



Workshop on 'Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in OIC member countries'

Within the framework of the OIC-TVET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized a workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in OIC member countries”



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Training Workshop on 'Tourism Destination Marketing Strategies'



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Jointly with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), SESRIC organized a virtual Training Workshop on “Tourism Destination Marketing Strategies” on 02-04 March 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training workshop was organized within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme and in line with the relevant resolutions on tourism development adopted by the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC and the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC...

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Workshop on ‘Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in OIC member countries’

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organized a workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in OIC member countries” on 11-14 January 2021 for the benefit of TVET authorities in the OIC member countries.

The general objectives of the workshop were to facilitate experience sharing and good practices among the relevant authorities in the OIC member countries with regard to the new trends in TVET teacher education and capacity development. In addition, the workshop

towards exploring effective strategies in tackling the negative impacts of COVID19 pandemic, which has seriously disrupted skills development around the world.

The sessions of the workshop included keynote presentations delivered by distinguished speakers representing four International and OIC Institutions namely; UNESCO-UNEVOC, ILO, Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and SESRIC. Moreover, country experiences and good practices were also shared by representatives of TVET institutions from nine different OIC member countries under four main themes as follows:

- *New strategies in TVET teacher education and capacity development trends,*
- *Methods of curricula adaptations and integrating IT into TVET systems,*
- *Continuing TVET challenges and responses in the OIC Region,*
- *Collaboration possibilities among TVET stakeholders towards building resilient systems.*



discussed the emerging challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic, with special emphasis on the necessity of digital skills developments, and sufficient methods of tackling skill-gaps. It also aimed at promoting cooperation possibilities in these areas among TVET authorities in the OIC member countries.

The workshop commenced with the opening statement by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC. During his speech, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR stressed on the importance of the workshop in contributing and supporting the current efforts of TVET authorities

The workshop brought together 72 TVET professionals from 26 different OIC member countries to discuss efficient ways and means in tackling the emerging challenges and capacity development issues facing TVET Institutions. Virtual roundtable discussions debated on the way forward and underlined the importance of intra-OIC collaboration and knowledge exchange towards building resilient systems for the achievement of relevant objectives of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025.

Training Workshop on 'Tourism Destination Marketing Strategies'



Jointly with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), SESRIC organized a virtual Training Workshop on “Tourism Destination Marketing Strategies” on 02-04 March 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training workshop was organized within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme and in line with the relevant resolutions on tourism development adopted by the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC and the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, both held in November last year.

The training workshop aimed at bringing together tourism experts and executives from different national tourism authorities of the OIC member countries to strengthen their capacities with a view to developing effective tourism destination marketing policies and strategies. The workshop provided insights into better understanding of different aspects of tourism destination marketing, including strategy development, stakeholder management, and financing and ICT based marketing. The training workshop also provided a platform for the exchange of knowledge and best practices and to facilitate cooperation opportunities among the participants to enhance intra-OIC cooperation in the domain of tourism. Around one hundred participants from 26 public tourism boards/authorities and relevant national institutions of the OIC member countries attended the workshop to learn more about how to establish effective Tourism Destination Marketing Strategies in their respective countries.

The workshop commenced with the opening statement by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC who stressed the importance of the potential for developing a sustainable tourism sector in the OIC countries for enhancing their socio-economic development. Mentioning the great touristic potentials of the OIC countries, which ranges from natural attractions to historical, cultural, and religious ones, he added that OIC Countries should overcome challenges

such as political and security instability, lack of adequate investment and efficient tourism infrastructures, and further develop efficient promotion and marketing strategies. At the end of his statement, H.E. Mr. DABUR briefed the participants on the various activities of SESRIC in the domain of tourism. In particular, he highlighted examples from SESRIC training activities organized within the framework of SESRIC Tourism Capacity Building Programme (Tourism-CaB) and various technical background reports and research studies, which aim to analyse the current situation of tourism development at the OIC level and to suggest appropriate policy actions.

H.E. Mrs. Latifa ELBOUABDELLAOUI, Director General of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) also addressed the participants in the opening session and emphasized the importance of developing the tourism industry in the OIC through different resolutions and fora.

Furthermore, Mrs. ELBOUABDELLAOUI highlighted the adverse effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism industry all around the world and, in particular, in the OIC countries. She underlined the need for SESRIC and ICDT to further enhance their existing cooperation towards alleviating the negative effects of COVID-19 by proposing other activities on key themes relating to the tourism sector in OIC countries.

Over the course of three days, the training workshop was conducted by competent experts from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, the Dinar-Standard and the International Institute for Halal Research and Training of Malaysia.

This training workshop was designed in line with the virtual training solutions undertaken by SESRIC to better serve the Centre’s training activities and keep participants motivated and engaged during this difficult time of the global crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

STATISTICS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



OIC STATISTICS (OICSTAT) DATABASE

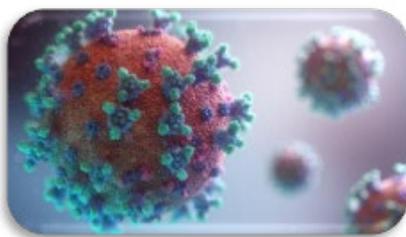


SESRIC continues updating its *OIC Statistics Database (OICStat)* (which serves as the primary online statistical source for the users all over the world who are interested in data and information about OIC countries).

In the January-June 2021 period, the OICStat Database has been revamped with new features and 164 new indicators were added under the Agriculture, International Trade, National Accounts and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) categories of the OICStat database which increased the number of total indicators hosted at OICStat to 1,363 under 26 categories dating back to 1970. The OICStat Database can be accessed on <https://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>

COVID-19 PANDEMIC DATABASE FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

SESRIC continues to host the *COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries* which provides statistics, visualized data, and cartographic



representation through a two dimensional map on the spread of COVID-19 pandemic dating back to 25 January 2020.

During the January-June 2021 period, vaccination data on 57 OIC countries dating back to 23 December 2020 were added to the Database. SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database is updated daily and accessible through https://www.sesric.org/sesric_covid_19.php

ROSTER OF STATISTICS EXPERTS



The *Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE)* serves for hosting the profiles of professionals that work in the official statistics sector or in other sectors that deliver services contributing to the efforts of the agencies with an embedded statistical role. ROSE currently contains the professional profiles of more than 850 statistics experts of the OIC member countries. Between January and June 2021, 4 new experts registered their profiles on ROSE.

Did You Know (DYK)?

Persons with Disabilities as of % Respective Populations of OIC Countries

The “Did You Know? (DYK)” series reflects striking facts about the OIC countries in a simple and user friendly way. SESRIC published DYK on “Persons with Disabilities as % of Respective Populations of OIC Countries” on 12 March 2021.

The lack of data and information on disability is one of the major constraints in the design, planning, and implementation of policies and programmes targeting persons with disabilities. In the case of OIC countries, the latest data for the percentage of persons with disabilities in total, male and female populations are available for only 16 out of 57 countries.

Overall, the percentage of persons with disabilities ranges from 0.4% of the total population in Qatar to 13.3% of the total population in Suriname across the OIC countries. While estimates for males are higher in 8 OIC countries, estimates for females are higher in the remaining 8 OIC countries.

However, these estimates should be interpreted with caution due to different approaches used for estimating and measuring disability across the OIC countries. Therefore, collaboration and coordination between international institutions and countries should be improved to measure more robust and comparable disability prevalence at global, regional and national levels.

