

## Support project for building vocational schools

Search for partners

### Project background

Educational programs to help people to gain the knowledge needed for the development of their region, from experience, work best if they are supported by the region and are in concurrence with the regions needs. Where primary education programs are now successfully implemented, the next step is to look at further education. Vocational education is a vital component of this further education need, as it can directly address the need for knowledge and job training in the region. A side effect is that offering this kind of education in the region prevents young people from leaving home in search for education.

Through years of experience of advising vocational school projects in Africa, Jos Hermans has experienced the need for this type of education, and developed the idea to support the building of vocational schools by local stakeholders that now has been adopted by the ESD Programme at UNU-IAS as a research project.

A sustainable school-building project in the vocational sector would basically be best founded with a clear view with regard to home based developments. Here it is important to understand the word “sustainable” in a double sense; not only is it meant to cover relevant subjects in the field of human rights, democracy, environmental awareness, but also in the sense of a financially sound organization that has best chances to survive in the long run and serve the region’s needs.

For the project we make no difference between school initiatives from the government or from private initiative. The funding on the other hand will be a matter of the private market.

It is generally acknowledged that all educational institutes, being formal or informal, follow more or less similar procedures when being prepared, established and managed. These are matters that are relatively universal, regardless of culture, wealth or other circumstances. They start with a well-motivated group of local/regional stakeholders, trying to understand what their

community really needs to educate their young people, and to stimulate the local/regional labor market and economy.

### Project ambition

In the research-project the focus is on developing a general methodology for regional groups in upcoming countries to support them in analyzing the educational needs of their region, and to stimulate them with preparing a step-by-step method on the preparation and setting up of a center for vocational training. The research-project will concentrate on four domains: Economics, Engineering, Social/Health Care and Agriculture. The aspired level of training can be formal lower, middle or higher education or even informal. There will be a strong focus on aspects of Sustainable development.

### Partner search

To start the project, the project-team<sup>1</sup> is looking for pilot groups that have the ambition to start up a new school for vocational education or a training center. We need 5-10 pilots to work with. If RCEs would know potential candidates, or even could support them in their work, please contact Jos Hermans.

Additionally the project needs to identify existing role models; people or groups of people who have gone through the same procedures as described above, and who would like to share their experience with new starters. We hope the RCE community can help us identify such groups.

Thirdly we are looking for potential members of a help-desk who are willing to advice on request, and monitor where needed.

We are hoping for your strong support!

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<sup>1</sup> At the start the team for his project consists of IAS staff (Abel Atiti and Zinaida Fadeeva); Jos Rikers (Open University of the Netherlands) and Jos Hermans.