The project suggests a concurrent investment in life skills-based health education, creation of safe spaces in vocational educational institutions and workplaces, as well as in empowering young people to develop healthy behavior, address gender stereotypes and prevent gender-based violence among young people. On the long term, the project will contribute to increasing the number of young people who possess relevant skills, including soft and vocational skills, that are essential for employment, decent jobs (SDG4) and ending all forms of violence against girls and women in public and in private spheres. It will contribute to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning, information and education for a healthy and prosperous generation (SDG3).

**AT A GLANCE**

**Period:** January 2020 – November 2022

**Budget:** 700,411 Euro

**Engagement:**
- 12 VET institutions, including 4 in Chisinau and 8 in Cahul, Nisporeni, Rezina, Orhei, Edineț, Rîșcani, Bălți;
- 9 business companies working with the selected VET institutions within dual education.

**Beneficiaries:**
- 6000 young people (including 95 students with disabilities), parents, VET institution staff, private companies

**WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT SPECIAL?**

Unlike other projects that have targeted only technical and professional development of the VET students, the project responds to various challenges faced by the young people engaged in the VET system concerning their employment or self-employment.

Limited access to information and education on such subjects as human rights, healthy lifestyle and life-skills based health education in schools and communities, has caused serious misconceptions about gender equity and generated risky health behaviors among young people. Female VET students from rural areas or vulnerable backgrounds are more likely to either drop out of school or enter the labour market later due to unplanned pregnancies or experience of gender-based violence. The statistics show that one out of three young women in Moldova has experienced at least one form of gender-based violence. Also, according to statistics, the adolescent pregnancy rate in Moldova remains high (31 cases per 1,000 girls), in particular among girls from rural areas.
PROJECT PARTNERS:

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Research
- National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Foundation „Terre des hommes“ Moldova
- National Council of Students in VET
- National Network of Youth Centers
- Youth Klinics (the National Network of Youth Friendly Health Centers)
- Donors community in VET

EXPECTED RESULTS and MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. VET institutions are enabled to sustainably deliver the Decisions for a Healthy Lifestyle course through:
   - providing capacity building support to teachers;
   - equipping educational institutions with friendly learning classrooms;
   - providing educational institutions with edutainment learning materials.

2. VET institutions and business companies have capacities to support young people in their healthy development and safe behavior by:
   - increasing their knowledge on safe and supportive environment for young people;
   - addressing youth needs on child and youth protection policies;
   - learning from experience from other countries by visiting them;
   - establishing partnership with Youth Klinics and Youth Centers.

3. VET staff, students, parents and business companies understand and promote the youth right to life skills-based health education and reproductive health services through:
   - engaging in the project communication campaign;
   - participating in a study on healthy/risky behaviour among young people;
   - establishing a functional network of VET youth peer educators on life skills;
   - attending workshops.

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