The said DYK can be accessed through: https://www.sesric.org/DidYouKnow/doc/DYK_DISABILITY_20210312.pdf

Percentage of Days without Face-to-Face Education at Schools during Lockdowns in OIC Countries due to the Pandemic (11 March 2020 - 2 February 2021)

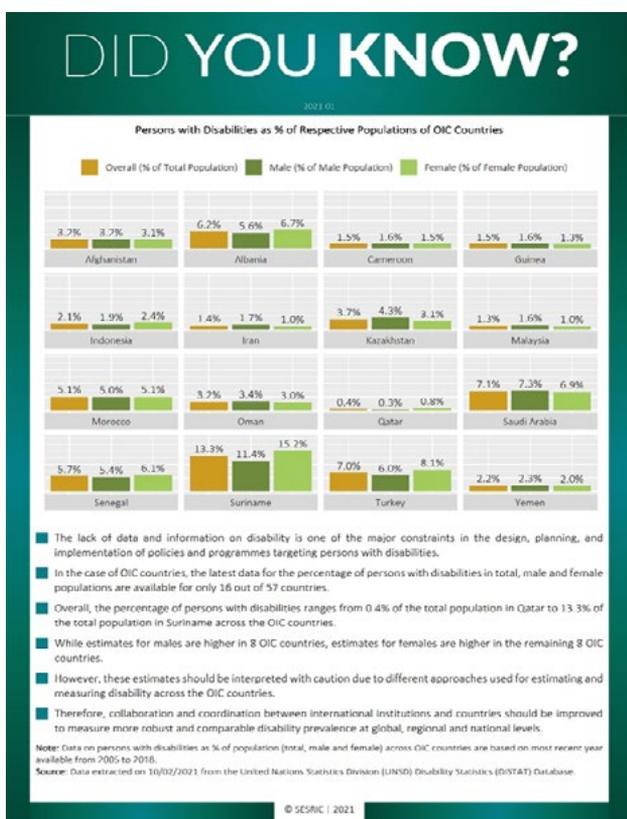


Second DYK published during January-June 2021 was on “Percentage of Days without Face-to-Face Education at Schools during Lockdowns in OIC Countries due to the Pandemic (11 March 2020 - 2 February 2021)”. The DYK was issued on 9 June 2021 with the following summary.

In the period between 11 March 2020 and 2 February 2021, 55 OIC countries imposed countrywide school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting approximately 400 million primary and secondary school children. Of these 400 million students, over 260 million in 24 OIC countries missed more than half of face-to-face classroom education since March 2020.

During the period under consideration, while schools were fully closed in United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, they were fully open in Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Majority of OIC countries already had serious challenges in achieving the SDG 4 (Quality Education) targets even before the pandemic. As schools reopen, it is vital that the OIC countries and development partners strengthen their efforts to ensure that no one is left behind as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The said DYK could be accessed through: https://www.sesric.org/DidYouKnow/doc/DYK_SCHOOL%20CLOSURES.pdf



STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING (STATCAB) PROGRAMME



Between January and June 2021, the following 8 statistical activities were organised under the SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme.

- Online Training Course on ‘Tourism Statistics’ on 18-21 January 2021
- Online Training Course on ‘International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments’ on 8-11 February 2021
- Online Training Course on ‘Statistical Data Analysis’ for the Benefit of ICESCO Regional Educational Centre in Chad on 17-19 February 2021
- Online Training Course on ‘Transport Statistics’ for the Benefit of Guinea on 15-18 March 2021
- Online Training Course on ‘Gender and Special Population Groups Statistics’ for the Benefit of Azerbaijan on 18-19 March 2021
- Online Training Course on ‘Information Society Statistics’ on 24-27 May 2021
- Online Training Course on ‘SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators’ on 25-27 May 2021
- Online Training Course on ‘SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) Indicators’ on 01-04 June 2021

These activities facilitated by SESRIC could not have been realized without the generous support of 6 OIC countries for the benefit of 33 OIC countries. More details about the SESRIC StatCaB Programme and the abovementioned activities can be accessed on: <https://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php>

The following are impressions from StatCaB activities organised by SESRIC in the period January – June 2021.



Statistical Training Course on ‘Tourism Statistics’, 18-21 January 2021



Statistical Training Course on ‘International Trade Statistics and Balance of Payments’, 8-11 February 2021



Statistical Training Course on ‘Statistical Data Analysis’, 17-19 February 2021



Statistical Training Course on ‘Transport Statistics’, 15-18 March 2021



Webinar on ‘SDG 6 Indicators’, 17 March 2021



Statistical Training Course on ‘Information Society Statistics’, 24-27 May 2021



Statistical Training Course on ‘SDG 1 (No Poverty) Indicators’, 25-27 May 2021



Statistical Training Course on ‘SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) Indicators’, 1-4 June 2021

SESRIC STATISTICAL WORKSHOPS

Training Workshop on “Data Collection and Analysis of Trade-in-Services among the OIC Member States”

SESRIC in collaboration with Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group organised the “Virtual Training Workshop on Data Collection and Analysis of Trade-in-Services among the OIC Member States” on 23-25 March 2021. Around 200 participants from the National Statistical Offices, Central Banks, and Ministries of Trade of 36 OIC Member Countries as well as representatives of international organisations including Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), and World Trade Organisation (WTO) attended the workshop.

The Training Workshop aimed to introduce the new methodologies of collecting, harmonizing and analysing trade-in-services data to the participants and to help negotiators in trade-in-services approach new markets by using these data with a view to boosting the intra-OIC services trade while achieving the relevant goals of the OIC-2025 Plan of Action and related SDGs.

The Virtual Training Workshop on Data Collection and Analysis of Trade-in-Services among the OIC Member States covered the following topics:

- Importance of Trade in Services Statistics and Relevant Classifications;
- Experiences of Regional Institutions on Collection of Trade-in-Services Data;
- Challenges in Measuring Trade-in-Services;
- Experiences of OIC Member Countries on Trade in Services Data Collection and Analysis; and
- Trade in Services Data Analysis.

During the Training Workshop, SESRIC chaired the session on the “Importance of Trade in Services Statistics and Relevant Classifications” and delivered a presentation during the session on the “Experiences of Regional Institutions on Collection of Trade-in-Services Data”.



Workshop on “Coordination within the National Statistical Systems”

SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), organised a Workshop on “Coordination within the National Statistical Systems (NSSs)” in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) on 15-17 June 2021 through a video conferencing platform with the participation of NSOs of OIC countries.

Organised within the framework of the Programme of Action 2021-2025 of the OIC-StatCom, the Workshop had the objective to facilitate the sharing of good practices among the OIC countries and learning from the potential challenges needed be taken into consideration for efficient and effective coordination within the NSSs of OIC countries.

The Workshop covered the following topics:

- Official Statistics and NSS: Main Concepts and Principles
- Leadership and Coordination within the NSS
- Coordination within the NSSs: Why and How?
- Data Stewardship: Data Governance beyond the NSSs
- Country Experiences on Coordination within the NSSs and Data Stewardship



Workshop on “Use of Administrative Registers for Population and Housing Censuses”



Workshop on “Use of Administrative Registers for Population & Housing Censuses”

29-30 June 2021

SESRIC organised a Workshop on ‘Use of Administrative Registers for Population and Housing Censuses’ in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) on 29-30 June 2021 through a video conferencing platform with the participation of NSOs of OIC member countries.

The Workshop aims to focus on key considerations and requirements for transitioning from traditional census to alternative census methodologies involving the use of administrative registers and building institutional capacity and infrastructure for maintaining statistical registers for successful implementation of population and housing censuses.

The Workshop covered the following topics:

- Necessary conditions for the use of administrative registers for population and housing censuses
- Establishing base registers for transitioning to a combined or register-based census
- Building comprehensive and reliable statistical registers for censuses and for combining with survey data
- Evaluation of the quality of data and communication with register-owners to improve the quality

SESRIC STATISTICAL EXPERIENCE SHARING WEBINAR SERIES

The 9th Session of OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), held virtually on 28 September – 01 October 2020, underlined the importance of learning from the experiences and best practices of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) members and accordingly requested SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of OIC-StatCom, to continue its support to the efforts of OIC-StatCom members by facilitating exchange of knowledge towards the production of high-quality data.

