

Modernisation of electricity trainings in Colombia

Global presentation



In February 2008, Schneider Electric Colombia and the National Apprenticeship Service (SENA) signed a framework to initiate the establishment of trainings in electrical trades and industrial automation. The projects take place in the Centre for Electricity, Electronics and Telecommunications (CEET) in Bogotá and in the Industrial Technology Development Centre (CIDT) in Barrancabermeja. These courses will be conducted with the helping hand of an expert from the French Ministry of National Education. Trainings have started in October 2010.

Determined **to promote access to energy for people at the Base of the Pyramid** through professional training for disadvantaged youth, Schneider Electric launched a partnership – within its BipBop programme – with SENA and DREIC (Directorate of European and International Relations and Cooperation) from the French Ministry of Education.

This project was born after the finding of a **mismatch between the reality of the Colombian labour market and the competencies available**. Therefore there was a need to educate younger generations with latest technology tools and to **update training programmes, in order to meet actual market needs**. These trainings aim at improving the professional skills of beneficiaries, as well as benefiting the population economically and socially.

The project pays particular attention to developing the skills of disadvantaged youth in neighbourhoods of the capital Bogotá and Barrancabermeja, located in the north of the country.

The partnership

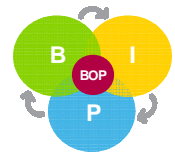
- **Meeting local realities**

The common goal of the partnership is to **restructure and improve the learning environment of SENA**, to meet new requirements of the electricity sector in terms of management and energy efficiency. This involves training teachers extensively on current technologies and future markets, as well as the introduction of modern and comprehensive educational solutions in the areas of power distribution in low and medium voltage, automation and industrial control, safety and industrial communication.

The cooperation agreement identifies **four main areas of development**. The first aims at creating seven training programmes: three for vocational high school diploma level, two for superior technicians (advanced vocational diploma) and another two specializations depending on specific needs. The second axis aims at implementing educational solutions developed by Schneider Electric that meet industrial needs. The third area concerns competency transfer: both technological know-how thanks to Schneider Electric, and pedagogical know-how thanks to DREIC teachers. Finally, the project also aims at fostering entrepreneurship. **A contest named "Electrifica tus sueños"** (Electrify your dreams) has been created in order to promote the development of micro-enterprises in three fields: maintenance of delivery stations in medium voltage up to 34.5 kV, maintenance of electric installations in the industry sector and maintenance of electric installations in housing and building sector.

BipBop Programme

Project presentation / Colombia



- **Sharing know-how**

The project will be able to spread over the entire country thanks to our local educational partner: SENA. Created in 1957, the National Apprenticeship Service is a training unit that supports professional integration in the Colombian state. With a scope covering different sectors (industry, trading, agriculture, mining, livestock ...), **SENA is responsible at national level for the apprenticeship process and development of skills for low-income populations.** It operates in 33 departments and has more than 115 training centres. Aptitude tests are used for admission, and trainings lead to an official diploma.

Established in Colombia for many years, **Schneider Electric** has now about 400 employees on six different sites. Together with the **Schneider Electric Foundation**, they provide material and technical training sponsorships through modern teaching equipment (variable frequency drivers, educational equipments, low and medium voltage cells...) and support SENA and the French Ministry of Education for the creation of courses adapted to the realities of the local labour market. Donations of materials are also made to accompany young entrepreneurs.

Finally, the **DREIC brings its expertise in organizing training**, shares its experience in terms of methods for updating programmes and participates to the establishment of laboratories and teaching sequences.



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The project today and tomorrow

Training programmes are validated and technology training facilities in Bogotá and Barrancabermeja are operational since **October 2010**. The apprenticeship training for the year 2011 will start in March. After that date, SENA expects to train **400 students** each quarter, in each city.

Also, the "**Electrifica tus sueños**" (Electrify your dreams) contest in Bogotá is really active. In August 2010, the top six entrepreneurship projects presented have been rewarded. The contest was renewed, and on 10th December 2010 five more business plans were rewarded. The companies created from those business plans were launched in January 2011, and have **Schneider Electric' support for 12 months** (training, consultancy, business support). In Barrancabermeja, the awards ceremony will be held in March 2011.



Thanks to this successful collaboration, SENA wants to develop **a national action plan to replicate the project** in a greater number of cities. This network of modernised training centres will provide access to more apprentices in the whole country, with a better use of resources within the institution. Similarly, support for entrepreneurship will help to create a network of micro-enterprise incubators capable of welcoming SENA apprentices who plan to develop their competencies in the electricity sector.

Number of young people trained: 3094

For more information:

<http://www.education.gouv.fr/cid55704/le-partenariat-ecole-entreprise-a-l-international.html>

<http://www.sena.edu.co/portal>

<http://www.schneider-electric.com.co/>

<http://www.schneider-electric.com/bipbop>