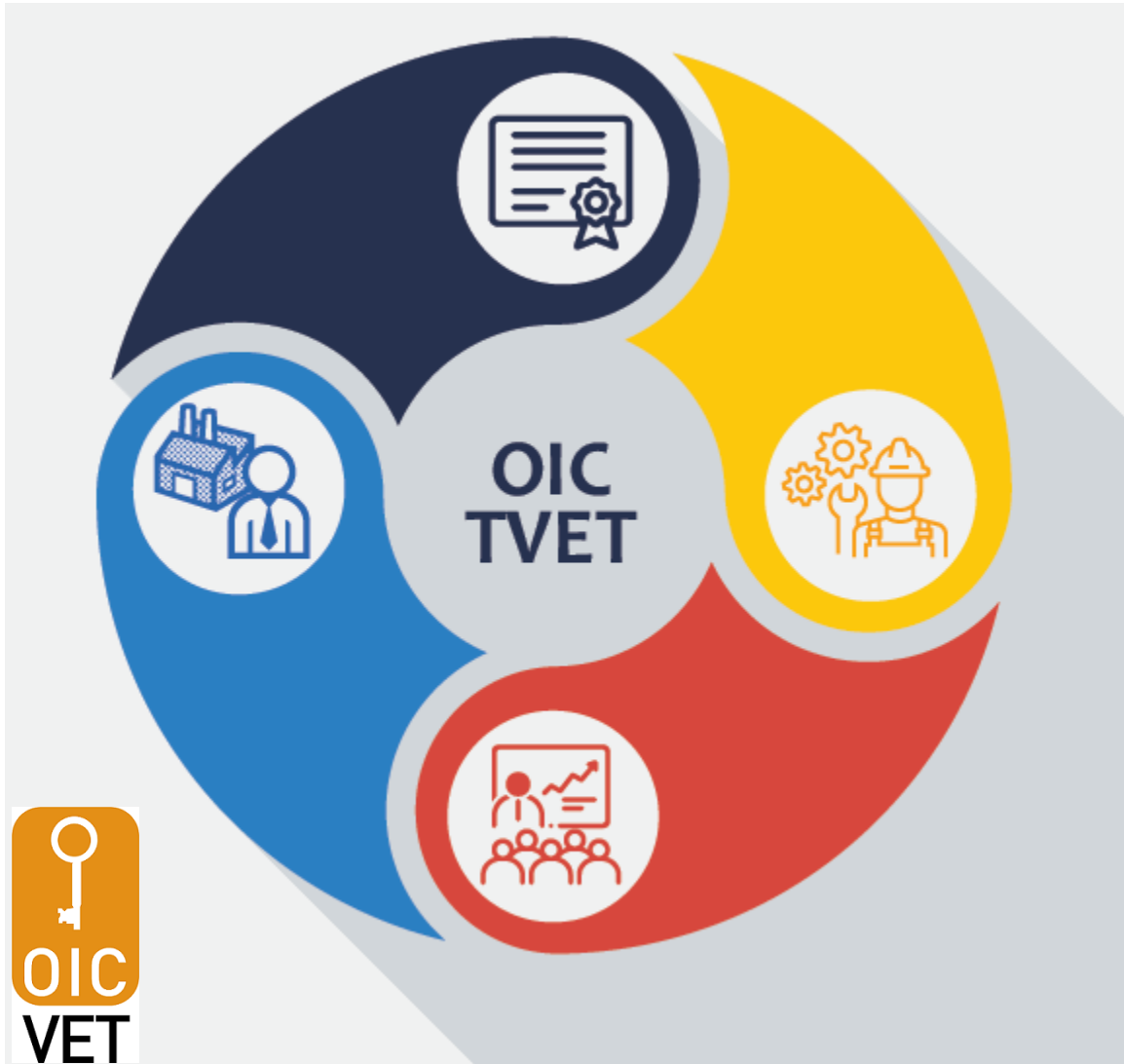


PROGRESS REPORT

Towards the Implementation of The OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025



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**PROGRESS REPORT
ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE OIC-TVET STRATEGIC ROADMAP
2020-2025
SUBMITTED TO
37th MEETING OF THE
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE OF THE COMCEC**

08-09 June 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) was launched at the COMCEC Economic Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 9 November 2009. The Programme aims at supporting and contributing to the efforts of the OIC Member States towards addressing the challenges and limitations in the field of technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

Taking into account the importance of TVET in the development of the OIC Member States' economies, the Workshop on "Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the OIC Member States: Needs and Capacity Assessment" held in Ankara, Turkey on 09-11 May 2016, recommended the preparation of a Strategic Roadmap for TVET to improve the quality of TVET programmes in the OIC Member States and further synergize and coordinate Intra-OIC efforts by developing innovative, effective and efficient actions for teaching and learning in TVET sector.

