



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



European Union



Youth Employment in the Mediterranean

Improving skills anticipation and TVET systems

The Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) project is a three-year regional initiative launched by UNESCO, to be implemented in collaboration with nine Member States from 2018 to 2020. The YEM project is funded by the European Union and aims to improve skills anticipation systems and to promote technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Its goal is also to strengthen youth employment and encourage entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean region.

About the project

The Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) initiative is a regional project, funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UNESCO and the Member States over the period of 2018-2020 in nine countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Countries in the South Mediterranean region are subject to high unemployment, especially among youth. The YEM project seeks to enhance youth employment and entrepreneurship through improved skills anticipation systems, promotion of the relevance, quality and image of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and knowledge sharing across the region.

The project is in the framework of the European Neighbourhood policy and in alignment with the UNESCO Strategy for TVET (2016-2021) that prioritizes inclusive policy dialogue, the reinforcement of TVET stakeholders' capacities, and the improvement of skills anticipation systems in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goal on Education.

YEM builds on the achievements of the Employment component, including the skills anticipation approaches, of the inter-sectorial Networks of Mediterranean Youth project (NET-MED Youth), also funded by the EU in 2014-2018.



Overall objective

The YEM project aims to contribute to youth employment and entrepreneurship in the South Mediterranean region. By anticipating labour market challenges, the project will support national authorities, the private sector, TVET providers and youth organizations in the design, implementation and evaluation of TVET programmes and policies.

Specific targets

1. To reinforce capacities of countries in the South Mediterranean region in assessing and anticipating the labour market demands, and in sharing and using the results to make informed TVET policy and programme decisions;
2. To use the results of skills assessment and forecasting to promote quality TVET pathways through work-based learning and entrepreneurship, the acquisition of digital skills, and to enhance gender equality;
3. To reinforce regional cooperation in the field of TVET with a particular focus on skills assessment and anticipation issues.



Expected results

1. Strengthened national systems for skills needs anticipation and assessment

YEM will support the mapping of existing tools for skills needs anticipation in the region and support the development and implementation of any additional instruments to reinforce inclusive skills governance and capacity building with partner institutions and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and youth organisations.

2. TVET promoted as a quality and attractive pathway, especially for women

The results of the skills anticipation exercise will provide information about growing sectors, gender equality issues and pathways in TVET. They will also serve to support sectoral coordination and planning through the production and use of sector profiles. YEM will also produce appropriate guidelines, resources and policy recommendations on mainstreaming entrepreneurship, work-based learning and digital skills in curricula, based on the mapping of innovative experiences across the region. The project will furthermore support their implementation.

3. A regional platform established for cooperation on assessing and anticipating changing skills needs

Building on the UNESCO-UNEVOC network and YEM's partnerships with relevant institutions and stakeholders, a Regional Platform will be established for cooperation, peer-learning and knowledge-sharing of best practices for effective governance of skills anticipation systems. The results will be documented and disseminated, and annual regional fora will allow for further exchanges among key actors in the region, to deepen the understanding of different policy drivers and emerging trends in skills needs in the region, with particular focus on green and digital economies.

The South Mediterranean region is in a state of flux, and countries in the region are subject to political and socio-economic challenges and instability. This has led to the lack of economic growth, low levels of skilled job creations, and high rates of youth unemployment. The most significant issues for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) are its relevance, quality and attractiveness.

The Youth Employment in the Mediterranean project (YEM) responds to these challenges through the improvement of skills anticipations systems and TVET promotion in the region. The project is in the framework of the European Neighbourhood policy, which supports the improvement of employability of the local workforce and the development of skills and competencies, particularly for young women and men.

Access to quality education and relevant skills development, particularly through TVET, has received renewed policy attention in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, given the ability of TVET to foster the creation of decent jobs, promote entrepreneurship and connect education with the world of work.

YEM is in alignment with the UNESCO Strategy for TVET (2016-2021) which has three focus pillars: fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship; promoting equity and gender equality; and facilitating the transition to green economies and sustainable societies.

UNESCO Education Sector

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation on which to build peace and drive sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education and the Education Sector provides global and regional leadership in education, strengthens national education systems and responds to contemporary global challenges through education with a special focus on gender equality and Africa.



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Education
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The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to *"ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."* The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



Stay in touch

UNESCO Education Sector
Section for Youth, Literacy and
Skills Development
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris France



yem@unesco.org



<https://en.unesco.org/themes/skills-work-and-life/yem>



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