Certifications for Industry 4.0 in the Post-Pandemic Era

THE INTERVENTION, AT A GLANCE

The education system in Costa Rica, a country that aspires to lead the way in taking advantage of digital technology, has traditionally shown weaknesses in providing young people with relevant skills for the labor market. This intervention seeks to contribute to the improvement of young human capital and their employability, ensuring that students in the public system graduate with certifiable skills recognized by the industry.

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?

57% of Costa Rican employers state that young people are not fully prepared to enter the labor market and 35% report facing difficulties filling their job vacancies. These numbers demonstrate the urgency to equip young people with relevant technical, soft and digital skills, and to provide students with valid certifications recognized by the labor market. However, the country does not have mechanisms to offer these certifications to students in secondary education. In addition, there are no hybrid educational models (combination of remote and face-to-face education) to ensure educational continuity. This poses an even greater challenge for technical training, whose focus on hands-on learning further complicates remote learning.

WHAT DOES THE INTERVENTION CONSIST OF?

- Develop and implement a certification model in technical secondary education, which serves young people between the ages of 15 and 18, offering industry-validated certifications in the areas of Industrial Electronics, Web Development and Configuration, and Support for Communication Networks and Operating Systems. The program also supports the creation of a certification center in the province of San José.
- Implementation of a Hybrid Pedagogical Model for the development of certifiable skills, allowing students to obtain industry-recognized certifications.

AUTHORS OF THE SUMMARY

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INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

- First country in Latin America to establish a model that develops certifiable and industry-recognized skills as part of public secondary technical education.
- First hybrid technical education model in Costa Rica and one of the first in the region.

PARTNERS

Omar Dengo Foundation (FOD), Ministry of Public Education (MEP), Costa Rica Investment Promotion Agency (Cinde).
WHO DOES WHAT?

• The Omar Dengo Foundation will develop the certification model and, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Education, will be responsible for teacher training. In addition, it will operate the Certification Center.

• Cinde will bring together the most important companies in Costa Rica and mobilize them continuously to validate and update certifiable skills and certifications.

• The IDB will offer technical support, monitor the implementation and evaluate the project.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

• Educational centers and careers that participate in the program consolidated.

• Hybrid certification model developed, teachers certified, and certification center at the FOD established.

• Certification model designed and implemented

• At least 400 young people certified.

• Impact evaluation of the hybrid pedagogical model on student’s skills acquisition.

WHY IS THIS INTERVENTION RELEVANT?

This intervention will facilitate the labor market insertion of young people, whose economic situation has been worsened by the pandemic. This is relevant in the long-term as being unemployed during youth is correlated with high rates of informality in the labor market throughout life. This certification model also build capacities within the Ministry of Public Education (through teacher training), which will promote an increase in the quality of this type of education in the country. Similarly, the creation of a hybrid education model in technical education will ensure the continuity of the educational service and will serve as a basis for hybrid models in other contexts and types of education.

SCHEDULE

2020
Project approval.

2021
Educational centers and careers that participate in the program consolidated.

2022
Hybrid certification model developed, teachers certified, and certification center at the FOD established.

2023
Certification model designed and implemented

At least 400 young people certified.

Impact evaluation of the hybrid pedagogical model on student’s skills acquisition.