



CONCEPT NOTE

WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) IN OIC

MEMBER COUNTRIES:

NEEDS AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

“VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT”

ANKARA, TURKEY

11-13 May 2016

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1- Context

1.1 Background

With the aim of improving the quality of Technical and vocational education and training in Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) has developed the Vocational Education and Training for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET). The programme was submitted to the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) and approved during its 24th Session in 2008. In this session, Member Countries were requested to integrate the OIC-VET in their main national training programmes. Hence, a common platform was set up to benefit all Member Countries.

The Vocational, Education and Training Programme was officially implemented in 2009 with the participation of the countries' leaders in the Economic Summit organised by the COMCEC.

The main objectives of the (OIC-VET) were:

- Providing the exchange of people involved in VET throughout OIC Member Countries, so as to increase placements in enterprises;
- Increasing quality and enhancing the innovation capacity of vocational training systems in Member Countries, as well as facilitating the transfer of innovative practices among the countries;
- Increasing the quality and amount of cooperation between competent training institutions, companies, social partners and other organisations in all OIC Member Countries;
- Expanding the transparency and recognition of qualifications and competencies, including those acquired through formal and informal learning among Member Countries;
- Supporting the development of lifelong Information practices with the innovative information and communication technology (ICT) based on contents, services, pedagogies.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives under the OIC Vocational Education and Training Programme (OIC-VET), three main programmes have been planned:

- OIC International Exchange Programme
- OIC International Innovation Programme
- OIC Education Networks Programme

Within the framework of these objectives, some actions related to the fields of Statistics, Employability and Disaster Risk Management were carried out and capacity building programmes were implemented. Taking into account the needs and priorities of member countries, the Vocational Education and Training programme has adopted a translational perspective consisting of different types of projects.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned set of objectives, the Vocational Education and Training programme attempted to designate National Focal Points in each Member Country. These national focal points, which consist mainly of entities in charge of vocational training, are currently present in 36 Member Country.

In 2009, a Monitoring and Advisory Committee in charge of regulatory affairs and monitoring the implementation of the programme was formed. The Committee meets regularly on an annual basis. In each meeting, the committee assesses the activities of the previous year; it is also an opportunity for representatives of Member countries to exchange their views and experiences.

In aiming to achieve the objectives laid out, SESRIC worked on the implementation of the Vocational Education and Training programme (OIC-VET) and much progress has been accomplished in this respect. During the past six years, several projects have been completed successfully, and a number of cooperations between OIC member countries have been made possible within the framework of the set aims.

In the light the experience accumulated after 6 years, it is beneficial for the sustainability and success of Vocational Education and Training programme (OIC-VET) to review its current objectives and therefore determine new ones.

1.2 A View to the Future

Strategy paper for Vocational Education and Training Development

The current programme (OIC-VET) gathers Member Countries in one shared platform and promotes cooperation among them. However, the standards governing these cooperations are not imposed.

It is usual and appreciated that each country has different priorities, but acting together under the roof of the OIC on important issues such as professionals mobility, the recognition of national qualifications and vocational training requires the adoption of a common strategy. Moreover, adhering to a strategy always allows an efficient use of all available resources (institutional, social, human and financial).

In this sense, while viewing the activities and projects undertaken by SESRIC since 2009 as a pilot work, a binding strategy paper for the development of vocational training should be prepared, taking into considerations the member countries recommendations and their respective country-based experiences. The efficiency and adoption of the strategy paper depends on whether future occupations needs and resources of activities carried out in work places are taken into consideration. In this context, while preparing the strategy document, it proves very important to take into account, on one hand, the prospects of other international organisations such as the UN, OECD, etc. and on the other hand, the objectives of Member Countries while considering the recognition and accreditation of skills and professional experiences accumulated so far.

The strategy document for vocational training development in the overall OIC Member Countries must contain the following elements: to determine the current status of vocations, to develop common standards for vocations and adopt them, to assess the qualifications of the existing workforce within these vocational standards, to establish common standards in education and vocational training and adopt them, to develop national and regional capacities through projects and to raise awareness on the importance of vocational training.

➤ The Creation of a Trade Directory

It would be necessary to set up a Trade Directory indicating, in a timely manner, which country, what type of applied occupations and who exhibits a demographic structure of the people engaging in these occupations. In this way, it will allow speculating the human capital and identifying the OIC Member Countries potential. In addition, a prior analysis of needs will be conducted for the realization of project and training activities.

➤ Vocational Standards and Qualifications Framework:

As in the case of the European Union and other similar international organizations, all OIC Member Countries should adopt a Vocational Standards and Qualifications Framework. This framework must be prepared in conformity with world developments in order to meet today's and tomorrow's labour market needs. It is also necessary that this workshop allows the workforce mobility and more job opportunities in other countries (particularly among major employers such as the EU, the US, etc.).

Furthermore, the needs and priority objectives of the member countries (or priority development regions) should be taken into consideration while setting these standards and qualifications.

- Preparing a Reference Guide for Professional Training Projects :

As it has been done so far, the projects developed to achieve the strategic objectives should continue to be supported. In this context, preparing a clear and intelligible draft reference guide to be distributed to the Member Countries can be very useful and can also facilitate the organisation of training courses on project cycle management and conduct projects in a sound and efficient way.

- The 2016-2020 Action Plan for Vocational Training Development

In accordance with the development of vocational training Strategy, a new action plan should be developed; otherwise, the current action plan should be reviewed and implemented. Under the action plan, regional and / or national projects should be conducted. Hence, the vocational training objectives and policies should be reviewed upon outcomes of these projects.