Accordingly, SESRIC initiated in 2020 the Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series (<https://www.oicstatcom.org/webinar-series.php>) through which National Statistics Offices of OIC countries and statistical units of the relevant international agencies will find the opportunity to inform the participants about their experiences on statistical themes of mutual interest.

Between January and June 2021, SESRIC organised the following 12 webinars:

- Webinar on ‘Research and Experimental Development Statistics’ on 7 January 2021
- Webinar on ‘Innovation Statistics’ on 21 January 2021
- Webinar on ‘Population Statistics and Censuses’ on 22 February 2021
- Webinar on ‘Tourism Statistics’ on 24 February 2021
- Webinar on ‘SDG 6 Indicators’ on 17 March 2021
- Webinar on ‘SDG 9 Indicators’ on 18 March 2021
- Webinar on ‘International Trade in Goods Statistics’ on 06 April 2021
- Webinar on ‘International Trade-in-Services Statistics’ on 13 April 2021
- Webinar on ‘Measurement Methods for SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda in the OIC Countries’ on 31 May 2021
- Webinar on ‘Motor Vehicles, Traffic Volume and Road Traffic Accidents Statistics’ on 3 June 2021
- Webinar on ‘Big Data Applications and Utilising Non-Traditional Data Sources and Methods for Official Statistics’ on 10 June 2021
- Webinar on ‘Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Statistics in OIC Countries’ on 28 June 2021

The following are impressions from the webinars organised by SESRIC in the January – June 2021 period.



Webinar on ‘Research and Experimental Development Statistics’, 7 January 2021



Webinar on ‘Innovation Statistics’, 21 January 2021



Webinar on ‘Population Statistics and Censuses’, 22 February 2021



Webinar on ‘Tourism Statistics’, 24 February 2021



Webinar on 'SSDG 6 Indicators', 17 March 2021



Webinar on 'SDG 9 Indicators', 18 March 2021

FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION (OIC-STATCOM)



In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), SESRIC organised, through a video-conferencing platform, the Follow-up Meeting of the 9th Session of the OIC-StatCom on 25 February 2021 as a side event of the 52nd Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. In addition to the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), 59 delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of 28 OIC member countries attended the meeting.

The meeting started with an opening remarks delivered by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, and H.E. Mr. Nyakassi M. B. SANYANG, Chief Statistician of the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) and Chair of the 9th Session of OIC-StatCom. In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-StatCom, SESRIC made a presentation on the follow up of the implementation of the Resolutions adopted at the 9th Session of the OIC-StatCom, which was held virtually in October 2020 and the preparations for the upcoming 10th Session.

The participants discussed and agreed on the following issues:

- The composition of the Bureau Members of the upcoming 10th Session of the OIC-StatCom, which reflects the geographical distribution of the three official groups of the OIC; namely, the Arab, the African and the Asian groups as follows: Chair: Tunisia (OIC Arab Group); Vice-Chair: Pakistan (OIC Asia Group); Vice-Chair: Uganda (OIC Africa Group); Vice-Chair: Palestine (permanent); and Rapporteur: SESRIC (permanent).

- The subject of the agenda items of the upcoming 10th Session of OIC-StatCom as follows:

- » 2020 Round of the World Population and Housing Census Programme: Population and Housing Census Editing

- » Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Monitoring and Reporting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) Indicators

- » Statistical Capacity Development: Efforts to Maintain Statistical Capacity Development during COVID-19 Pandemic

- » The Implementation and Follow-up Mechanism of the Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030 and its Programme of Action for 2021-2025

- The Follow-up Mechanism for reporting on the progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Vision of the OIC-StatCom for 2030 and its Programme of Action for 2021-2025.

- The date and the venue of the upcoming 10th Session of the OIC-StatCom as follows: Virtually, through a video-conferencing platform, on 5 – 7 October 2021.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=2469>

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training (SGGST)



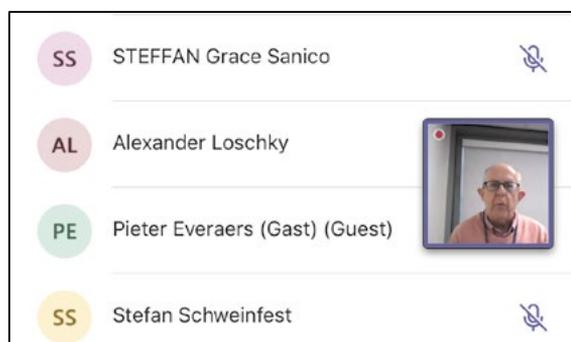
Training of Trainers on Gender Statistics for Monitoring the SDGs, 10 May 2021

SESRIC participated in the Training of Trainers on Gender Statistics for Monitoring the SDGs organised by the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and UN Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) on 10-11 and 26-27 May as well as 14-15 and 28-29 June 2021.

The virtual Training of Trainers (TOT) aims to provide an opportunity for participants to better understand the materials included in the Curriculum. In addition, to help learners better understand some of the materials included in the Curriculum, and in light of face-to-face training limitations brought about by COVID-19, UN Women, ESCAP and SIAP jointly developed related e-learning materials (<https://siap-elearning.org/course/view.php?id=102>).

The SGGST, a subsidiary organ within the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, was established in 2018 to support NSOs in the region to acquire necessary statistical capacities to effectively produce and use gender statistics for tracking of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. SESRIC has been a formal member of the SGGST since 15 November 2018.

Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)

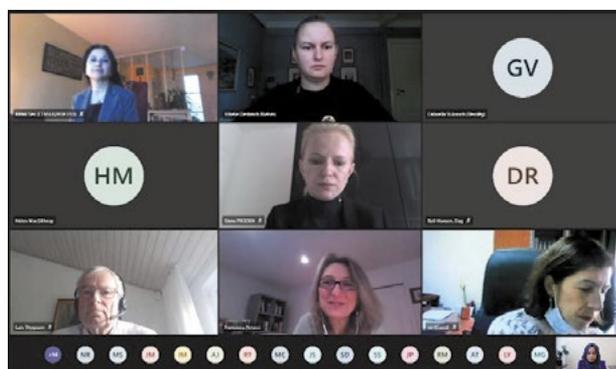


37th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA), 26 February 2021

SESRIC participated in the 37th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) held virtually on 26 February 2021. During the session, the activities related to the Working Group on Household Surveys, Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics, Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators, and High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building were reported.

CCSA is a global body of 45 international and supranational organisations, whose mandate includes the provision of international official statistics in the context of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, and which have a permanent embedded statistical service in their organisation and regular contacts with countries. SESRIC became a member of the CCSA in 2006.

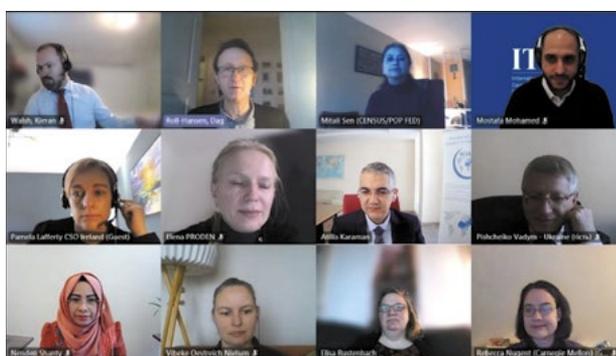
Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)



Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) Annual Meeting, 9 February 2021

SESRIC participated in GIST Annual Meeting on 9 February 2021. In this meeting, GIST last year's works and future directions of GIST were discussed. Besides, the participants also had opportunities to brainstorm different topics on increasing awareness of GIST and on providing training on soft skills.