In this context, SESRIC and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) coordinated the preparation of the "OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025" in collaboration with TVET authorities of OIC Member States through four thematic working group meetings and two consecutive workshops organised by SESRIC during the period 2017-2018. The Strategic Roadmap was submitted to the 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, which was held on 25-28 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, for the consideration of the Member States. Accordingly, the Ministerial Session welcomed the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025 and requested SESRIC, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap and submit the progress report to the COMCEC Sessions and the Follow-up Committee Meetings.

Subsequently, SESRIC convened the Sixth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme on 19-20 December 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, where the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme, as well as representatives of the relevant OIC institutions, attended the meeting. The meeting discussed and agreed on the modalities of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, as well as the mechanism of its implementation for the upcoming five years.

Against this backdrop, this progress report provides a summary of the activities undertaken within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme towards the implementation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025. The report covers the period starting from the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC, which was held virtually on 25-26 November 2020 until the 37th Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of the COMCEC that will take place virtually 08-09 June 2021.

The reporting period falls under the times when holding on-site activities through gathering participants is almost impossible and carries significant risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its unpredictable consequences. Despite all challenges, SESRIC, in its capacity as the Executing Organ of the OIC-VET Programme, exerted all efforts and utilised digital platforms to carry out its planned capacity building activities with special emphasis on relevant topics during these exceptional times for skill development and vocational education. Therefore, an array of productive activities has been conducted virtually towards the implementation of the OIC-TVET

Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, with a view to supporting and supplementing the efforts of TVET authorities of the OIC Member States in facing this global crisis and strengthening TVET systems in their respective countries. In addition, the Centre has also planned various activities to be conducted virtually during the second half of the year in an effort to increase knowledge and expertise exchange among the TVET institutions.

In the light of the above, the activities are presented in this report under two main categories: “Implemented Activities” and “Planned Activities” as follows:

A. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES (December 2020-June 2021)

1. Workshop on “Emerging Challenges in TVET Sector and Capacity Development Trends in OIC Member States”

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

The general objectives of the Workshop were to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practices among the TVET authorities in the OIC Member States with regard to the new trends in TVET teacher education and capacity development. In addition, 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. It also aimed at promoting cooperation possibilities in these areas among TVET authorities in the OIC Member States.

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 States, including Bangladesh, Cameroon, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Tunisia, and Turkey, 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.

The Workshop brought together 72 TVET professionals from 26 different OIC Member States, namely, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, and Turkmenistan. 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 for intra-OIC collaboration and knowledge exchange towards building resilient systems to achieve relevant objectives of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025.

2. Webinar on “Strengthening Private Sector Involvement in Skills Development”

Many countries worldwide, including the OIC Member States, depend mainly on state provision for skills development, which presents various challenges for state-run TVET institutions in accommodating the quality, quantity and range of training activities needed. In addition, state provision often suffers from weaknesses due to a lack of adequate policies, coordination mechanisms, and sustainable financing, which lead to skills mismatch and hinder economic growth.

On the other hand, labour market conditions for youth in the OIC Member States are not exceptionally promising. High unemployment, low labour force participation and underutilised entrepreneurship skills constitute a set of challenges for youth. Current and prospective challenges of youth unemployment in the OIC Member States require comprehensive action by involving all key stakeholders, including governments, private sectors, educational institutions and civil society organizations.

In this connection, and to highlight the crucial role of the private sector in skills development, SESRIC organised a Webinar on “Strengthening Private Sector Involvement in Skills Development” on 11 February 2021. 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’s main objectives were to 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 more outstanding communication between TVET Institutions and industries towards labour market responsive skills development.

Senior-level panellists representing the aforementioned national, international and OIC institutions that play essential roles in public-private partnerships for skills development shared their recommendations on building more resilient, equitable and labour market-responsive TVET systems in the OIC Member States.

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

Considering the significant role women entrepreneurs play in producing jobs, wealth, poverty reduction, human and nation's development, especially in developing countries, 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 the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of experts and executives from the Ministry of Labour and Public Service of the Republic 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 the Republic of Cameroon, the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training and Handicrafts of Senegal.

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. The course provided insights into various business tools such as Business Model Canvas (BMC) and market research techniques to better understand demand-supply scenarios, competition, market structures and economic trends needed for women entrepreneurs to launch and operate their businesses successfully.

4. 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 following an online competency-based approach that includes pre-recorded videos and live practical demonstrations from a TVET Institution in Turkey.

