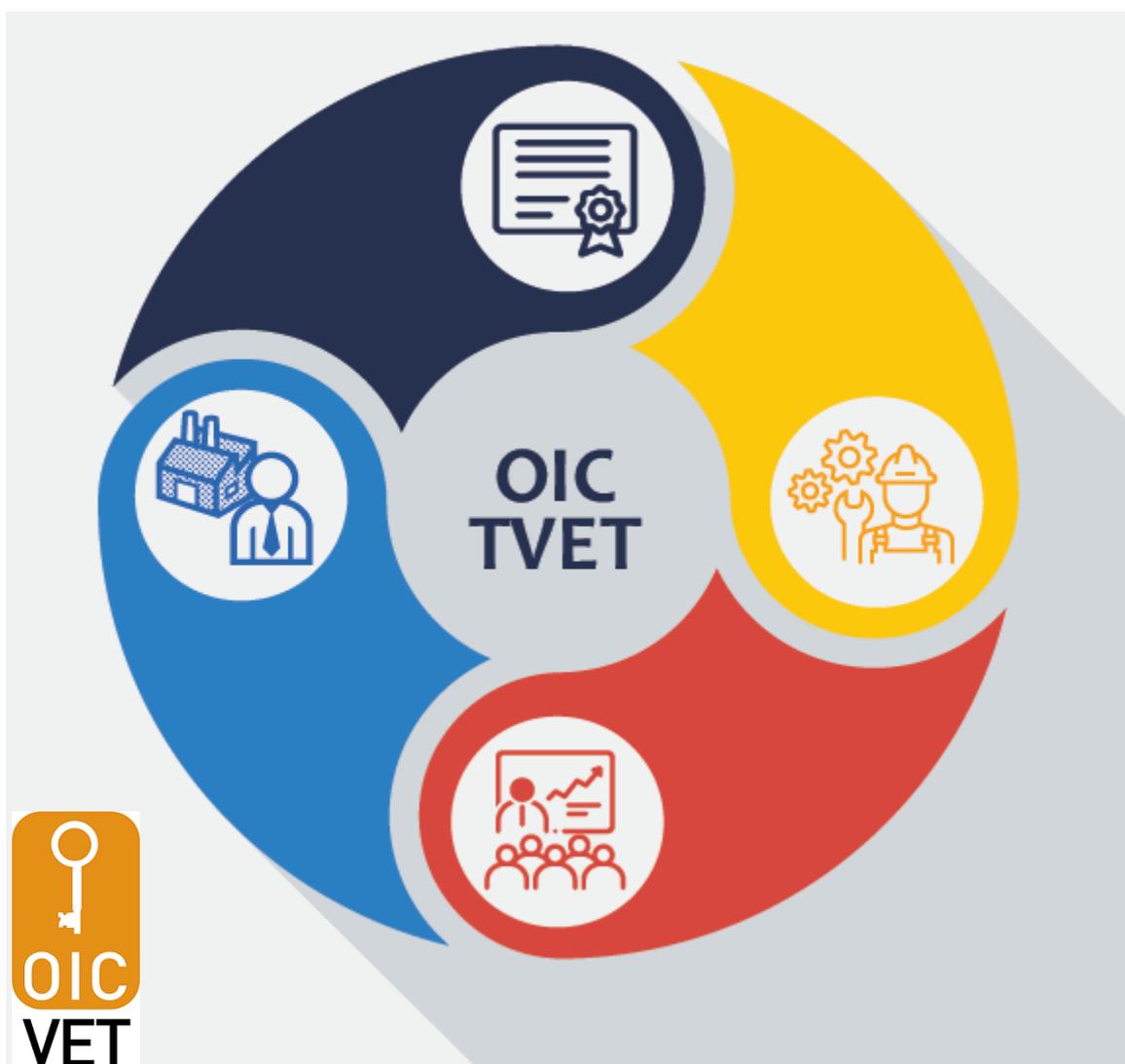


PROGRESS REPORT

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**

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INTRODUCTION

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET Programme) 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 Member States' economies, the Workshop on "Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in OIC Member Countries: 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 Member States and further synergize and coordinate Intra-OIC efforts by developing innovative, effective and efficient actions for teaching and learning, in both formal and informal TVET sectors.