Besides, SESRIC also participated in GIST Workshop on Standard Statistical Training Curriculums on 22 February 2021. The aim of the workshop was to get input from a variety of different stakeholders on what would be key elements in the development of a standard curriculum, zooming in on training in soft skills and training for new staff, as well as suggested pedagogical approaches to develop training.

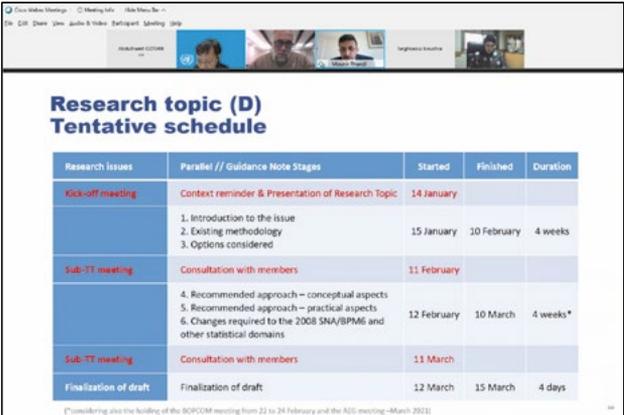


GIST Workshop on Standard Statistical Training Curriculums, 22 February 2021

In addition, SESRIC continues to contribute to the GIST task team on 'Addressing NSOs Needs' by attending the meetings of this task team on 29 January and 12 April 2021 and shared our knowledge pertaining to the issue discussed during the meetings.

GIST is a network of international and regional training institutions, working together build sustainable statistical capacities through efficient, effective, and harmonized delivery of training. SESRIC is one of the founding members of GIST established since April 2018.

ISWGNA/BOPCOM on Islamic Finance



Research Issues	Parallel // Guidance Note Stages	Started	Finished	Duration
Kick-off meeting	Context reminder & Presentation of Research Topic	14 January		
	1. Introduction to the Issue 2. Existing methodology 3. Options considered	15 January	10 February	4 weeks
Sub-TT meeting	Consultation with members	11 February		
	4. Recommended approach – conceptual aspects 5. Recommended approach – practical aspects 6. Changes required to the 2008 SNA/BPM6 and other statistical domains	12 February	10 March	4 weeks*
Sub-TT meeting	Consultation with members	11 March		
Finalization of draft	Finalization of draft	12 March	15 March	4 days

(*Considering also the holding of the BOPCOM meeting from 22 to 24 February and the AEG meeting – March 2021)

Meeting of IFTT sub-task team D on “Sectorization of Islamic banks with multiple activities and Islamic windows” of the ISWGNA/BOPCOM Joint Task Team on Islamic Finance (IFTT), 14 January 2021

SESRIC attended the three meetings of IFTT sub-task team D on “Sectorization of Islamic banks with multiple activities and Islamic windows” formed under the Inter Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) / Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM) Joint Task Team on Islamic Finance (IFTT) held on 14 January, 11 February and 20 April 2021.

In the first meeting of the sub-task team D, the members agreed on the work programme prepared by the lead of the sub-task team and the chairs of the IFTT. The subtask team started to work on proposing recommendations and preparing a draft guidance note for the topic.

In the second and third meetings, the members discussed the technical background, current practices and further steps on sectorization of Islamic banks with multiple activities and Islamic windows together with a set of cross-cutting issues which requires further comments and information from other task teams.

The sub-task team D will finalize the draft guidance note with support from relevant members of the IFTT together with recommendations for topic D to be submitted for endorsement at the AEG/BOPCOM meetings scheduled to be convened in October 2021.

In order for the IFTT to draft the Final Joint Guidance Note to be presented at the 2021 AEG and BOPCOM meetings, sub-task teams have been formed. On 17 September 2020, SESRIC became a member of sub-task team on “Topic D: Sectorization of Islamic Banks with Multiple Activities and Islamic Windows”. The members of the group consist of representatives from the NSOs of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Palestine, and Turkey as well as Foreign Exchange Office of Morocco, and experts from AAOIFI, CIBAFI, ESCWA, IMF, SESRIC and UNSD.

Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD)



12th Meeting of the International TOSSD Task Force, 9 and 11 March 2021

SESRIC attended the 12th Meeting of the International Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) Task Force which was organized online by the Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on 9-11 March 2021.

During the meeting, the TOSSD Task Force Secretariat presented the results of the first TOSSD data collection, including coverage, TOSSD volumes and number of activities to which SESRIC also provided input via its conducted statistical capacity building activities within the framework of reporting. The participants also shared their views and comments on the results of the first data collection, and the key messages to convey on TOSSD data at the official launch event. Moreover, the members of the Task Force deliberated on the key strategic objectives and activities to promote TOSSD and TOSSD data in 2021.

Based on the experience of the work of Task Force since four years, it is observed that Task Force would benefit from a further formalisation of a few basic rules and procedures to complement the existing terms of reference. Therefore, the Secretariat has proposed to develop a basic manual of procedures and presentation of preliminary estimates of members' contributions to the TOSSD Task Force. In addition, after listening to an update on the IAEG-SDGs working group on measurement of development support by the Secretariat, Members of the Task Force that are also members of the IAEG-SDGs working group exchanged their perspectives and comments on how the group is functioning and progressing so far.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



OIC WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021



OIC WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021

Progress towards the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW)

SESRIC prepared the OIC Women and Development Report 2021 with the theme of 'Progress towards the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW)' as a technical background document for the 8th Ministerial Conference on the Role of Women in the Development of OIC member countries. The 2021 edition of the report presents a comparative analysis of the status of women in OIC member countries in seven domains addressed in the OPAAW and assesses the performance of OIC member countries towards the implementation of OPAAW based on member countries' responses to the 'OPAAW Implementation Survey 2019'. The report also provides a number of success stories and best practices to highlight the policy experiences of selected OIC member countries towards the advancement of women.

SESRIC prepared the OIC Women and Development Report 2021 with the theme of 'Progress towards the Implementation of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW)' as a technical background document for

According to the main findings of the report, OIC member countries have made significant strides in addressing gender disparities in numerous sectors over the last decade. By effectively formulating and implementing a number of regulations, policies, and practices, 36 OIC member countries reduced gender inequalities between 2010 and 2018, according to the Gender Development Index (GDI) scores that measure the gender gaps in health, education, and living standards. In addition, in OIC member countries, on average, women have become more prevalent in labour markets and decision-making bodies, as well as politics such as the share of women in parliaments increased by 4.6 percentage points between 2010 and 2019.

Yet, there are still many areas of concern that need further improvements to mitigate challenges faced by women and empower them. For instance, 36% of women residing in OIC member countries experienced some form of gender-based violence in their lifetime while this ratio averaged at 29% at the global level. Similarly, child marriages, on average, were also more prevalent in the OIC group (16.6%) as compared to the world average (11.8%) in 2019.

The report also highlights that, in addition to existing challenges faced by women, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has also had several adverse effects on women (e.g. lost income, increased incidents of violence at home) that aggravate existing gender inequalities in many member countries, marking a need for additional measures to protect and empower women.

The detailed analysis of the 'OPAAW Implementation Survey 2019' in the report also reveals a number of key messages. The survey results show that respondent 27 OIC member countries have implemented a considerable number of measures that vary in nature and scope in various towards the implementation of OPAAW and improve the status of women in their respective countries. The responses demonstrate that the level of progress was highest in the area of women's health, followed by education, participation in decision-making, social protection, protection from violence, women's economic empowerment, and lastly, the status of women in crises. More than half of the respondent countries also reported that they had best practices that they were willing to share with other member countries

in the domains of education, economic empowerment, social protection, and protection from violence that can enhance intra-OIC cooperation.

