

Information on new support within the Swedish Regional Development Cooperation in Africa

Skills for Energy in Southern Africa (SESA)

A Public Private Development Partnerships implemented by ILO and KGRTC

Introduction

One of the factors that impede universal access to clean and sustainable energy in the SADC region – and that contribute to chronic energy poverty - is the lack of skills in renewable energy, energy efficiency and regional power pooling technologies. This contribution is a Public Private Development Partnership (PPDP) that will enable a transfer of technical skills from international and local energy companies to power technicians and managers in Southern Africa through SADC's Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC) in Zambia.

This three-year ILO project will be implemented jointly by ILO and KGRTC, it is funded by Sweden with a total amount of 38.304.800 SEK. The project will facilitate partnerships with the private sector, build KGRTC's capacity to enable it to be the Centre of Excellence for energy training in the region and is foreseen to result in a significantly higher number of power technicians and managers that are skilled in renewable energy (RE), energy efficiency (EE) and regional energy integration (REI) technologies.

The focus is on contributing to SDG 7, by responding to the power industry's needs for skills development in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and regional energy integration, but also to SDG 4 on skills and training, and SDG 8 on sustainable economic growth, productive employment and decent work. The expected impact is an increased uptake of renewable energy, energy efficiency and regional energy integration interventions in Southern Africa, leading to a more sustainable use of energy and a low carbon energy mix

Program content

KGRTC will establish a new expanded training portfolio for renewable energy and energy efficiency, with support from ILO and private sector partners. The trainings will be based on demand from the industry and build on KGRTCs strategic position. KGRTC will also be supported by ILO and ICT-ILO in order to strengthen its internal capacity, aiming at improved and more efficient operations, e.g. distance learning and digital trainings. ILO's role as coordinator for the PPDP and agreement partner to Sida will be to identify additional private and public sector actors, and establish agreements with them on commitments, roles and responsibilities in the PPDP implementation - including international, regional and local actors - and to enable KGRTC to implement the new training portfolio. ILO will also have responsibility for communication, marketing of the training portfolio as well as for monitoring and follow up of the results, progress and changes. Private sector partners will contribute to design and implementation of trainings, provide equipment, opportunities for internships and mentorships. Within the project, ILO will also procure additional expertise and engage with relevant institutions and organisations.

The three expected key outputs of this three-year PPDP are:

- More power technicians and managers in the region skilled in Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Regional Energy Integration. This will be reached through training RE/EE/REI programmes for in total around 1600 trainees. This will be done through face-to-face trainings, around 140 trainees per year, blended face-to-face and e-learning, around 75 trainees per year, and e-learning trainings for around 240 trainees per year. In addition, dedicated training for 240 young female engineers will be conducted.

- KGRTC perceived by the energy market in Southern Africa as the Centre of Excellence for competitive skills training in Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Regional Energy Integration technologies,

- Through the project's PPDP approach, numerous private energy companies will have proactively contributed to a skill transfer through KGRTC that will contribute to the stabilization of energy supply as well as more robust and effective energy systems in region.

Targeted geographical and thematic areas

This is a regional PPDP that will train course participants from Sub-Saharan Africa within the area of renewable energy.

For further information

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