In this context, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) have 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 organized 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. The 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC 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 within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme.

Against this backdrop, SESRIC convened the Sixth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme in Istanbul, Turkey on 19-20 December 2019 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.

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 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC which took place on 25-28 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey until the 36th Session of the COMCEC that will take place virtually on 23-26 November 2020.

The reporting period was characterized by the efforts of the TVET Authorities of the OIC member countries to respond to the negative impacts of the unprecedented global crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is unfortunate that the education sector in OIC member countries has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic putting millions of learners out of education. This unprecedented situation has affected learning at all levels, including initial and continuing TVET systems causing disruptions in the provision of training. Despite these challenging circumstances, the following activities were carried out within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme.

1. Sixth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme

Upon the welcoming of the Roadmap by the 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC in November last year, SESRIC, in its capacity as the executing body of the OIC-VET Programme, invited the representatives of the National Focal Points and the relevant OIC Institutions to the “Sixth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-VET Programme” which took place in Istanbul, Turkey on 19-20 December 2020.

The overall objective of the meeting was to discuss the modalities of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, work out the mechanism for the implementation for the upcoming five years, and develop tangible projects and activities to be executed in the short run. The Meeting highlighted the importance of achieving the goals set out in the Roadmap in the following cooperation areas:

1. Legislative Framework, Governance and Promotion
2. TVET Teacher Education
3. Occupational Standards and Qualification & Quality Assurance System
4. Certification and Modular Training Programs

The meeting was attended by the representatives of the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme and relevant OIC Institutions as follows:

OIC Member States: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey and Turkmenistan.

OIC Institutions: The General Secretariat of the OIC, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC).

Implementation Work Plan

During the Meeting, an Implementation Work Plan was adopted which included a number of activities that are planned to be realised within the timeframe of the Roadmap in collaboration with various OIC institutions and the OIC Member States.

The main aim of the Implementation Work Plan 2020-2025 was to achieve the objectives defined at the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap by 2025 at OIC level through encouraging and promoting partnership in order to facilitate its implementation by all OIC member countries.

In this context, the following guiding principles for successful implementation of the Roadmap were identified:

- Strong commitment on the implementation of OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap by OIC Member States
- Facilitating exchange of documents, data, knowledge, information, reports, and tools in the field

- Mobilizing expertise and resources
- Strengthening partnerships with TVET Institutions
- Full involvement in the activities as country/ institution as coordinator or collaborator

SESRIC was requested to report the progress of the Implementation Work Plan in collaboration with the National Focal Points of the OIC-VET Programme and report it regularly to the Ministerial Sessions of the COMCEC and other relevant Ministerial Meetings.

2. SESRIC's Planned Training of Trainers (ToT) Courses for 2020

Following the adoption of the Implementation Work Plan for the period 2020-2025, SESRIC, in collaboration with the relevant TVET authorities of the OIC Member States, identified the following three Training of Trainers (ToT) courses to be conducted during the period under consideration for the benefit of trainers from the three geographical regions of the OIC:

- 1- Training of Trainers Course on "Tourism and Hospitality Services"
- 2- Training of Trainers Course on "Furniture and Interior Design"
- 3- Training of Trainers Course on "Textile Technology"

These three Training of Trainers (ToT) courses were planned to be implemented in collaboration with the Directorate General of Vocational and Technical Education of the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey where all necessary preparations for realising these activities were made in early 2020. However, due to the outbreak of the Pandemic and the restrictions on international travel, these activities could not yet be realised and had to be postponed to later dates.

