

Enhancing the Establishment of a functional support ecosystem for Rapid Prototype Development (RPD) in Southern Serbia

This is an intervention summary from the MSD for employment (MSD4E) landscape assessment.

This intervention focuses on developing a rapid prototype development hub in Serbia to bring together SMEs and universities to develop relevant skills while increasing productivity in the equipment and machinery, and agriculture and food sectors. Students will gain access to prototyping equipment and processes through their curriculum, while SMEs will pay for services to speed up product development in their businesses.

Background information

Project	Serbia Big Small Businesses Project
Funder	USAID
Implementer	ACDI/VOCA
Contact	Caroline Bailey (cbailey@acdivoca.org)
Rural or urban?	Rural and urban
Sectors	Equipment and machinery Agriculture and food
Intended employment outcomes	Access to jobs Job quality
Target group (end beneficiaries)	Young people (17-29), focus on young women.
Cross-cutting priorities	Gender, Youth, and Social Inclusion (GYSI) Private Sector Engagement
Years of operation	2022-2027

What constraints did the intervention aim to address?

Skills mismatch between Equipment & Machinery (E&M) SMEs and newly graduated engineers. Missing feedback loops between industry and Higher Learning Institutes. Absence of professional development opportunities for young Serbian engineers in Serbia.

Which market actor partners did the intervention work with?

1. Academy of Technical and Vocational Studies, department in Vranje (University of Nis, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering)
2. Center for Business and Innovation Support (CPIP)

What were the intended behaviour changes for these partners?

1. **Academy of Technical and Vocational Studies** to create and maintain the rapid product development hub as a platform for relationship building and information exchange, and to adapt their curricula to meet employer needs.
2. **E&M sector SMEs** to better communicate their needs to the hub, and to invest in more professional development opportunities for their staff. SMEs to hire and retain young engineering graduates.
3. **E&M Sector SMEs** to pay for rapid prototype development (RPD) services.

How sustainable are these behaviour changes?

The RPD Hub has been included as part of the curriculum for students under the accreditation process. Therefore, access for students to this practical application will continue, but the behaviour change related to SMEs using and paying for these services is yet to be seen.

What were the intervention's key results?

- Nothing to report at the time of publication.

<i>Has a third party been involved in measuring these results?</i>	No
<i>Is the partner behaviour change the sole/major/minor contributing factor towards the employment-related outcome you've reported? (i.e. are there other contributing factors?)</i>	Major
<i>Results chain available?</i>	No

The MSD4E Intervention Library was compiled by the MSD4E Community of Practice and funded by the ILO, Mercy Corps and Swisscontact.
The [library is hosted by the BEAM Exchange](#)