and lessons learned in 2019 encompasses the entire pilot project (please refer to the White Paper report⁴ for details). The results and positive feedback from all stakeholders reflected in the White Paper also affected governance, implementation, execution and quality assurance of vocational education and training in Vietnam and have influenced the way the Vietnamese government is developing TVET.

At college and local level, the revised curricula at phase I colleges are currently being implemented in selected classes; the students are introduced to apprenticeships; the LOSCs are working to enhance the cooperation between college and local enterprises and the teachers and managers are implementing new and modern teaching and management method. At phase II colleges, revised curricula are being developed and quality assured by local and Danish experts.

At national level (governance), MoLISA is continuously dedicated to implement a dual-based system including a model for national skills councils.

[Link to White Paper Report](#)

² Law on Vocational Education and Training; MoLISA/DVET 2018

³ DACUM is a recognized work method: Developing a Curriculum

⁴ White Paper Report – SSC EDU Vietnam 2019

Status: Phase II

Project period: September/2019 to December 2019

Partners: Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), Vietnam

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