Since these are hands-on training courses and thus require on-site participation, it wasn't possible to implement them through the virtual learning platforms, as the other capacity building activities. Therefore, and in consultation with the relevant beneficiary and provider TVET institutions in the OIC Member States, SESRIC decided to postpone these activities to 2021, trusting that the travel restrictions would ease off to realize them in a more convenient time and setting.

3. Webinar on "Best Practices of TVET Centres amid the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Within the framework of the OIC-VET programme, SESRIC organised a Webinar on "Best Practices of TVET Centres amid the COVID-19 Pandemic" on 25 June 2020. High-level representatives of national TVET authorities from different OIC Member States namely; Jordan, Malaysia, Nigeria and Turkey shared their institutions' best practices and success stories during the pandemic.

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.

On a positive note, it was 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

panel discussions highlighted 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 Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) as an emergency response. Panellists also discussed their countries' efforts in devising 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.

In this connection, the Webinar facilitated knowledge exchange among TVET policy-makers and stakeholders and highlighted the important roles played by TVET Centres in supporting the national emergency response policies of their home countries. Furthermore, the Webinar aimed at strengthening partnerships and promoting solidarity among the relevant national institutions in the field of education and skills development to overcome the obstacles caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

4. Project Proposal Titled “Strengthening the Continuing Education for TVET Teachers to Improve the Quality of TVET Education”

Within the scope of the 8th Call of the COMCEC Project Funding (CPF), SESRIC proposed a project titled “Strengthening the Continuing Education for TVET Teachers to Improve the Quality of TVET Education”. In this context, and in collaboration with the Directorate General of Vocational and Technical Education of the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey, SESRIC developed a project consisting of a training course for the benefit of the TVET institutions of the OIC Member States as well as a study visit titled “Building bridges between TVET institutions and the relevant sectors of the labour market”.

Taking into consideration the importance of establishing strong ties between TVET authorities and various sectors of the labour market, the main objective of the project is to give insights into Turkey's successful experience in linking TVET authorities with the relevant industries that will help TVET teachers upgrade their knowledge and skills according to the labour market needs. This will consequently contribute to the achievement of the relevant cooperation areas of the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025 through improving the TVET Teacher Training and education system as well as taking a step further towards increasing the employment opportunities for TVET graduates in the OIC Member States.

The planned activities under this project will provide a theoretical understanding of the relationship between TVET authorities and decision-makers with various industries through the training course, and later on it will be supported with a study visit to enhance the participating TVET teachers' acquired skills through experiencing in-the-field observations and consolidating their attained perception on the topic.

5. Training Course on “Skills and Entrepreneurship Development”

SESRIC organised an online training course on “Skills and Entrepreneurship Development” on 08-17 July 2020 for the benefit of participants from the Ministry of Employment, Vocational Training and Handicrafts, the Ministry of Civil Service and Public Service Renewal, and the Ministry of Labour, Social Dialogue, Professional Organizations and Relations with the Institutions of Senegal. The training course was provided by experts from the National Agency for Employment and Independent Work (ANETI) of Tunisia.

The course mainly covered the following topics: skills development plan, role of training in the development of know-how, training as a tool for human capital development, and entrepreneurial spirit. Topics of which contribute to the achievement of various cooperation areas of the Roadmap and increase awareness on the entrepreneurial skill development towards better employment opportunities.

6. OIC-VET Programme Identified as a Good Practice for Sustainable Development

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) has been published as a solution towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4) on Quality Education at the “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development-Volume 3” publication by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

The published report focused on the challenges that face the TVET systems particularly in the OIC region and the establishment of the OIC-VET Programme as a solution that supplements the international efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs, primarily goal 4 “Quality Education”.

The OIC-VET Programme was highlighted considering its important role in scaling up South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC and TrC), and knowledge exchange through innovative and holistic approaches among the relevant national TVET authorities of the Member States. Special emphasis was given to the Roadmap of the programme and the activities listed under the Implementation Work Plan which embrace the fundamentals of SSC such as mutual understanding, exchange of expertise and experiences, peer-to-peer learning and capacity development.