



## The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre is UNESCO's specialised centre for technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

From its location in Bonn, Germany, it serves UNESCO Member States worldwide to develop and strengthen TVET.

It mainly focuses on:

- Promoting best and innovative practices in TVET,
- Developing TVET systems,
- Improving access to TVET, and
- Assuring quality of TVET.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre focuses on meeting the needs of developing countries, countries in transition and those in a post-conflict situation, especially for youth, girls and women, and the disadvantaged.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre uses tools such as:

- Networking,
- Knowledge sharing and publications,
- Interagency collaboration and partnerships,
- Advisory services, and
- Training and human resources development.

The most prominent of its networks is the UNEVOC Network, which consists of more than 220 specialised TVET institutions in more than 150 countries.

## Further Information

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## Regional Co-operation in the Arab States

## ▶ The Regional Initiative

The UNESCO Regional Office for Education in the Arab States – Beirut and the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre) in Bonn, have developed an initiative "Promoting Regional Co-operation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the Arab States".

In September 2002, UNESCO launched a call for papers addressed to National Commissions for UNESCO, UNEVOC Centres and other institutions and organisations.

Professionals and experts in the region interested in TVET submitted project ideas, working papers and reports on how to achieve regional cooperation in selected areas of TVET, based on national and regional needs.

The initiative was then launched at a workshop held in Beirut, Lebanon, in December 2002. The main objective of the workshop was to stimulate regional co-operation for the reform of TVET in the Arab States.



More than 40 TVET experts from 15 Arab States contributed to the preparation of the workshop by submitting discussion papers.

The main purpose of the initiative is:

- To activate regional cooperation among Member States and UNEVOC partner institutions in the area of TVET development;
- To identify priority areas in TVET development and cooperation for the Arab States; and
- To prepare project documents on joint TVET projects required for the mobilisation of funding.

## ▶ The Project Proposals

At the initial workshop in Beirut, December 2002, participants agreed on the following seven areas of TVET in which they wish to develop joint projects:

### 1. Development of curriculum packages in selected TVET areas

Objective: To develop comprehensive model curriculum packages in selected priority areas.

### 2. Development of a regional qualifications framework

Objective: To increase mobility of learners and workers and to increase the flexibility of the life-long learning process.

### 3. Professional development of TVET personnel

Objective: To ensure the qualitative development of TVET personnel in the Arab States, in order to cope with scientific and technical changes at the international level.

### 4. Enhancement of Arab women's participation in socio-economic development through innovative TVET programmes

Objective: To enhance the participation of women in the workforce in order to activate their contributions to different fields of socio-economic development and to production.

### 5. Enhancing private sector's participation in the implementation of TVET programmes and employment of graduates

Objective: To increase the employability of TVET graduates through a demand driven approach to meet actual labour market skills needs.

### 6. Capacity building of workers in small and medium enterprises for sustainable growth

Objective: To enhance sustainability, growth and workers' productivity in small and medium size enterprises through TVET.

### 7. Enhancing informal sector productivity through skills training

Objective: To enhance the informal sector's capacity to absorb new workers, and to improve working conditions and productivity through skills training.

## ▶ More Information

More information is available on the UNESCO-UNEVOC web at:

[www.unevoc.unesco.org/arabstates](http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/arabstates)

## ▶ Arab Co-operation and Human Development

The United Nations Development Programme and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development have jointly issued the "Arab Human Development Report 2002: Creating Opportunities for Future Generations". This report provides a range of examples where regional cooperation can contribute immensely to the building and using of human capabilities.

*"Effective Arab co-operation is one of the keys for dynamic development in the Arab world. This is true for human development in general and for building human capabilities through education in particular."*

*"Employment-creating and poverty-reducing growth must be one of the overarching objectives of human development policies in Arab countries."*

Arab Human Development Report 2002

The UNESCO-UNEVOC initiative in the Arab States seeks to contribute to the process of human resource development in the area of technical and vocational education and training.

## ▶ The Arab States

For the purpose of execution of its regional activities, Member States of UNESCO have decided to define five regions:

- Africa
- Arab States
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe and
- Latin America and the Caribbean.

The states belonging to a region are empowered to participate in regional activities in which the representative character of states is an important factor.

The following countries form the Arab States region:

Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, as well as the Palestinian Authority.