In the end, the report provides a set of policy recommendations on how to address persisting challenges faced by women in socio-economic life, increase their contribution to the development of their respective societies and further the implementation of the OPAAW by enhancing the intra-OIC cooperation such as through better utilizing existing programmes offered by relevant OIC institutions.

OIC WATER REPORT 2021

The OIC Water Report 2021: Towards Sustainable Water Management presents the current state of water resources and their management in OIC member countries by using a wide range of the latest relevant statistics. This edition of the report also highlights the nexus between water, energy, and food security along with the impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic on water resources in OIC member countries.

The report demonstrates that the water sector in many OIC member countries is far from reaching its optimal state. There are 29 countries undergoing water stress, 19 of which are at critical stress levels. On the bright side, there has been considerable progress in drinking water and sanitation provisions across the OIC member countries. The proportion of the population with access to basic drinking water increased from 80.8% in 2010 to 84.6% in 2017, while the proportion of the population with access to basic sanitation increased from 58.3% in 2010 to 64.2% in 2017. Nevertheless, there is still a need for consistent efforts to ensure universal coverage of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, particularly in rural and low-income areas.

Furthermore, water resources in OIC countries are strongly affected by changing climate. Numerous studies find that climate change will make the future supply of water more erratic and unpredictable due to an increase in water supply variability. The report pointed out that the water sector in OIC countries is more vulnerable and less prepared to cope with the impacts of climate change, compared to the world average. Amongst other things, this indicates that OIC countries still lack adequate economic, governance, and social capacities to direct investment towards efforts to adapt to climate change.

The important link between the agriculture and water sector is also emphasized in the report. Increased demand for food has significant implications for the water sector in OIC countries. This is because agricultural land in OIC countries constitutes one-fourth of the total agricultural land in the world.



Additionally, agricultural water withdrawal in OIC countries accounts for 86.6% of all water withdrawal. Yet, at the same time, the area equipped for irrigation is lowest in the OIC region at 5.9% as compared to non-OIC developing countries (8.2%) and the world average (6.8%). It is highly probable that the lack of water resources and irrigation is one of the main factors causing insufficient food production, which in turn leads to a high prevalence of undernourishment in the region.

The report also reveals a strong relationship between water and energy, commonly referred to as the 'water-energy nexus'. When it comes to water withdrawal for energy production, electricity generation is by far the largest process, which accounts for 88% of total water withdrawal for energy production in the OIC. This is because thermal power plants -that are water-intensive- make up the majority of the electricity supply mix. Therefore, a continuous supply of water is very crucial to safeguard the electricity supply in the OIC. Energy, on the other hand, is needed in all processes of the water supply chain. Energy demand in the water sector is also expected to increase due to rapid urbanization, which requires the expansion of water and wastewater utilities.

In line with the OIC Water Vision, the report puts forth some policy recommendations with a view to contributing to the efforts of the OIC member countries towards achieving a more water-secure setting for their population. The policy recommendations presented in this report specifically address the need to enhance intra-OIC cooperation, particularly through the adoption of more sustainable water management practices, harnessing the potency of unconventional waters, and improving water-use efficiencies.

STATE OF ELDERLY IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES 2021

SESRIC prepared the report on the State of Elderly in OIC Member Countries 2021 as a technical background document for the 2nd OIC Ministerial Conference on Social Development. This report thoroughly examines the state of the elderly in OIC countries by looking into the latest available data and information on labour market and economic integration, health and wellbeing, supportive environment, and culture as stipulated in the OIC Strategy on the Elderly. The report also provides a number of success stories and best practices to highlight the experiences of selected OIC member countries towards improving the overall state of the elderly and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on them.

According to the main findings of the report, the share of elderly people (population aged 60 or above) has increased from 5.7% in 1990 to 7.4% in 2020 in OIC countries. By 2050, this share is predicted to rise to 13.9%. The increase in the ageing population is a challenging issue for policy-makers as the wellbeing of elderly people depends heavily on the provision of proper healthcare and rehabilitation services as well as their integration into social, economic and cultural spheres. For instance, the average old-age dependency ratio of the OIC group is on rise, increasing from 6.2 in 2010 to 6.8 in 2019, indicating increasing pressure on social security systems and services.

Several OIC member countries have made significant strides in addressing challenges faced by the elderly and improve their wellbeing in numerous sectors over the last decade. Thanks to the improvements in healthcare services, for instance, the life expectancy at age 60 increased from 13.3 years in 2010 to 13.8 in 2019 in the OIC group. The achievements in addressing the needs of the elderly are not limited to the health sector in OIC countries as many of them like Egypt, Jordan, and Malaysia also designed new social assistance and cash transfer programmes for the elderly to provide them better opportunities.

Yet, there are still many areas of concern that need further improvements to mitigate challenges faced by the elderly and empower them. For instance, the share of elderly people receiving benefits from various pension schemes in OIC countries (31.5%), on average, stayed far below the average of the world (54%). The labour force participation rate of elderly males (from 36.4% to 34.8%) and the elderly female

(from 16% to 15.5%) slightly regressed over the period 2010-2019 in OIC countries. A significant number of older people could not afford or access public health services such as due to physical or financial barriers (e.g. due to lack of social security protection) in some OIC countries. Violence, abuse, and age-based discrimination continued to affect many older persons in various OIC countries such as due to a lack of strong and effective legal protection and changing cultural values.

The report also highlights that, in addition to existing challenges faced by the elderly, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has also made several adverse effects on them such as limiting their social and economic participation due to the containment measures (e.g. lockdowns, curfews) and economic slowdown. Such measures have deteriorated the wellbeing of the elderly in many member countries, marking a need for additional measures to better protect them and mitigate those new challenges brought by the pandemic.

In the end, the report provides a set of policy recommendations to promote 'healthy and active ageing' programmes and practices that can help not only to preserve elder's physical and mental capacities but also encourage their active involvement in the socio-economic development process in OIC countries.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT



SESRIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Centre organises training activities under 23 active sector-specific capacity building programmes. These activities are implemented through different modalities according to the capacities and needs of the OIC member countries in varied socio-economic fields and areas. SESRIC, after matching these needs and capacities, provides training opportunities by mobilising competent experts and facilitating the exchange of know-how, skills and experience among the national institutions of the OIC member countries. The Centre's efforts aim to develop human and institutional capacities in different sectors following south-south cooperation mechanisms.

Furthermore, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, holding physical training courses and capacity building activities were not practicable anymore. In order to respond to this extraordinary situation, SESRIC undertook the necessary preparations to utilise the available digital platforms with the view to better serve the Centre's training activities and keep participants motivated and engaged during this difficult time of the global crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some of the selected implemented activities during the period under consideration:

CENTRAL BANKS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (CB-CAB)

Training Course on “Formulating Monetary Policy”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Formulating Monetary Policy” on 22-25 February 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The course was provided by competent experts from the Central Bank of Turkey for the benefit of experts and executives from the Central Bank of Iraq, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Palestine Monetary Authority.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights into relevant formulating monetary policy subjects, including transmission channels, short-term and medium-term forecasting, monitoring inflation trends and financial stability, among many others. Furthermore, the training course touched upon the changes in monetary policy decision-making in the past years, such as the global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Training Course on “Financial Education”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Financial Education” on 24-27 May 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The course was provided by competent experts from the Central Bank of Turkey for the benefit of experts and executives from the Central Banks and relevant Ministries of 18 OIC member countries.

The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of the participants on various technical subjects of economics education. The training course provided insights into national strategies on financial access, financial education, financial consumer protection, and economics education initiatives.



STOCK EXCHANGES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (SE-CAB)

Training Course on “Sukuk Issuance in Islamic Capital Markets”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Sukuk Issuance in Islamic Capital Markets” on 31 May-02 June 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Securities Commission of Malaysia for the benefit of experts and executives from the Securities and Exchange Commissions of the OIC member countries.

