

21 July 2022



Background

The Middle East and North Africa Region is subject to various challenges pertaining to political and socio-economic instability. Among the rest, this has negatively impacted economic growth in the region, but also hindered the creation of skilled job opportunities for people. Nonetheless, the rate of unemployed young people in the world reached 13.8% in 2021 (ILO, 2021).

Education and training systems are under pressure as they proved inadequate to meet equip learners with the most high-in-demand skills in the region. In particular, the supply of skills is not aligned with the demand coming from the labour market. Curricula do not match the evolving skills demand and changing nature of jobs in the region. The gap is significant and exacerbated by other concurrent socio-economic factors, including persistent structural imbalances and the regional demographic boom. To respond to this scenario, the number of new jobs to be created in the MENA region should be as high as **more than 33.3 million by 2030**.

In the framework of the [Transforming Education Summit](#) (TES) and its 5 thematic Action tracks, this Webinar will embed the global picture of the [second Action Track](#)'s perspectives on "Learning and skills for life, work and sustainable development". The Webinar will take place following a large-scale Pre-TES event, which was held at UNESCO HQ in Paris from 28 to 30 June 2022. The Pre-TES set the ground for the actual Summit, which will be convened by the

UN Secretary General during the upcoming 77th UN General Assembly in New York in September 2022. It gathered, in Paris, some 1 850 participants, including 2 Presidents, 154 Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Education, as well as experts, practitioners, UN organizations, teachers, young people, NGOs, and private sector partners. The Pre-Summit offered a unique opportunity for open dialogue, knowledge/experience sharing, networking and collaboration, which are vital to accelerating recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, SDG4 progress and transforming education by 2030 and beyond.

The Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) project was established in 2018 as a regional initiative, led by UNESCO and funded by the European Union, with the aim to improve skills anticipation and assessment systems in the MENA region, and promote quality and relevant Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as well as regional collaboration. The YEM project provided programmatic and technical support in some countries in the South Mediterranean region by targeting young people as well as all actors and institutions in charge of TVET. As such, the YEM project was also in alignment with the former [UNESCO Strategy for TVET \(2016-2021\)](#)¹ which is centered around fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship; promoting equity and gender equality; and facilitating the transition to green economies and sustainable societies. The impact and the results of the YEM project are expected also to contribute to the implementation of the new Strategy for TVET 2022-2029 for Transforming TVET for successful and just transitions, which was approved by UNESCO Executive Board in March 2022.

Objectives

This webinar will be an opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities pertaining to youth employment in the Mediterranean, and to maintain the momentum and continuity of the YEM project, in line with the aim of Transforming Education Summit on the thematic Action Track 2, based on the following three thematic axis: anticipation and assessment of skills for the labor market, digital and future skills and work-based learning (WBL) and entrepreneurship.

The key objectives are as follow:

- Discuss emerging trends, challenges and opportunities for young people in the world of work and ensure synergies with the process of the Transforming Education Summit (TES), including the development of the TVET systems.
- Review and reflect on the YEM project's results and impact from January 2018 to 31 July 2021.
- Ensure a sustainability plan and reactivate activities based on the project's results.
- Explore the possibility of reaching more countries, institutions and TVET actors.

Among the rest, the Webinar will try to address the following questions:

- What are the main trends in terms of high-in-demand skills in the MENA region? What are the skills that youths need to be equipped with to find decent jobs and lives?

¹A new UNESCO Strategy for TVET 2022-2029 was adopted in 2022, intending to build on the former. The layout design of the new Strategy is being finalized: <https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/draft-unesco-strategy-for-tvet-2022-2029.pdf>

- What are the main challenges currently faced by youth in accessing the labour market in the region?
- What are the main mechanisms that could be adopted to anticipate and assess fast-changing skills? How did the YEM contributed to do so? Which tools and platforms proved successful?
- What is still missing to connect youth in the region with existing skills development opportunities? What do they need to be accompanied in the transition from the learning to the working environment?
- How could this webinar create synergies with the Recommendations of the Pre-TES Summit and build aspirations that could feed the TES Summit and beyond.

Participants

The Webinar will include representatives and direct beneficiaries from the participating countries; relevant TVET stakeholders and partners; Community of Practice (created in the framework of the YEM project); UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre; UNESCO Field Offices in Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Rabat and Ramallah; regional and international TVET experts; and youth representatives and organizations.

Agenda

The webinar will take place **online** through the Zoom platform ([link to register](#)) on 21 July 2022, from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm CEST/Paris time. Interpretation will be available in French, English and Arabic.

Thursday, 21 July 2022 (10:30 am – 1:00 pm CEST/Paris time)	
10:30 – 10:40	<p>Opening session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO • European Commission <p>Webinar Agenda and Background: UNESCO Beirut Regional Office</p>
10:40 – 12:40	<p>Technical thematic Panels: Highlighting emerging trends of Labor Market and Required Skills and new challenges of young people in the world of work</p>
10:40 – 11:20	<p>Panel 1: Anticipating and assessing skills for the labor market (40 min)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are youth acquiring skills with the changing labor market needs? • What are the best mechanisms to anticipate and assess skills to allow the employability of young people? • What are the new trends of the labor market and its required skills? • What are the achievements and ongoing initiatives in the framework of the YEM project on the new challenges of young people in the world of work? <p>Moderator: UNESCO Ramallah Office</p> <p>Speakers list to be communicated as soon as possible</p>

11:20– 12:00	<p>Panel 2: Digital and future skills (40 min)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the skills’ needs of youth in the digital era? • How could Governments and Institutions help young people obtaining digital skills and competencies? • How could digital and future skills help youth to find jobs? • What are the new achievements and the ongoing initiatives after the end of the YEM project on digital and future skills for youth? <p><u>Moderator:</u> UNESCO Rabat Office</p> <p>Speakers list to be communicated as soon as possible</p>
12:00 – 12:40	<p>Panel 3: Work-based learning (WBL) and entrepreneurship (40 min)</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the WBL process is helping youth finding jobs? • How the WBL is helping young people adapting their skills to the evolution of the labor market? • How could the WBL generates job and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth? <p><u>Moderator:</u> UNESCO Amman Office</p> <p>Speakers list to be communicated as soon as possible</p>
12:40 – 12:55	<p>Ways forward: Reactivation of activities and synergies with other initiatives</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did we reach our targets in these thematic areas, and if not, why? • Should/could we revisit the approach on these areas of learning, training and work? • How and with what could we build together new methodologies? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 presentations from the three Moderators of the 3 thematic panels (3 minutes per moderator) • Summary of the recommendations and the way forward: UNESCO Cairo Office
12:55 – 13:00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Mr. Hervé Huot-Marchand, Chief of Section for Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO</p>