

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for Employment (IMEP/VET4JOB-II)

<https://imep.org/>

Türkiye

DESCRIPTION

The IMEP/VET4JOB-II Programme (Improving Socio-Economic Cohesion through Vocational Education and Training) is funded by the European Union under the NDICI-Global Europe instrument, implemented by Expertise France and EDUSER, and contracted by the Delegation of the European Union to Türkiye. The programme is carried out in partnership with the Directorate General for Vocational and Technical Education and the Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen. Following its first phase (2020-2024), the **second phase of IMEP-II** is ongoing between **2024 and 2028**, covering **14 provinces** and **44 vocational education centres**. It aims to strengthen the **resilience, economic integration, and social cohesion** of refugees, individuals under temporary protection, and host communities through **high-quality apprenticeship and vocational training**.

The programme's activities include **combating child labour, promoting re-entry into formal education through outreach teams, improving the physical and pedagogical capacities of vocational education centres, enhancing apprenticeship conditions in enterprises, providing vocational training and entrepreneurship support for adults to facilitate employment, and organising social cohesion and awareness-raising activities**. This is done through community-based outreach, rehabilitation and equipment support for VET centres and enterprises, teacher and staff training, career guidance and entrepreneurship mentoring, and social cohesion initiatives.

The programme contributes to the culture of democracy through its **inclusive and participatory structure that promotes social solidarity and shared responsibility**. By bringing together diverse communities in shared learning environments, it reinforces an education approach based on **gender equality, equal opportunity, and human rights**.

REFLECTIONS

The implementation of the IMEP-II Programme demonstrates how vocational education can serve as a **bridge between social inclusion and economic empowerment**. The programme's **holistic design** which is combining community outreach, enterprise-based learning, and social cohesion activities shows that addressing skill gaps is not only a labour market issue but also a democratic and social responsibility.

A key reflection is that **education policies integrating inclusion, participation, and equality can transform vocational schools into a better learning environment**.

IMPACT

The VET4JOB-II Programme has had a significant impact on **strengthening the link between vocational education and the labour market, while promoting social cohesion, inclusion, and democratic participation**. By reaching out to thousands of young people and adults — both from host communities and those under temporary protection — the programme has improved **access to quality apprenticeship training, increased employability, and supported pathways to sustainable livelihoods**.