

# PROMOTED STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING SOCIOEMOTIONAL SKILLS IN OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

**New Employment Opportunities (NEO) Program**

A MILLION YOUTH

**neo**

A MILLION OPPORTUNITIES

## **ABOUT THE NEO INITIATIVE**

NEO is an initiative led by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), through its Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) and Labor Markets Division (LMK), the International Youth Foundation (IYF) and partners: Arcos Dorados, Caterpillar Foundation, CEMEX, Fondation Forge, Microsoft, the Brazilian Social Service of Industry (SESI), and Walmart. NEO is a pioneering initiative in which businesses, governments, and civil society in 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries have joined forces to improve the employment opportunities for 500,000 young people, half of whom are women. This alliance pools resources, knowledge, and skills to drive effective and sustainable solutions to the problems of youth unemployment and skills gaps.

This study, entitled “Promoted Strategies for Developing Socioemotional Skills in Opportunity Youth,” is part of a series of five thematic studies that analyze a range of aspects of NEO’s implementation at the local level, documenting their achievements, identifying the operational challenges and restrictions, and recording lessons learned and best practices.

## **THE AUTHORS**

The “Promoted Strategies for Developing Socioemotional Skills in Opportunity Youth” study was written by Liliana González Ávila and Donaldo Donado Vilorio of Qualificar, with guidance from Dr. Miguel Székely of the Center for Educational and Social Studies (CEES).

The opinions expressed in this publication are the author's alone and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of the IDB, its Board of Executive Directors or the countries it represents. Nor do they necessarily reflect the point of view of the MIF, IYF or NEO’s corporate partners.

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This document is the final report “Promoted Strategies for Developing Socioemotional Skills in Opportunity Youth,” which studied the NEO initiatives in Colombia, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru and the Dominican Republic. The study was led by Qualificar.

The goal of this study was to generate knowledge and ascertain lessons learned for actors in Latin America and the Caribbean who are interested in incorporating strategies for developing socioemotional skills in opportunity youth into their programs.

This consultancy explored the NEO initiative’s incorporation of socioemotional skills training component for opportunity youth through the implementation of the *Passport to Success®* (PTS) model. To that end, the process of implementing PTS within the NEO program framework was examined, noting the best practices and lessons learned that could be applied to new interventions, or possibly to other initiatives of a similar nature.

This study analyzes the main results of this implementation, which can be grouped into six areas:

1. Attending to the needs of young people via PTS
2. Generating installed capacity
3. Incorporating PTS into the curriculum
4. Transforming training practices
5. Impact on public policy
6. Perception of the productive sector

This document examines the factors that both hinder and promote the sustainability of the socioemotional skills component in organizations implementing youth employability programs. Lastly, it identifies the challenges facing PTS as a socioemotional skills component and makes a series of recommendations to improve the transfer, application, replicability, scaling-up and sustainability of the socioemotional skills component in the study countries once the NEO initiative comes to a close.



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