- The Development of Projects at National and/ or Regional Level
- The Validation of Prior Experience (VPE)

In many countries, apprenticeship in all kinds of vocations, representing a high proportion of workforce and contributing to the economy and production, is not provided by formal education. People learn their vocational skills directly in their workplace. To improve the quality of the current workforce and achieve national and international recognition in the short term, it is important to recognize the prior acquired experience in conformity of vocational training standards.

- Increasing Vocational Training Awareness

By international standards, technical and vocational training and a well-qualified workforce are the most important components of sustainable development. Although this is a tangible reality at the policy level in Member Countries, concrete measures to support and guide citizens, particularly young people towards vocational training remain insufficient. In this regard, raising awareness campaigns should be organized both on a country level and throughout the OIC level as to encourage vocational training among citizens.

2- Objectives of the Workshop

The main objective of the workshop is to assess the current needs of the technical and vocational education systems in OIC Member Countries and to receive suggestions in order to develop vocational training. Thus, this will enable the development of projects with the aim of reinforcing technical and vocational education systems of the Member Countries.

3- Methodology

The workshop is organized in a three-part session. The breakout sessions are divided according to the official languages of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation:

Breakout session I:	Countries Using Arabic
Breakout session II:	Countries Using French
Breakout session III:	Countries Using English

An expert in the field of education and technical and vocational training in the Islamic world who will deliver a speech in the opening session will be invited as a keynote speaker. Apart from the opening and closing sessions, the three breakout sessions will be carried out around three major themes. A similar method will be adopted for the three sub-groups. Furthermore, in the sub-sessions, a chairman, a deputy and a rapporteur from among the participants will be selected to facilitate the work of the group.

To achieve the goal determined by the workshop, and in order to ensure an effective work, delegates will be requested to fill an evaluation questionnaire on the current situation of the systems of technical and vocational education and training in their countries and to return it in due time prior to the workshop date.

Session: **"Vocational Training Systems in OIC Member Countries"**

Investing in human resources is of paramount importance to ensure our economy's sustainability and social development. In addition, having a job represents both a basic need and human right. Knowledge and skills are key factors in promoting integration into the professional life and staying longer in the labour market. In this sense, technical and vocational education and training institutions play an important role. Therefore, their reputation as quality institutions depends largely on ensuring to the community and industries a well-qualified workforce. The workshop aims at highlighting the quality and effectiveness of vocational training systems in OIC Member Countries and their impact on the labour

market. Participants will have the opportunity to be well informed on Turkey's practices carried out in the field of technical and vocational education and training.

Group Work

Part I: Group Discussions

In the first part, there will be a group discussion on the following topics:

1. National qualification, accreditation, and certification framework,
2. The number of occupational standards and modular training programmes
3. The relation between vocational training and labour market

For each sub-section, an expert-facilitator in the subject matter will lead the session and the debates. Country representatives will have the opportunity to share their views and put forward their proposals concerning the topic under review.

Plenary Session

Part II– Working Group Conclusions and Propositions

In the Plenary session, the rapporteur will summarize the panel discussion on each topic and will present proposals set forth by the group for promoting technical and vocational education and training systems.

4- Time and Venue

The workshop will take place in Ankara, and will be held over two days and a half.

During the first two days, the workshop will start at 9:00 AM and will finish at 18.00PM, and will finish in the last half-day at 12 AM.

5- Date

The workshop will be held on 11-13 May 2016.

6- Language

The workshop will proceed in three languages: Arabic, English and French. Simultaneous translations in the three languages will be provided.

7- Documents

The documents to be distributed to the participants are as follows:

- Concept Note
- Survey Form
- Programme
- Workshop Evaluation Questionnaire
- Participation Certificate

8- Workshop Participants

Senior officials in charge of Technical and Vocational Education in the Ministries of Education of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member Countries will be invited to the workshop. The goal is to reach a total participation of 57 OIC Member Country. The delegations will consist of one person. Apart from representatives, countries, officials and experts from various international and non-governmental organizations will be also invited. The list of expected participants is as follows:

- keynote speakers and experts
- international organisations : ILO, UNDP, UNESCO, ITC
- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Bodies : OIC General Secretariat, ISESCO, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), ICYF-DC, Islamic University of Uganda, Islamic University of Niger, International Islamic University of Malaysia.
- Representatives of non-governmental organisations and competent government bodies: TOBB, MYK, İSMEK, İŞKUR, MEB Mesleki Teknik Eğitim, TİKA, Ulusal Ajans.

9- Outcomes and Follow-up

The workshop will shed light on the current situation of Technical and Vocational Education systems in the Member Countries. This will allow, on the one hand, the start of the necessary preliminary works with a view to develop the strategy document for vocational training and, on the other hand, to work out national collaborative projects according to the countries' needs.

At the end of the workshop, what would be ideal is to be able to create working groups, identify tasks to be completed and develop a work plan.

a. Short-term Outcomes :

- Preparing and disseminating a report containing the workshop results
- Preparing a strategy document for technical and vocational education and training development road map.

b. Long-term Outcomes:

- Preparing a strategy document for technical and vocational education and training development and developing a work plan.
- Carrying out an exchange project in the field of technical and vocational training
- Developing other projects in the field of technical and vocational education and training such as: Developing a directory of vocations and professionals of OIC member countries and a project to raise awareness on the importance of vocational training, etc.

10- Workshop Partners

The workshop will be jointly organized by SESRIC, IDB, TIKa and GED.