

AGENDA

TITLE:

DARYA capacity building workshop series

PRACTICES OF DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

DATE AND TIME: 14-15 SEPTEMBER 2026, BISHKEK

VENUE: BISHKEK CONSTRUCTION COLLEGE, 62 LEO TOLSTOY STREET, BISHKEK

BACKGROUND:

Building on dialogue and joint work with partners from the five Central Asian countries under the EU-funded [DARYA project](#), there is a shared recognition of the importance of occupational standards in the efficient functioning of National Qualifications Systems (NQS). The NQS is an interface between the labour market and the system for lifelong learning in a country. The occupational standards find dual use in the context of NQS. On one hand, they are used as an input for developing study programmes for formal and non-formal learning. On the other hand, occupational standards are used for the assessment and validation of learners' occupational competence.

The experience of DARYA module 2 pilot projects 1, 2 and 3 has shown that the current methodologies and practices of developing occupational standards often inhibit their efficient use. The reason behind this is that occupational standards developed are not **occupational qualification standards**. This means that they can't serve neither as an input for developing study programmes for formal and non-formal learning nor for the assessment and validation of learners' occupational competence, because they often don't describe occupational competence in measurable form.

Purpose

The workshop will explore European and Kyrgyz examples of development and usage of occupational standards, and reflect on Kyrgyzstan practices, gaps and needs. The workshop will be interactive, with combination of some generalisations on aims, principles, links to NQSs and NQFs, and showcasing real country examples.

Expected learning outcomes

- ✓ improved understanding of aims and principles of developing and cases of usage of occupational qualification standards and their links to NQSs and NQFs;
- ✓ recommendations for improving the methodology of developing and approaches to usage of occupational qualification standards in Kyrgyzstan.

Target audience:

Developers of occupational standards, users of occupational standards, coordinating institutions.

Day 1

Thematic focus: International practices of developing and using occupational standards

Bishkek Time	Sessions	Annotations
10:00 - 10:15	Welcoming, technical introduction and agenda <i>Bermet Karabaeva, Head of the Labour Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic</i> <i>Johannes Baur, Head of cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic</i> <i>Nadezda Solodjankina, European Training Foundation (ETF)</i>	
10:15 – 10:35	Outlining of expectations by representatives of Kyrgyzstan <i>Burul Tashtobaeva, Professor at I. Razzakov Kyrgyz State Technical University, Independent Expert</i>	Kyrgyzstan representatives voice the expected outcomes from the workshop, linking to tasks of ongoing reforms.
10:35 – 11:30	The role of occupational qualification standards in the NQS: challenges and solutions <i>Olav Aarna, DARYA international expert</i>	Mechanisms of national qualification systems for linking labour market demand with skills development, what we understand by occupational qualification standard and what is their role in the NQS. Participants are encouraged to ask questions, clarifications during the session.
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee/tea break	
12:00 – 12:30	Occupational standards in the NQS of Lithuania <i>Vidmantas Tutlys, DARYA international expert</i> Sectoral qualification framework and occupational standards in transport and logistics sector in Lithuania <i>Giedrė Valskienė, Director of Linava Training Centre</i>	Structure, development and usage of occupational standards in the NQS of Lithuania, touching upon governance structures of the Lithuanian NQS Sectoral angle in transport and logistics in Lithuania: how does sectoral demand for qualified specialists translate into relevant skills supply. Relevance of different types of education and training: formal and non-formal. Role of the mechanisms of national qualifications systems. Participants are encouraged to ask questions, clarifications during the session.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	

Bishkek Time	Sessions	Annotations
14.00 – 15.00	Occupational qualification standards in the NQS of Estonia, sectoral outlook in ICT <i>Ants Sild, Sectoral Council for ICT in Estonia</i> <i>Olav Aarna moderates questions & answers session</i>	Sectoral picture in ICT in Estonia: how the sectoral demand for skilled professionals in ICT translates into education and training, and how mechanisms such as occupational standards, institutional structures, support this. Role of sector council on ICT in Estonia. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and clarifications during the session.
15:00 – 15.45	Group work: What did we learn from today? Moderators: <i>Nadezda Solodjankina, Olav Aarna</i>	Participants are split into groups and asked to reflect on the lessons learnt from the first day presentations.
15.45 – 16.15	Coffee/tea break	
16:15 - 16:45	Groups present their outcomes Discussion Moderators: <i>Nadezda Solodjankina, Olav Aarna</i>	Groups share their outcomes. The discussion focusses on the novel aspects of development and usage of occupational standards. Moderators prompt with questions.
16:45 – 17:00	Conclusions and closure of Day 1	Kyrgyzstan representatives outline takeaways from the day. Olav adds/complements.

Day 2

Thematic focus: Development and usage of occupational standards in Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek Time	Sessions	Annotations
09:30 – 10:45	Development and usage of occupational standards in Kyrgyzstan <i>Bermet Karabaeva and Begaiym Maratbekova, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic</i> <i>ADB expert (to be confirmed)</i> Moderator of the discussion: <i>Vidmantas Tutlys, DARYA international expert</i>	Kyrgyzstan representatives present the methodology and practices of developing and using occupational standards in the NQS of Kyrgyzstan. Other Kyrgyz representatives are invited to join the discussion to share on practices of developing and usage of standards in Kyrgyzstan
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee/tea break	
11.30 – 12.15	Group work: Identification of challenges for the development and usage of occupational standards in Kyrgyzstan Moderators: <i>Nadezda Solodjankina, Olav Aarna</i>	Participants are split into groups and asked to discuss about current practices, processes and challenges in development and usage of occupational standards in Kyrgyzstan.

Bishkek Time	Sessions	Annotations
12:15 – 13:00	Groups present their outcomes Discussion Moderators: <i>Nadeza Solodjankina, Olav Aarna</i>	Groups share their outcomes. Moderators suggest next steps post-workshop
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 14:45	Group work: What needs to be improved in the development and usage of occupational standards in Kyrgyzstan? Moderators: <i>Nadeza Solodjankina, Olav Aarna</i>	Participants work in groups to reflect on potential improvements in the methodology, practice of development and usage of occupational standards in Kyrgyzstan.
14:45 – 15:15	Groups present their outcomes Discussion Moderators: <i>Nadeza Solodjankina, Olav Aarna</i>	Groups share their outcomes. They are framed as proposed actions of improvement to be shared with wider audience after the workshop
15.15 – 15.45	Coffee/tea break	
15.45 – 16.15	Other issues to be addressed upon proposal of Kyrgyz partners	Upon proposal of Kyrgyz partners, discussion will touch upon video training materials on the development of occupational standards: issues to be addressed and technical details
16:15 – 16:30	Kyrgyzstan representatives make concluding remarks Awarding of certificates of participation in the training workshop	