The training course provided participants with extensive knowledge and understanding of Sukuk structures and the features, types, evolution, current market trends of Sukuk in the Islamic finance industry. The course also provided insights into the fundamentals of Sukuk and its role in Islamic Banking and Finance.



COMPETITION AUTHORITIES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (CA-CAB)

Training Course on “Anti-Competitive Practices and Promotion of Competition”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Anti-Competitive Practices and Promotion of Competition” on 30 March - 01 April 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Competition Authority and Tunisian Competition Council for the benefit of participants from the National Commission for Competition and Consumption (CNCC) of Burkina Faso.

The training course provided participants with a better understanding of the important role of Competition Authorities in regulating and preventing anti-competitive conducts as well as the protection of consumer rights through monitoring, regulating, and supervising the markets.



Workshop on “Competition vs. Regulation and the Appropriate Organisational Structure of a Competition Agency”

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Competition Authority, organised a Workshop on “Competition vs. Regulation and the Appropriate Organisational Structure of a Competition Agency” on 06-07 April 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The workshop brought together more than 50 experts and executives from national and regional competition authorities of 18 OIC member countries. Various topics related to competition law and policy were discussed with the main aim of sharing country experiences and best practices towards the enhancement of intra-OIC cooperation and dialogue in the field of competition.

The sessions were carried out following a specific theme in each session in the format of keynote speech followed by country experiences delivered by representatives of National Competition Authorities. The workshop was

based on knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices, and open discussions on the following themes:

- Why Compete, When You Can Cooperate? The Effect of Competition on Economic Units.
- Competition vs. Regulation: What is the Right Balance?
- Organising a Competition Authority: Is there an Optimal Way?



TOBACCO FREE OIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TF-CAB)

Training Course on “Packaging, Labelling and Pictorial Health Warnings on Tobacco Products”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Packaging, Labelling and Pictorial Health Warnings on Tobacco Products” on 15 - 17 March 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Tobacco and Alcohol Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey for the benefit of tobacco control experts from the Indonesian Food and Drug Authority.

The training course provided insights into the regulation and implementation of health warnings on tobacco products and the effectiveness of the implementation of health warnings in suppressing the prevalence of adolescent smokers. The training course also gave the participants a better understanding of different types of health warnings on tobacco products that are effective in conveying the danger of smoking to the public.

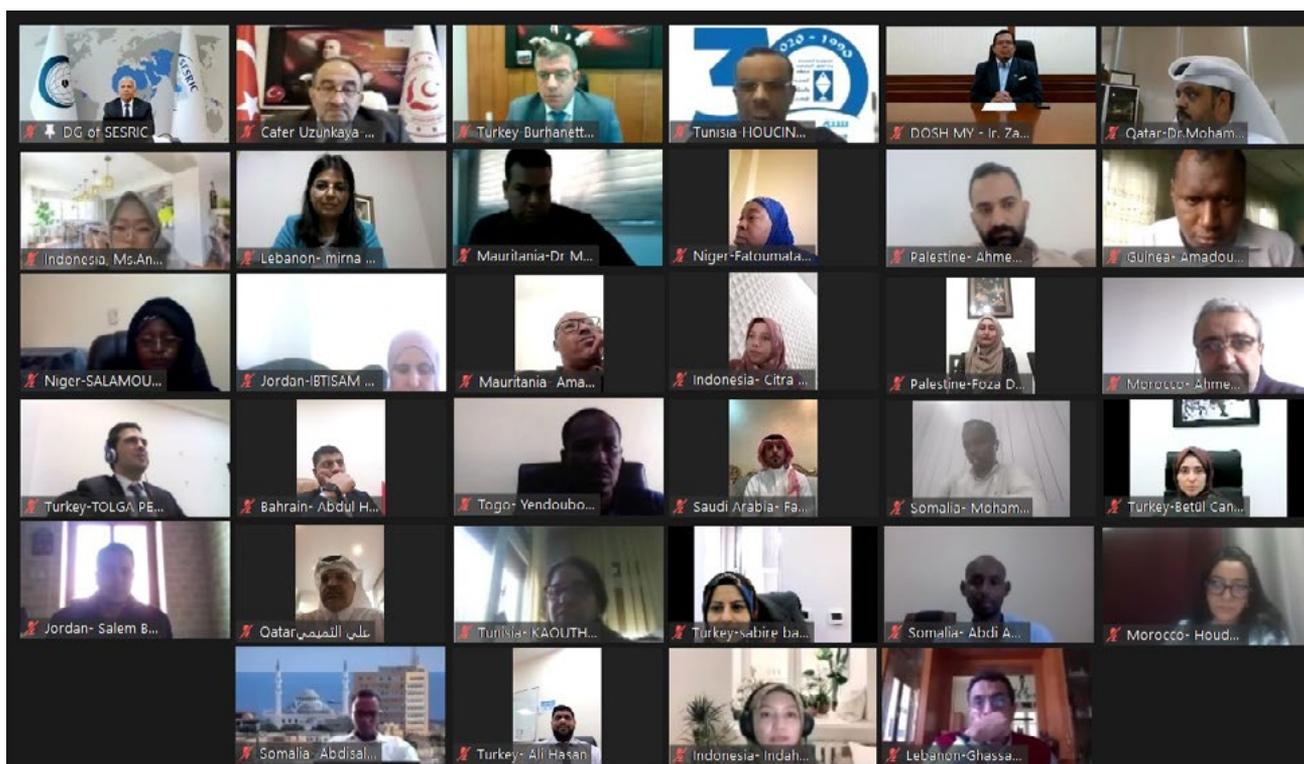


OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (OSH-CAB)

Training Course on “International Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Regulations”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “International Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Regulations” on 14-22 April 2021 through an online video conferencing platform and in line with the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Tunisian Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI) and the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) of the Ministry of Human Resources of Malaysia for the benefit of 82 experts and executives from national OSH Authorities of 28 OIC member countries.

The main objective of the training course was to support the efforts of the national OSH authorities of the OIC member countries towards developing and enhancing the technical knowledge and skills of their staff on international OSH regulations. The course provided insights into various OSH related subjects, including OSH regulatory framework, OSH legal instruments, international labour standards, OSH enforcement and coordination mechanisms.



Webinar on “Occupational Safety and Health Systems (OSH) during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response”

SESRIC organised a Webinar on “Occupational Safety and Health Systems (OSH) during the Pandemic: The Impact and Response” on 06 May 2021. The Webinar highlighted the vital role of OSH systems in supporting the national emergency response policies and the importance of the revised guidelines and practices in mitigating the adverse effects of the crisis. It also facilitated information exchange between experts and professionals in the field of OSH to strengthen partnerships and promote solidarity among the national OSH authorities of the OIC member countries.

The Webinar included five presentations by senior-level representatives from the National Occupational

Safety and Health (OSH) Authorities of Djibouti, Lebanon, Morocco, Togo, and Tunisia. The panellists shared and exchanged the OSH experiences and practices that their respective countries have adopted during the pandemic and their future perspectives.



PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (PES-CAB)

Training Workshop on “Institutional Capacity Building for Effective Labour Market Information Systems”

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organised a Training Workshop on “Institutional Capacity Building for Effective Labour Market Information Systems” on 01-04 February 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop gathered 94 participants from 23 public employment agencies/ authorities and relevant national institutions of the OIC member countries to discuss how to establish effective labour market information systems in their respective countries.

The workshop provided participants with a sound understanding of employment statistics, which is the primary variable used to monitor and evaluate the demand side of the labour market and reporting processes. It also gave insights into Labour Market Research (LMR) in general and specifically explored how to take the “pulse” and monitor the trend of the labour market.

Moreover, the workshop served as a platform for public employment agencies to share their experience on data collection processes, the use of technological and physical infrastructure to support their capacity of statistics production and analysis, and the role of this infrastructure in labour market information systems.

