

Final Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) Regional Forum

Thursday, 15 July 2021, from 10:30 to 13:30 (CET) online event



[Please click here to register and have an access to the Forum](#)

Background

Countries in the southern Mediterranean region face many challenges in political, social, and economic spheres, including civil conflicts, demographic changes and forced displacement. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has greatly affected economies, exacerbated socio-economic inequalities, and disrupted education and training in an unprecedented manner. With fast increasing rates of unemployment, labour markets are undergoing drastic changes and so are skills needs. More robust systems for monitoring changes in the demand for labour and ascertaining employers' changing requirements for human capital, and systematic arrangements for responding to emerging skills needs are required in the region.

In this regard, the Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) project (2018-2020, extended until July 2021), funded by the European Union and led by UNESCO, is supporting the beneficiary countries in understanding how to effectively collect and use information on skills needs and converting such information into relevant policy actions

and programmes. In addition, YEM is supporting skills governance using complementary skills anticipation methods and to enhance the national dialogue on future skills needs.

During the Final Regional Forum, we target to close the YEM project through highlighting the progresses that has been achieved under each thematic component – stated below.

Objective and Conducted Activities in 8 beneficiary countries under the YEM Project Three Main Thematic Components

The objective of the Final Regional Forum is to demonstrate the implementation of YEM project in the region, the achieved outcomes under the three main components in all beneficiary countries and discuss the sustainability of its results in the region.

Component 1: Strengthening national systems for skills needs anticipation and assessment, under which quantitative skills forecasting models (originally developed under the NET-MED Youth¹ project in six countries in the region) are being updated, and qualitative approaches like prospective scenario development are being conducted. The project is also working on supporting national capacities in the development of tools for skills forecasting and assessment. Skills forecasting exercises are being conducted together with national partner institutions. The use of alternative data sources to assess skills demand, like the use of real time data or big data from online job platforms, is also being explored in some of the participating countries. Three guidelines have been developed on skills anticipation, and the capacity building workshops have also been held for relevant TVET stakeholders. These works under the YEM project are being leveraged to enhancing national and regional level dialogue on future skills needs, to strengthen stakeholder platforms, and to encourage peer learning and knowledge sharing.

Component 2: Improving quality and promoting attractiveness of TVET pathways, especially for women, under which skills anticipation results are used to better understand the changing skills needs in order to improve articulations and pathways within the TVET system and transitions to labour market, with a focus on lowering barriers for women and girls. Under this component, the focus is on mainstreaming work-based learning (WBL) approaches and digital and entrepreneurial skills in TVET programmes, which are considered to be key drivers for improving the employability of graduates and facilitating their transition into the world of work. A regional review of work-based learning approaches² was conducted under the YEM project by examining the national contexts, nature and extent of WBL, policies and legislations, employer and employee organizations, resources to improve the quality of WBL programmes, funding, and data on performance of WBL on employment, productivity, growth, and sustainable development. This regional study also examines WBL as a vector for access to TVET for disadvantaged groups including young women.

Moreover, a high performing online digital skills development platform, PIX has been mobilised by the YEM project. PIX is a French online digital skills platform - PIX. The Pix platform (www.pix.fr) operates as a public service in France for the evaluation, development and certification of digital skills and is engineered based on the European Digital Competence framework (DigComp). This digital platform operates as a developer and deliverer of the requested skills and professions by each beneficiary country. The full capacity of the platform in terms of the number of enrolled participants can reach up to 2400 participants. The platform offers its services for free to the tutors, learners, workers, and job seekers of the beneficiary countries and due to the demand by UNESCO, the PIX platform was created in English language (pix.org/en). The platform delivers 16 digital skills covering 5 competence areas of the DigCOMP with 170 different topics and consist of 8 proficiency levels. The model is currently being shared with YEM beneficiary countries through distance webinars and capacity building workshops. Based on contextualised versions of the Pix platform, this activity aims at training national actors, master trainers and curriculum designers in

¹ Net- Med Youth, Network of Mediterranean Youth, <https://www.netmedyouth.org/>

² https://unevoc.unesco.org/pub/yem_regional_overview_work_based_learning.pdf

designing occupation-specific digital skills profiles and pedagogical scenarios for digital skills development among TVET learners.

Component 3: Developing regional cooperation in the field of TVET, under which TVET stakeholders from the YEM beneficiary countries are brought together through physical and online platforms to engage in technical discussions on the thematic areas under the YEM project to strengthen cooperation, facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning. Various face-to-face workshops have been implemented under the YEM project on the topics of skills anticipation and assessment, work-based learning approaches, digital skills mainstreaming and entrepreneurship skills.