The ToT course aimed to support and contribute to the efforts of the national TVET institutions of the OIC Member States 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.

Over the course of five days, the ToT course mainly covered the following topics: Hotel Departments, Front Office and Housekeeping Department, Processes in Guest Relations, Cleaning Procedures as well as Office Works and Laundry.

Although this activity was planned to take place physically in 2020 due to its practical nature, the methods followed during the virtual training and the live demonstrations helped the participants have a fruitful experience and better understanding of the tourism and hospitality services. Nearly 50 trainers from national TVET institutions of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, The Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Suriname, Tunisia and Turkmenistan benefited from this virtual ToT and gained insights on Turkey's experience towards the enhancement of their already existing expertise in the field in line with the objectives of Cooperation Area 2 (TVET Teacher Education) of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025.

5. 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 national TVET Institutions of 25 OIC Member States, namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, The Gambia, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights on the development of e-learning content by using appropriate information and communication technologies (ICT) in the field of technical and vocational education. It also aimed to introduce the most recent trends and approaches in designing and developing an effective e-learning curriculum and relevant e-materials.

Considering the sudden shift to digital platforms due to the global crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse impact on the education sector worldwide, many educational facilities in the OIC Member States, including TVET institutions, were obliged to adapt to the new norms and deliver their services online, which in turn required relevant adjustments to their curricula and learning materials to better fit the new circumstances. In this sense, this training course highlighted the importance of developing an e-learning curriculum and relevant e-materials and equipped the participants with the required knowledge to adjust their existing programmes to meet the requirements of the new digital era.

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

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme, SESRIC, in cooperation with the Regional Educational Center 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 main objective of the training course was to provide insights on how to generate business ideas in line with labour market needs and present 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.

Taking into account the importance of developing entrepreneurial skills, especially among the vulnerable groups, and its impact on a country’s economy and sustainable development, this training course assisted young people and women to enhance their perception regarding the establishment of small scale income-generating projects that would contribute to achieving their financial independence and would help alleviate poverty.

B. PLANNED ACTIVITIES (June-November 2021)

1. Training Course on “Developing of Occupational Standards, Qualifications and Skills Assessment Materials”

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC will organise a Training Course on “Developing of Occupational Standards, Qualifications and Skills Assessment Materials” on 28 June – 01 July 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course will be provided by competent experts from the National Center for Training of Trainers and Training Engineering (CENAFFIF) of Tunisia for the benefit of experts and executives from national TVET Institutions in the OIC Member States.

The main objective of the training course is to provide insights into the practices of developing occupational standards. In addition, the training course aims to provide an overview of the utilisation of occupational standards in designing TVET programmes and vocational qualifications. It will also focus on the materials and techniques used in skills assessment and qualifications in the TVET sector.

2. Webinar on “Distance Education and E-Learning in TVET”

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC will organise a Webinar on “Distance Education and E-Learning in TVET” on 09 August 2021. The event will be live-streamed and recorded on SESRIC’s YouTube Channel.

The Webinar aims to bring together panellists from TVET authorities of Turkey, Malaysia, Tunisia, and Pakistan as well as relevant TVET institutions in the OIC Member States to discuss and share their country experience and best practices on current trends related to distance education and e-learning in TVET, including e-learning strategies, the role of ITC in TVET and the current challenges faced by the OIC countries, e-learning outcomes, the role of e-learning in rapidly changing skills demand, and the promotion of lifelong learning.

3. Training Workshop on “Developing Strategies on Enhancing Public Perception of TVET”

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC will organise a Training Workshop on “Developing Strategies on Enhancing Public Perception of TVET” on 31 August - 02 September 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The competent experts will provide the training workshop from the TVET institutions of Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia for the benefit of experts and executives from national TVET institutions in the OIC Member States.

The Training Workshop aims to bring together participants from the national TVET Institutions of the OIC Member States to address the challenges faced by TVET learners and discuss ways and means of raising awareness on public perception of TVET. The Training Workshop aims to provide insights into how to develop strategies at the national level that help enhancing the image of TVET and highlight the importance of this sector for the economy and sustainable development.

4. Training Workshop on “Strengthening Institutional Capacities on Vocational Qualifications”

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC will organise a Training Workshop on “Strengthening Institutional Capacities on Vocational Qualifications” on 20-23 September 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshops will be provided by competent experts from the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey for the benefit of experts and executives from national TVET Institutions of OIC Member States.

The training workshop aims at supporting TVET authorities' efforts in developing mechanisms that enhance vocational qualifications according to labour market needs and in line with different sectors' evolvments.