

E-discussion on YOUTH – summary of preliminary results

Day 6:

How can VSD projects cooperate with other structures? Which concepts and practices exist in terms of networking, partnerships, cooperation ties, between public and private actors, civil society, youth work providers, young people and others in order to implement holistic inclusion strategies for young people in vulnerable situations?

In *Rwanda* the PROMOST programme was looking for someone to support VSD graduates with business ideas. The Rwandan government had already created a structure of so-called Business Development Advisors (BDAs). Instead of creating own structure, we offered them additional training and finally ,certified' them as Swisscontact Entrepreneurship Advisors. The idea was to build upon an existing system, but to add some incentives.

In *Albania* the Coaching for Employment and Entrepreneurship project uses the 'coaching cycle approach' for people (disadvantaged groups) who want to develop their professional career. It is a moderated and well-structured process that builds on motivation and support. The project is a labour market integration measure rather than a hard-core skills development project. The skills for jobs project in *Albania* focuses on 1:1 relationships between schools and employers instead of relying on intermediated structures. They do it quite successfully and create training places also for the underprivileged, as VET students are mostly from lower social strata of society. When it comes to cooperation with the private sector in skills development, we have to accept that businesses have a business interest in training, short or long term. Many projects tend to neglect this simple fact and are surprised if companies are not willing to cooperate if the project motivation is rather social than economic and if the target group selection is not corresponding with their economic realities or needs.

In *Bangladesh* a VSD project needs to cooperate or to remain in coordination with many government and non-government actors, like government department (22 ministries are involved in VSD), public and private training providers, private sector associations, Centers of Excellence (COE), Industry Skills Councils (ISC), development partners, social marketing companies, financial service providers, local government and others, for successful implementation. To ensure coordination, particularly private public partnership, there is a coordinating body called National Skills Development Council (NSDC) (largely supported by the development partners, including SDC), which lacks regulatory power. However, to have a stronger coordination with regulatory mechanism, particularly in the areas of standardization and certification, a National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) is under formation, supported by the SDC contributed project Skills and Employment Investment Program (SEIP). To facilitate inclusion, the SEIP has established a National Human Resource Development Fund (NHRDF), which will be fully operational within 2017. Having contributions from the government, development partners and private industries, this fund will have, among other, special support packages for the poor, disadvantaged and women. Excluded groups are also reached by using social marketing approach (cultural activities, community radio, rally etc.).