In addition, the online [YEM Knowledge Platform \(YKP\)](#) was launched with support from the [UNESCO-UNEVOC](#) International Centre to facilitate knowledge sharing on these thematic components online. This platform is being used to share relevant knowledge resources on evolving TVET systems in YEM beneficiary countries, based on skills anticipation exercises conducted; and to disseminate regional level resources and guidelines under the YEM project on the themes of work-based learning, entrepreneurship and digital skills.

Within the overall framework of the YEM project, a number of efforts targeting and promoting the project have also been carried out. Youth from the region were interviewed at the meeting organised by Morocco by the end of June. Videos with testimonies from the country stakeholders have been made and disseminated for wider visibility of the Project.

Audience

The participants are representatives from the following stakeholders:

- Representatives and direct beneficiaries from the different countries under the YEM project;
- Relevant TVET stakeholders/Partners;
- Local and international organisations in relation with TVET;
- Youth organisations.

Technical specifications

The meeting will be organised using ZOOM platform virtually, which will also be (proposed to be) live-streamed on Facebook and UNESCO's YouTube channel or embed it to the YKP platform. The streaming is for a wider group of viewers.

Language

The Forum will be mainly available in English, French and Arabic.

Agenda

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10:30 – 10:50

Opening session

Moderator: Aziza Nait Sibaha, Journalist

Ms Costanza Farina, Director of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States, UNESCO Representative to Lebanon and Syria

Ms Henrike Trautmann, Acting Director Near B. Neighbourhood South, European Union (pre-recorded video)

Mr Borhene Chakroun, Director of the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO

Agenda, and background of the Forum

Mr Salim Shehadeh, Programme specialist, UNESCO Beirut Office

10:50 – 11:00

Film: Voice of Youth in the Mediterranean Region on the occasion of the World Youth Skills Day

11:00 - 11:05

YEM Achievements

Mr Oussama Ghneim, YEM Project Manager

How YEM achievements answer the need of youth?

11:05 – 11:15

Film: The YEM project

Stakeholders testimonials from the YEM countries

11:15 – 12:25

Experts and Stakeholders Panel Session: Key trends on labor market and skills

What are the achievements of YEM projects and remaining challenges?

Moderator: Aziza Nait Sibaha

Theme 1. Skills anticipation (20 min)

- **Mr Mohamed Yahyaoui**, Director, National Observatory on Employment and Qualifications (ONEQ), Tunisia
- **Mr Habib Hinn**, Senior Researcher, Palestine Economic and Policy Research Institute (MAS)
- **Ms Veronique Lamblin**, International Expert
- **Mr Gary Gan**, Co-Founder, JobKred, Singapore

Theme 2. Digital skills (15 min)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Mohamed Slimani, Director of the Competence Development Centre (CDC) Digital and Artificial Intelligence, OFPPT, Morocco • Ms Sharon Fisher, Senior Occupational Psychologist, JDC-TVET, Israel • Mr Benjamin Marteau, Director and Mr Jean-François Plard, Project Manager, PIX, France <p>Theme 3. Entrepreneurial skills (15 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Qais Al-Safasfeh, Head of TVSDC, TVET and Skills Development Commission (TVSDC), Jordan • Ms Lara Alamedine, International Expert, Lebanon, Life and Work Skills Toolbox <p>Theme 4. Work Based Learning (15 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ziad Jweiles, Executive President, National TVET Commission, Palestine • Mr Jeremy D Curtis, Director, Hickman Enterprise, UK
<p>12:25 – 13:20</p>	<p>Partners Panel Session: Sustainability of YEM achievements What will go on after YEM: Sustainability of results and synergies with other initiatives?</p> <p>Moderator: Aziza Nait Sibaha</p> <p>Multilateral organizations (15 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy Advice and EU Programming, European Training Foundation (ETF) • Mr Snehal Vasantlal Soneji, International Training Expert, International Training Centre, International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO) • Ms Giulia Marchesini, Senior Programme Manager, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) <p>Bilateral development partners (15 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Chris Cooper, Education and Society Expert, British Council • Mr Nidal Ayesh, TVET Expert, Enabel - Belgium Development Agency, Palestine • Mr Enzo Sciolla, Team Leader, Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), Lebanon <p>Regional organizations (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Reem Jeibat, Chief of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Youth Division, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) • Mr Aziz El Hajir, Program Manager and Specialist in Educational Technologies in the Education Sector, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
<p>13:20 – 13:30</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p>

Mr Borhene Chakroun, Director of the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems,
UNESCO