The main objective of the training course was to improve the participants’ skills and knowledge in designing and implementing effective strategies to promote and advance women’s entrepreneurship through entrepreneurial skills development.

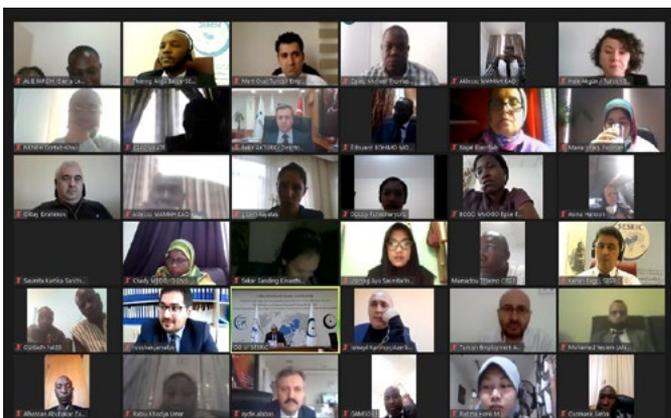


TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TOURISM-CAB)

Training Workshop on “Tourism Destination Marketing Strategies”

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), organised a Training Workshop on “Tourism Destination Marketing Strategies” on 02-04 March 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training workshop was organised within the framework of SESRIC’s Tourism Capacity Building Programme and in line with the relevant resolutions on tourism development adopted by the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC and the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.

The training workshop brought together over 72 tourism experts and executives from different National Tourism Authorities from 23 OIC member countries to strengthen their capacities and discuss different aspects of tourism destination marketing, including strategy development, stakeholder management, and financing and ICT based marketing.



Training Course on “Advancement and Empowerment of Women’s Entrepreneurial Skills”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Advancement and Empowerment of Women’s Entrepreneurial Skills” on 08-11 March 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by a competent expert from the National Agency for Employment and Independent Work (ANETI) of Tunisia for the benefit of experts and executives from the Ministry of Labour and Public Service of Benin, the Ministry of Youth, Entrepreneurship and Employment Promotion of Burkina Faso, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Protection of Burkina Faso, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Cameroon, the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection of Côte d’Ivoire, and Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training and Handicrafts of Senegal.



Training Course on “Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Services”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Halal Tourism and Muslim-Friendly Hospitality Services” on 22-26 March 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The course was provided by competent experts from the Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC) of Malaysia for the benefit of experts and executives from the National Tourism Office of Comoros.

The training course provided insights into the new trends of Muslim-Friendly Tourism (MFT) and the role of governments in encouraging this segment, in addition to discussing the opportunities and challenges in developing and marketing Halal tourism.



The 3rd Meeting of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET)

The 3rd Meeting of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) was organised by SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), on 02-03 June 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The 3rd Meeting of the OIC-PESNET aimed at reactivating the work of this important Network and brought together 70 senior-level representatives from the Public Employment Authorities of 36 OIC member countries to discuss and adopt the “OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2021-2022” and “Rules of Procedure of the OIC-PESNET”. These two documents will ensure more functional and effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation in public employment services within the framework of the OIC-PESNET.

PUBLIC AUDIT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (PAU-CaB)

Training Workshop on “Quality Management in Public Audit”

SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Court of Accounts, organised a Training Workshop on “Quality Management in Public Audit” on 15-16 June 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training workshop brought together 66 participants from the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and the relevant Ministries of 18 OIC member countries to strengthen their technical capacities on quality management in public audit and provide insights into quality control process in the regularity and performance audits. The training workshop also included an exchange of experience session to facilitate sharing of information and best practices among the participants on quality assurance in the public audit.



The OIC-PESNET was launched in 2014 to establish closer cooperation among the Public Employment Authorities of the OIC member countries by sharing knowledge, experience, and best practices. SESRIC assumes the role of the Secretariat of the OIC-PESNET and carries out a specific capacity building programme, namely, Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB), to support the efforts of the OIC member countries in developing the capacities of the institutional and human resources in the field of public employment services.



TECHNICAL COOPERATION

SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing technical cooperation and collaboration among the OIC member countries by facilitating technical assistance, exchange of knowledge and best practices, skills development, and networking. The Centre also emphasises the importance of “region and country specific development projects” that are tailored according to the characteristic and needs of each region. Therefore, SESRIC partners with national, regional and international institutions to implement projects and activities under its technical cooperation initiatives developed with a view to addressing the needs of the OIC member countries.

NETWORKS

SESRIC brings together the national institutions from the OIC member countries working in a wide range of socio-economic domains to establish closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and conducting joint initiatives, projects and programmes through the Centre’s networking cooperation modality. Every year, the Centre analyses the needs for such networks and holds networking meetings in close cooperation with the National Focal Points of the relevant institutions. SESRIC currently hosts two main Networks; the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and the OIC Public Employment Services (OIC-PESNET).

Training Course on “OSH Inspection Services”

Within the framework of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET, organised a Training Course on “OSH Inspection Services” on 24-26 May 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course shed light on the importance of well-structured inspection services and provided a better understanding of how OSH authorities can take further steps to reduce human and economic costs due to unsafe workplaces and work-related injuries.



PORTALS

SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, provided necessary technical support to DGOSH to ensure the successful organisation of the activity. SESRIC develops and maintains various web portals in line with the decisions taken at the relevant OIC Fora to strengthen communication, cooperation, and knowledge sharing among the relevant stakeholders in the OIC member countries. The portals act as the main information sharing platforms in the relevant fields, facilitate coordination of activities and serve as a library for all publications and reports related to these areas. Currently, SESRIC hosts OIC-OSHNET Portal, OIC Portal on Water Resources, OIC Health Portal, OIC Intern, and Tobacco Free OIC Initiative; all of which can be accessed through the SESRIC website: <https://www.sesric.org/>

OIC-VET PROGRAMME

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) is a programme developed by SESRIC to support and supplement the OIC member countries’ efforts to overcome the current challenges and limitations faced in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The programme aims to enhance the quality of TVET systems in the OIC member countries and, thus, contribute to the development and competitiveness of their economies. The OIC-VET Programme’s activities are implemented through different modalities such as training of trainers (ToT) courses, training workshops, projects, training courses, study visits and webinars. Here are some implemented activities during the period under consideration:

Workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in the OIC member countries”



SESRIC organised the Workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in the OIC member countries” on 11-14 January 2021 for the benefit of TVET authorities in the OIC member countries.

The general objectives of the workshop were to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices among the TVET authorities in the OIC member countries with regard to the new trends in TVET teacher education and capacity development. In this respect, the workshop discussed the emerging challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with emphasis on the necessity of digital skills developments and sufficient methods of tackling skill gaps.

The technical sessions of the workshop included keynote presentations delivered by distinguished speakers representing four International and OIC institutions, namely UNESCO-UNEVOC, ILO, Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and SESRIC. Moreover, country experiences and good practices were also shared by representatives of TVET institutions from nine different OIC member countries, including Bangladesh, Cameroon, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Tunisia, and Turkey.

The workshop brought together 72 TVET professionals from 26 OIC member countries. Participants discussed efficient ways and means of tackling the emerging challenges and capacity development issues facing TVET institutions. Virtual roundtable discussions debated the way forward and highlighted the importance of intra-OIC collaboration and knowledge exchange towards building resilient systems to achieve relevant objectives of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025.

Webinar on “Strengthening Private Sector Involvement in Skills Development”

SESRIC organised a Webinar on “Strengthening Private Sector Involvement in Skills Development” on 11 February 2021 within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025. The activity brought



together panellists from Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

The webinar shed light on the role of the private sector in skills development and the ways and means of strengthening public-private dialogue to achieve more efficient TVET systems. Panel discussions highlighted effective strategies for advanced communication between TVET institutions and industries towards labour market responsive skills development.

Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Tourism and Hospitality Services”

SESRIC, in cooperation with the General Directorate of Vocational and Technical Education at the Ministry of National Education of Turkey, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “Tourism and Hospitality Services” on 29 March-02 April 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The course was delivered by following an online competency-based approach that included pre-recorded videos and live practical demonstrations from a TVET Institution in Turkey.

The ToT course, attended by 50 trainers from the national TVET institutions of 28 OIC member countries, aimed to support and contribute to the efforts of the national TVET institutions of the OIC member countries towards developing and enhancing the capacities of their staff in the field of tourism and hospitality services in light of the most recent global standards, practices and trends.



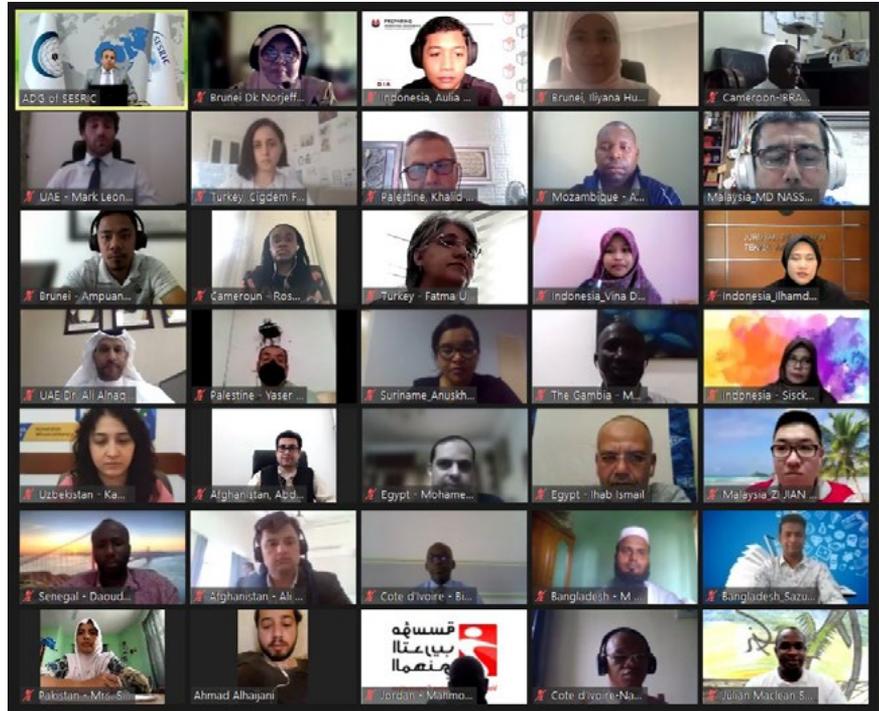
Training Course on “Development of E-learning Curriculum and Relevant E-materials”

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Development of E-learning Curriculum and Relevant E-materials” on 19-22 April 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Education of Malaysia for the benefit of more than 90 experts and executives from the national TVET Institutions of 25 OIC member countries.

The training course provided insights into the development of e-learning content by using appropriate information and communication technologies (ICT)

in the field of technical and vocational education. It also introduced the most recent trends and approaches in designing and developing effective e-learning curricula and relevant e-materials.



Training Course on “Designing Revenue-Generating Projects for Entrepreneurs”

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC, in cooperation with the Regional Educational Centre of ICESCO in Chad, organised a Training Course on “Designing Revenue-Generating Projects for Entrepreneurs” on 24-28 May 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. A competent expert provided the training course for the benefit of entrepreneurs from Chad.

The training course provided insights into generating business ideas in line with labour market needs and presented a comprehensive guide on starting a business for entrepreneurs. Participants developed a better understanding of the project cycle and enhanced their knowledge of establishing a self-sustained small business.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

The Centre has two main Internship Programmes as follows:

- » OIC International Internship Programme (OIC Intern)
- » SESRIC Internship Programme

Both programmes target young adults who are citizens of the OIC member countries, below the age of 30 and already enrolled in universities (3rd year or higher or pursuing postgraduate degree)

OIC International Internship Programme (OIC INTERN)

OIC INTERN is an international internship programme that aims at guiding young people through professional career planning by reinforcing academic knowledge gained during their studies with practical applications. The programme gives young people the opportunity of experiencing a professional working environment and consequently improving their work ethics, work discipline and other

skills. While giving the opportunity to get vocational and technical experience, it also enables interns to acquire cultural interaction and intercultural communication skills.

Like other programmes, the OIC INTERN has also been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on life and business. Despite this challenging situation, in 2020, the OIC Intern Programme achieved to place 36 students from 18 different OIC member countries as interns at various institutions in Turkey.

BINA PROGRAMME

The BINA Programme is an initiative carried out in partnership between SESRIC, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Libyan Program for Reintegration and Development (LPRD) to support Libya, as a conflict-affected state, in the areas of research, capacity building and economic development. SESRIC assumes the role of the executing agency of the Programme.

BINA Programme Steering Committee Meeting



The 9th Steering Committee Meeting of the BINA Programme was virtually held on 14 January 2021. The objective of the meeting was to follow up on the progress made and review the future actions with respect to the implementation of the programme. The meeting was attended by the Steering Committee members from the partnering institutions, namely SESRIC, IsDB, and the LPRD. The Committee took a number of decisions to ensure the smooth implementation of the programme and its completion by the target date.

Training Course on “Community Mobilisation and Youth Advocacy”

The Training Course on “Community Mobilization and Youth Advocacy” was organised in cooperation with the

Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) in January 2021. The training course was provided by competent experts for the benefit of 20 trainees who attended the local training previously in Libya.



Bootcamp to 56 Start-ups/SMEs in Libya

BINA Incubator organised the “Entrepreneurship Bootcamp” on 10-11 February 2021 for the benefit of 56 Startups/SMEs to support them in finalising their prototypes, business plans, and developing their minimum viable products (MVPs). The event was held virtually through an online video conferencing platform and also physically at the BINA Incubator.

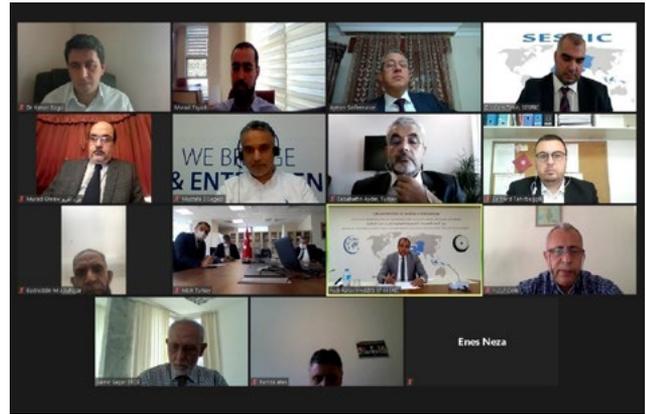
Validation Meeting for the Research Project on “Reforming Public Administration in Libya”

The validation meeting was virtually organised on 16 March 2021 with a view to bringing together high-level officials from Libya as well as relevant key international experts to discuss the outcomes and main policy recommendations of the report on “Reforming Public Administration in Libya”. The meeting, attended by 10 experts from different countries and institutions, considered the recommendations proposed by the consultants and their suitability for the context of Libya.



Validation Meeting for the Research Project on “Reforming Health Sector in Libya”

The validation meeting was virtually organised on 17 March 2021 with a view to bringing together high-level officials from Libya as well as relevant key international experts to discuss the outcomes and main policy recommendations of the report on “Reforming Health Sector in Libya”. The meeting, attended by 14 experts from different countries and institutions, considered the recommendations proposed by the consultants and their suitability for the context of Libya.



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