



Professional Green Skills for Central Asia (PROGRESS)

Digital Innovation Potential for the Green Economy



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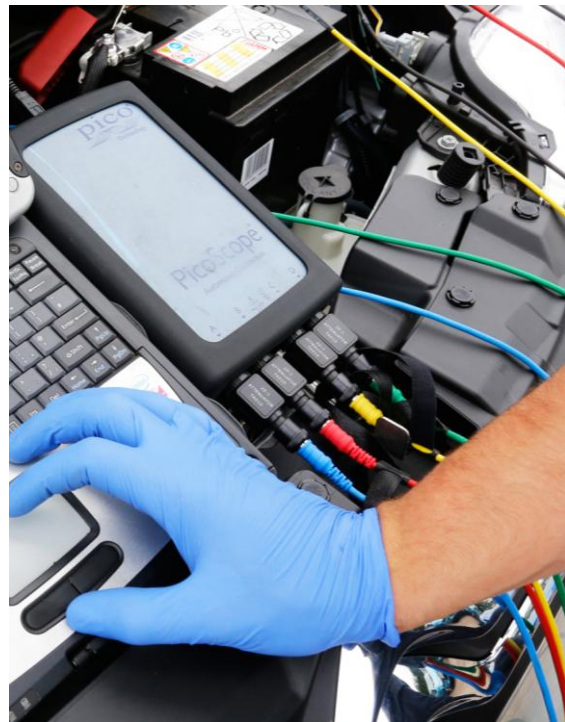
Relevance for the Green Economy

The transition to a green economy creates **new jobs** which fundamentally **require digital skills & literacy**.

- Skilled workers must undergo reskilling or upskilling to meet labor market demands – digital skills are key
- Specialists need to master new green approaches and technologies, but also specialized digital equipment and software

Examples:

- **Renewable Energy:** *importance of remote digital monitoring systems, smart inverters, modelling of grid integration of volatile energy sources*
- **Green Agriculture:** *land monitoring via drones, data analysis allows precision irrigation, AI involved in yield optimization*



Regional Hackathon: Green and Digital Solutions for Central Asia



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giz German Development Cooperation (GIZ GmbH)



- Covered 4 countries in Central Asia, youth teams aged 18-30
- Combining green skills and digital skills development, essential to a sustainable future in Central Asia
- Competition format allowed young teams to apply their knowledge and creativeness to real world problems

Digital Solutions for:

- ✓ Renewables & Energy Efficiency
- ✓ Smart Water Resource Management
- ✓ Waste management and Circular Economy
- ✓ Climate Data & Eco-monitoring
- *Dedicated category for women's leadership in innovation and digital inclusion.*

Regional Hackathon: Green and Digital Solutions for Central Asia



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- Teams received feedback on relevance and potential of their ideas
- Semi-finalists were coached on presenting pitches, business models and MVP development
- Semi-Finals held on the national level and Grand Finale held in July at Issyk Kul, Kyrgyz Republic

Results and outcomes:

- ✓ ca. 130 teams with improved digital green skills
- ✓ 85% say the hackathon influence their career plans
- ✓ 70% intend to further develop their startups
- ✓ At least 12 market-ready startups seeking investment

GREEN & DIGITAL Hackathon 2026

Example Solution: **AkkanSuu**

(mixed team from Khujand and Bishkek)

AkkanSuu presented an AI-powered water management platform that analyzes soil and weather data to provide smart irrigation recommendations

- *helps farmers reduce water consumption*
- *improves agricultural yield and productivity*
- *conserves scarce water resources*



Outlook – what's next?

- **Germany – Central Asia partnership:** Commitment to further strengthening skills development to support the region's green transition
- **Focus on Youth Employment and Innovation:** We will embrace similar cooperation formats with partners, e.g. new regional green and digital hackathon
- **Entrepreneurship and startup commercialization:** More specialized support through targeted start-up incubation planned, helping to scale successful ideas
- **Gender-sensitive approach:** Continued support for women innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs and creators



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