

Webinar: Best Practices of TVET Centres amid the Covid-19 Pandemic

25 June 2020

11:00-12:30 Ankara Time (GMT+3)

Introduction

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and its evolution into a pandemic has seriously impacted the globe with grave consequences across many sectors in the OIC member countries and the world at large. The pandemic has reportedly caused wide human misery and suffering and pushed the socio-economic well-being of people to the verge of collapse.

The education sector and labour market felt the immediate impact of the pandemic and were instantaneously challenged with the precautionary measures and lockdowns undertaken in an attempt to slow down the spread of the virus. The workforce was initially hit as the global and domestic demand for products declined and curbing labour mobility was considered one of the most effective measures to tackle the spread of virus. The education sector was also severely impacted with the widespread closure of education institutions. Since February 2020, 193 countries have chosen to shut down education institutions in an attempt to slow down the transmission of COVID-19. These closures have affected approximately 1.7 billion learners. The education sector in OIC member countries has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, putting 432.6 million learners out of education. According to a joint survey conducted by ILO, UNESCO and World Bank, this unprecedented situation is affecting learning at all levels, including initial and continuing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and causing disruptions in the provision of training¹.

As is widely known, many countries including some OIC member countries were challenged by diverse crisis that disrupted their education systems mainly due to natural disasters, armed conflicts, political transitions or occasional epidemics. However, none of these crises have caused so much damage to education systems in such a short time. In search for a remedy, universal access to digital tools and modern learning technologies in the TVET and skills sector was deemed necessary to tackle this evolving challenge and resources were mobilized to that end. Nonetheless; TVET Centres faced several emerging challenges such as the lack of distance learning infrastructure, platforms, resources and trained instructors to engage in digital learning. Moreover, the teaching and learning models had to be revised by training providers in order to endorse more

¹ ILO (2020), ILO-UNESCO-WBG Joint Survey on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Skills Development during the time of COVID-19, May 2020. Retrieved from https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/genericdocument/wcms_742817.pdf

inclusive approaches for those students who are enrolled in TVET structures but feeling disconnected and unmotivated due to the uncertainty of these times.

On a positive note, it is clear that the pandemic did not only lead to challenges but also provided the education sector with new and unique opportunities for the development of more flexible learning solutions that make better use of distance learning and digital technologies and better cater to the changing nature of work and labour market needs. In this context, the shift to online and distance education or in some cases blended learning in TVET and skills development during the crisis, and the re-orientation of some TVET Centres' production priorities into masks or health equipment are currently identified as an emergency response for an unforeseen period. Consequently, some OIC member countries devised short term solutions to address the growing and changing needs of the labour market, which might create long-term positive impacts and achieve greater resilience. The outcomes as well as the sustainability of these measures are yet to be seen.

The response to the pandemic has proven to be exemplary in many instances and vital outcomes have been driven by the initial impacts of this crisis. One of the most significant outcomes is definitely the urgent need to establish a comprehensive platform to be utilized for the sole purpose of experience, information and best practice sharing. Therefore, this webinar on “Best Practices of TVET Centres amid the Covid-19 Pandemic” aims to share innovative country experiences and best practices towards exploring the effectiveness of strategies in tackling the effects of the crisis on TVET and skills development systems.

Objectives

The webinar will feature presentations by high level representatives of the national TVET authorities from different regions of the OIC with the objective of:

- Sharing country experiences and best practices of TVET Centres in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Sharing information on coping with the impacts of the pandemic on TVET systems and dealing with learning losses due to TVET Centres' closures.
- Highlighting the role played by some TVET Centres in support of the national emergency response policies of their home countries through skills training and/ or production of crucial health equipment.

Expected Results

- Sharing innovative country experiences among the OIC member countries and exploring the effectiveness of strategies in tackling the immediate and longer-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis on TVET and skills development systems.
- Sharing recommendations on how to build more resilient, equitable and labour market-responsive TVET systems.
- Strengthening partnerships for continuity of learning/ training during and post-COVID-19.
- Promoting solidarity among national and international institutions in the field of education and skills development to overcome the obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Target Audience

TVET policy-makers and stakeholders including Ministries of Labour and Education, TVET Authorities, representatives of relevant International Organizations, teachers, administrators, students and practitioners of TVET.

Language

The webinar will proceed in English.

Technical Requirements and Duration

The webinar will be held on YouTube Live for the duration of one and a half hours.

Agenda

Thursday, 25 June 2020 (11:00-12:30 Ankara Time)	
11:00-11:05	Welcoming Remarks Mr. Fadi FARASIN, Assistant Director General, SESRIC
11:05-12:00	TVET Centres' responses amid COVID-19, Country Experiences and Best Practices Moderator: Mr. Onur CAGLAR, Acting Director of Training and Technical Cooperation, SESRIC Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Ziad Ahmad OBEIDAT, Director General, Vocational Training Cooperation, Jordan- Mrs. Hafidzah Binti OMAR, Principal Assistant Director, TVET Division, Ministry of Education, Malaysia- Mr. Masa'udu Adamu KAZAURE, Executive Secretary of the National Board for Technical Education, Nigeria- Mrs. Sennur CETIN, Head of Social Partners and Projects Department, & Mr. Mehmet CICEK, National Education Expert, Directorate General for TVET, Ministry of National Education, Turkey
12:00-12:25	Q&A Session
12:25-12:30	Closing Remarks