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# DIALOGUE, TRAINING, BARGAINING: WORK AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PEACE AID 11604

Newsletter n. 7



## THE TRAINING CENTRE IN MASSAWA AND THE SOCIAL MEDIA CENTRE IN ASMARA

We entered the second phase of the project **“Dialoguing, training, bargaining: work as an instrument of peace - AID 11604”**, financed by the Italian **Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)** and implemented by **Nexus Solidarietà Internazionale Emilia Romagna (Nexus ER)**, in collaboration with **Istituto Sindacale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (ISCOS)**, **Progetto Sud (PROSUD)**, **Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo (VIS)**, with **NCEW (National Confederation of Eritrean Workers)** as local partner.

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

**The training centers in Asmara and Massawa.**

After the forced pandemic pause, training activities start again.

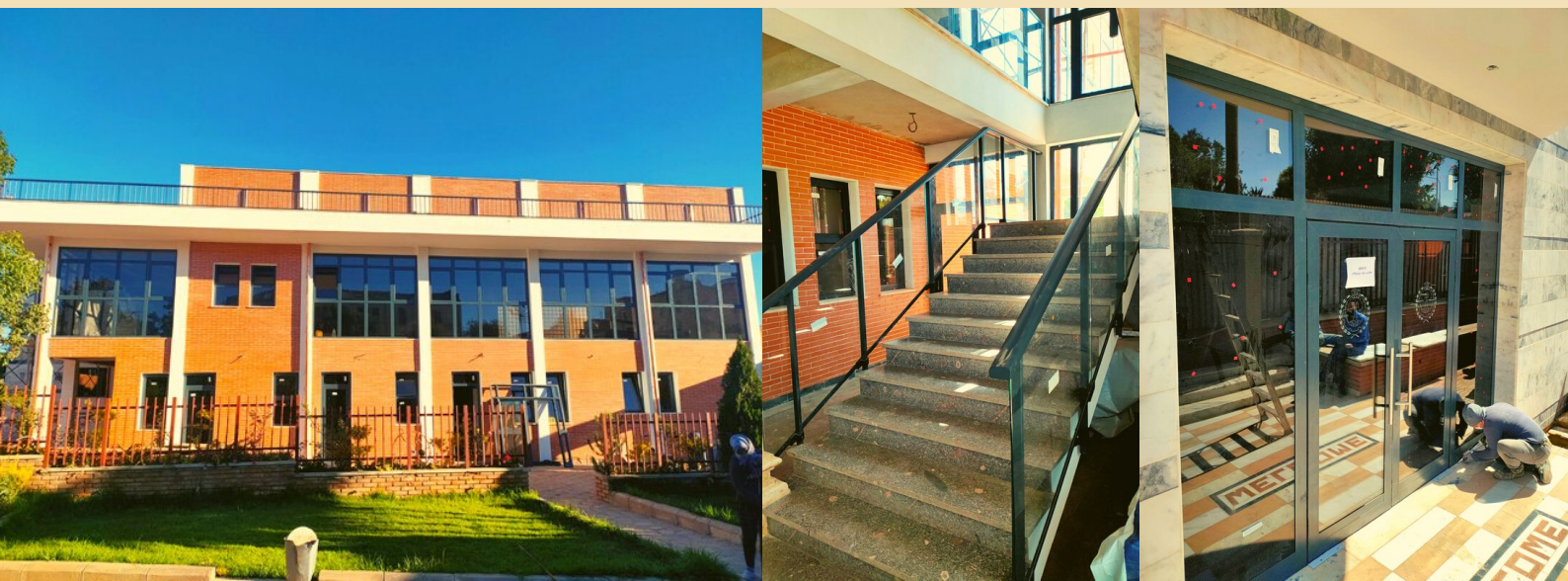
**Training kits.**

Skills enhancement and re-employment courses are starting soon. A preview of the training materials.



In autumn 2021 the **containers** with materials, goods and equipment (building and electrical materials, fixtures, electrical appliances, etc.) for **the start-up and equipping of the workshops that will host the vocational training of many Eritrean women and young people** were brought to their destination. In December 2021, the materials were assembled, and the two training centers, the **Training Centre in Massawa** and the **Social Media Centre in Asmara**, are finally running and ready for the start of the courses.

In addition to **vocational training**, with a special focus on **strengthening the transition between school and work** and the relationship between business demand and skills supply, particular attention will be paid to further **training and capacity building for NCEW staff**.



Above, the Social Media Centre in Asmara.

On the left (and in the cover page), the Training Centre in Massawa.



# TRAINING TOOLKITS: A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION PROJECT FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE

## Strategic sectors of intervention in the overall of the labour market in Eritrea

Main task in the Eritrean labour market is to improve the quality of both vocational education and training pathways for insertion and/or outplacement, strengthening the **transition between school and work**. The most effective teaching approach to achieve this goal is **flexibility**, which adapts to the training needs of beneficiaries – taking into account their initial preparation – and is therefore particularly suitable for those who have been excluded from formal educational pathways. By providing technical know-how and transversal skills to social groups that are usually marginalized by society, it makes a positive contribution to the economic and social integration of the most vulnerable, to dialogue and ultimately to the reduction of social conflicts.

## The methodological aspect of the training

The training – whose teaching toolkits were **developed by VIS experts in collaboration with Nexus ER** – was conceived with the perspective of **improving the professional skills of the most fragile sectors of the Eritrean population (women, young people and people with disabilities)**, and is organized into three different types of training: **training for trainers**, combined with professional updating for business advisers and tutors, **professional training for people who are unemployed or employed in the informal sector**, and **professional updating for people who are already employed**. From a methodological point of view, vocational training is not reduced to mere "teaching/learning of a trade", but is based on the "Skills for work and life in the post-2015 agenda" approach, a vision that encompasses every significant aspect of lifelong learning processes, the recognition and enhancement of skills, the quality and dignity of work, and the "transformative" value of **TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training)** if it is characterized by innovation and added value for society and local economy. The various training courses envisaged – aimed at different targets – are focused on **strengthening the dialogue between training providers and business**, by orienting the skills acquired in the classroom/workshop towards the needs of the labour market, which is constantly evolving, especially in the present post-pandemic phase. In order to enhance this alignment, **training courses for trainers** in schools, **guidance counsellors** and **company tutors** are of great importance, so as to facilitate the transition between school and work, especially for disadvantaged groups, women and young people (seeking employment or already employed, but in need of further training).



The vocational training activities envisaged by the project can really become a real **driving force for the emancipation of the social categories involved**, since vocational training remains the main tool – for the most vulnerable categories – to redeem themselves economically and socially, as it **provides them with technical and transversal skills to increase their opportunities both in the workplace and in self-promotion in an entrepreneurial way**.

### Training in the post-pandemic context

Due to the post-pandemic context that still affects the missions of foreign staff in Eritrea, it is very complex to bring in trainers from abroad. The training has therefore been redesigned to include remote support from the Italian teachers. In order to achieve optimum effectiveness, two training methods are envisaged: **distance learning** (subject to the availability of an internet connection) and **asynchronous training**, using a teaching platform that transmits the recorded lessons, which can be viewed even in the absence of a real-time connection.

**The delivery of the teaching toolkits, in parallel with online sessions when possible, can in any case create a productive learning environment, useful for the competence-based teaching approach chosen as the operational methodology.**



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