Innovative teaching in VET

Georgia

DESCRIPTION

Within the framework of Georgia's 2022–2030 National Strategy of Education and Science, the education system aims to support the development of extracurricular services in VET institutions and non-formal education activities. Accordingly, **a call has been launched for VET institutions**, in collaboration with civil and/or private organizations, to **develop and implement projects that introduce extracurricular activities into formal VET education.** These projects aim to foster key competencies such as CDC, entrepreneurial, and digital skills, as well as promote critical and creative thinking, and encourage healthy lifestyles through sports and physical activities. They also **strengthen cooperation between VET institutions and civil organisations** and **help popularise VET education.**

Projects within the competition framework aim to contribute to:

- Develop formal and informal education principles;
- Encourage youth participation;
- Establish environments based on inclusivity and gender equality;
- Develop key competencies among participants;
- Enhance collaboration across and within various sectors (social partnerships).

Examples of funded projects:

1. **"Nature Activist"**

The project "Nature Activist" was carried out by College "New Wave" in partnership with Kintrishi National Park. It aims to raise environmental awareness among VET students through theoretical and practical training, including field trips. Students participated in community outreach on topics like waste management and conservation. They visited Kintrishi Protected Area, where they engaged in hands-on activities such as setting up camera traps, tracking animals, and learning map reading from a ranger.

2. **"Creating a Club for Future Entrepreneurs"**

The project "Creating a Club for Future Entrepreneurs," led by College Mermisi in partnership with the Ornamental and Native Forest Species Growers Association of Georgia, focused on enhancing student life by improving "Mermisi Public Square" and fostering the creation of student clubs. Students from various disciplines, including decorative horticulture, construction, and electrical programs, contributed to the square's construction and maintenance, while also promoting entrepreneurship and collaboration.

IMPACT

In 2022, the initiative to support extracurricular activities in VET institutions resulted in **56 applications, and the funding of 22 projects**. These efforts involved 17 VET schools and 28 organisations, collectively engaging 1,500 participants. Planned activities included seasonal camps, the establishment of student spaces in VET schools, intellectual and sports championships, debate clubs, and various interest/hobby clubs. The positive outcomes **included enhanced collaboration between institutions and community partners**, paving the way for continued cooperation and additional project initiatives.

Building on this success, the 2023 grant competition funded **30 projects, involving 22 VET institutions and 36 partner organisations**, collectively engaging up to 3000 participants. This expansion further strengthened the integration of formal and informal education principles, promoted inclusivity and gender equality, and developed key competencies by covering a diverse range of topics such as environmental protection, entrepreneurship, and youth activities.

According to the results, the funded projects highlight the importance of extracurricular activities as a form of student support. These activities help VET students **develop key competencies, support their psycho-social well-being, and build skills in communication, collaboration, teamwork, and real-life experience.** The grants competition will be **conducted annually.**