

Final Recommendations

Regional Workshop

‘Enhancing Institutional Partnerships between TVET Institutions and the World of Work in the Arab Region’

Beirut, Lebanon

23 - 24 September 2019

UNESCO Regional Office – Beirut

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States (UNESCO Beirut Office) has organized a regional workshop on "Enhancing institutional partnerships between the TVET institutions and the world of work in the Arab region", held on 23-24 September 2019. Participants consisted of high-level representatives from the public and private sectors from the following Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. This workshop is part of UNESCO's Technical and Vocational Education and Training Strategy (2016-2021), which supports member states' efforts to enhance the importance of their TVET systems, and to equip young people and adults with the skills needed for decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning in order to achieve SDG4 and SDG8¹. The workshop aims to study the status of partnerships between TVET institutions and the private sector in each of the participating Arab countries, explore the possibility of expanding these partnerships, and share best practices and models in the area of public-private partnership. Representatives of international organizations, UN agencies and UNESCO partners also attended the workshop, including UNRWA, UNICEF, FAO, the German Foundation for International Cooperation, the European Training Foundation, the Swiss-Lebanon Business Council, the Lebanese Association of Industrialists, and the Federation of Egyptian Industries.

The in-depth discussions that took place throughout the workshop also built on the recommendations made at the regional forum on policies for building an institutional relationship of partnership between TVET providers and the business sector (private sector), which was held at the National Center for Human Resources Development in Amman, Jordan from 18 to 20 December 2016. Some recommendations were confirmed whereas others have been reformulated and re-organized in order to be presented to the concerned parties in the Arab countries, with the aim of preparing national meetings to discuss these recommendations and to initiate work at the level of Arab countries as well as to share best practices in this regard.

The regional forum issued the following recommendations, which were prepared and agreed upon in accordance with specific areas:

First: Recommendations for laws, legislation, policies, planning and objectives

- Developing a policy that promotes public-private partnership within a framework of mutual trust, as the institutional relationship between the two parties must be extended and expanded into mutual economic and national social goals.
- Allocating and establishing adequate budgets to support and build technical capacities and roles for all partners involved, especially in consideration that the cost resulting from weak human resources performance due to the lack of training is greater than the costs of vocational and technical training and education.
- Designing and adopting national qualification frameworks which recognize experiences gained during work and encourage the private sector to cooperate with TVET institutions.
- Adopting the principle of centralized planning and decentralization in application in order to facilitate partnerships and agreements with the private sector to encourage this sector to cooperate with TVET institutions.

¹ On lifelong learning, life skills and 21st century skills.

- Adopting and activating legislation, which would govern TVET to support the participatory relationship between TVET institutions and the business sector, and would encourage and motivate the private sector to carry out the task of TVET as well.
- Creating a reference framework for coordination and cooperation between the various sectors of TVET to prevent conflict and duplication of work.
- Human resources development cannot be achieved by neither training institutions nor the private sector by itself; rather it is necessary to work together to achieve development goals.
- It is important to establish TVET units within companies and factories so that private sector organizations can play their part in supporting training.
- The private sector, represented by companies, factories and institutions, should incorporate into its strategy the promotion of investments in TVET in order to contribute to the success of economic development projects.
- The need to develop and amend legislation governing TVET to support the building of a participatory relationship between training institutions and the business sector.
- Developing legislation that encourages the private sector to carry out the task of TVET through clear, direct and indirect incentives.
- Identifying clear roles and responsibilities that training and technical education institutions must play, as well as production and service institutions, and the supporting role of government, through the consolidation of TVET institutions as well as the consolidation of supervisory and administrative bodies together.
- Establishing a quality accreditation system in accordance with international standards that makes education programs highly connected to market needs and competences and of high efficiency that responds to technological changes.

Second: Recommendations for partnership-enhancing tools, mechanisms and activities

- Establishing advisory committees, technical committees, councils, bodies, twinning programs and other partnership tools and means.
- Enhancing the effectiveness of the use of training sites and the workshops of training providers in implementing programs (raising the ratio through two periods) to achieve a better investment of different resources.
- Establishing technical committees that are involved in the preparation of professional standards and career guides.
- Providing capacity-building programs to the company's accredited trainer(s) as well as the curriculum and educational materials related to apprenticeship courses, taking into account the provision of the necessary tools to monitor the performance of the company's trainer(s) in accordance with the quality standards.
- Establishing the National Observatory in each country to be led by the Ministry of Planning in order to provide an approved database of data and information on labor market needs and on the training programs provided by TVET institutions; as well as to identify the training needs and administrative and technical requirements on which career guidance training programs can be built in line with international standards.
- Organizing national competitions to motivate the private sector to build partnerships with the public sector.

- Building the capacity for TVET institutions in terms of educational leadership and partnership building.
- Using media (including social media) to promote the importance of TVET and future employment opportunities as well as to promote the importance of public-private partnerships for TVET.
- Participants recommend decision-makers in participating countries to provide support to strengthen relationship-building and partnership with the private sector in vocational, technical and training education.
- Adopting the proposed framework for building an institutional relationship with the private sector and adapting it to the participating countries along with relevant additions to make it a strategic framework for partnership.
- Establishing an accredited system for the standardization of terminology, names and concepts and a unified training system for trainers and the adoption of a single entity that qualifies and licenses trainers in these sectors in accordance with international regulations and standards.

Third: Recommendations for regional and international cooperation

- Monitoring and disseminating promising regional and global initiatives and experiences in Arab countries through the International Center for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC).
- Holding further meetings to follow up on the discussions based on what has been agreed, such as the international accreditation of the Partnership Framework for the Development of the Vocational and Technical Education Sector as well as a virtual forum in Arabic in 2020.
- Building an effective and institutional relationship between training centers and institutes in Arab countries and relevant international organizations to benefit from recent experiences and applications in training.
- Implementing twinning programs between Arab and regional countries based on agreements of understanding between Arab countries.