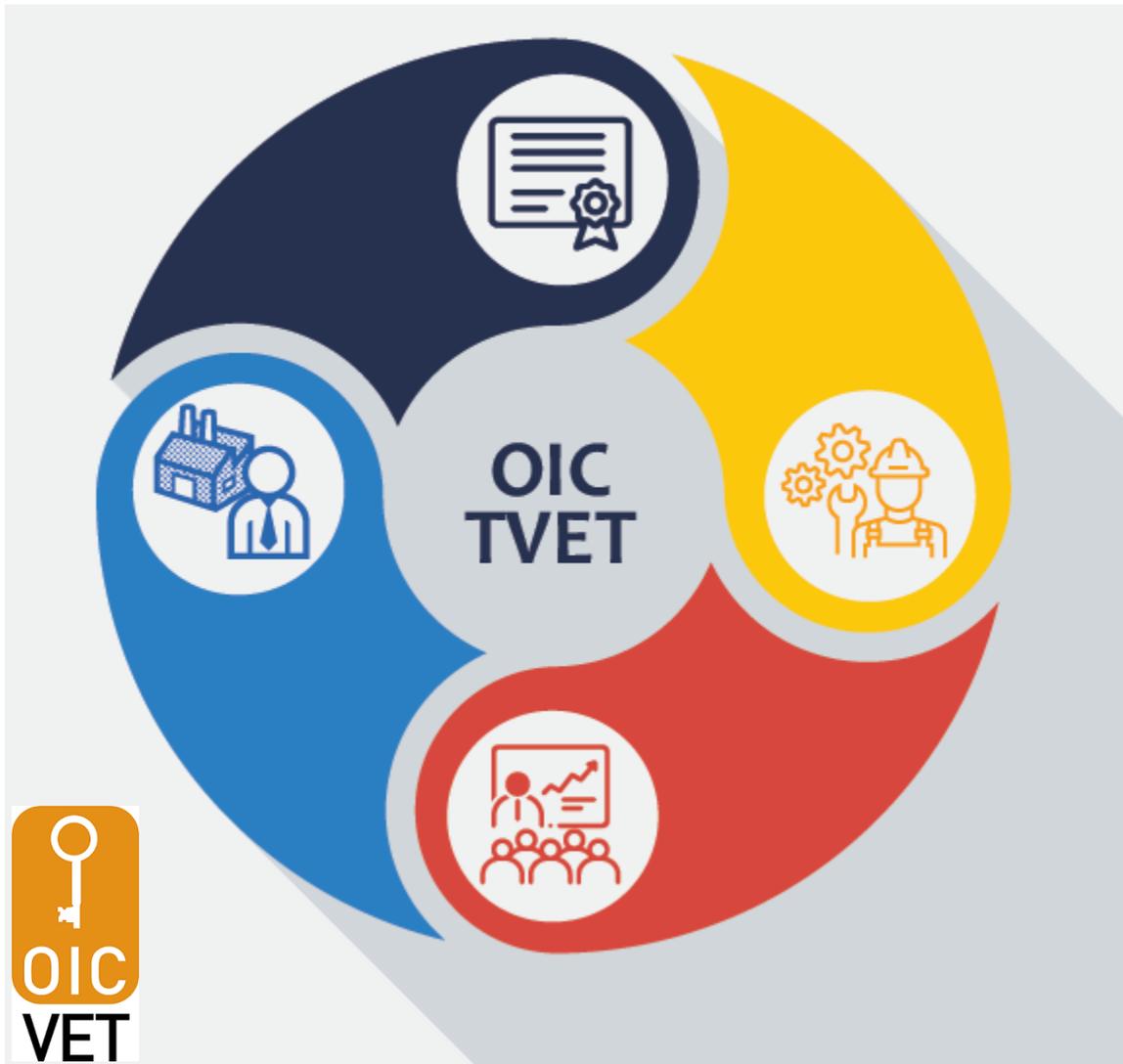


PROGRESS REPORT

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



**STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES
(SESRIC)**



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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 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 countries 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 countries' economies, the Workshop on "Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the 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 OIC member countries 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 countries 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 countries. 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 Ministerial Session of the COMCEC that will take place virtually on 22-25 November 2021.

The reporting period falls under the times when holding on-site activities through gathering participants is almost impossible and carries 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 particular 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 countries in facing this global crisis and strengthening TVET systems in their respective countries.

The implemented activities during the period under consideration are as follows:

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES (December 2020-November 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 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 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 countries.

During the Workshop, keynote presentations were delivered by distinguished speakers representing four International and OIC institutions, namely; UNESCO-UNEVOC, ILO, Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and SESRIC. Country experiences and good practices were also shared by representatives of TVET institutions from nine different OIC member countries, namely 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 73 TVET professionals from 26 different OIC member countries. The 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.

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

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 countries.

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 34 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 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.

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. 49 trainers from national TVET institutions of 20 OIC member countries 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 93 experts and executives from national TVET Institutions of 25 OIC member countries.

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 countries, 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 31 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.

7. 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 organised a Training Course on “Developing of Occupational Standards, Qualifications and Skills Assessment Materials” on 30 June - 07 July 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the National Training Centre for Training of Trainers and Training Engineering of the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of 89 experts and executives from the TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions of 21 OIC member countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights into the concepts and practices of developing occupational standards as well as the utilisation of occupational standards in designing vocational qualifications and TVET programmes. The course also focused on the materials, guidelines and techniques used for the assessment of vocational qualifications and skills.

This activity was designed in view of highlighting the importance of occupational standards as well as the related training standards and assessments for human capital development. Hence, the significant contribution of occupational standards in designing high-quality vocational education and training programmes stands as a key factor in ensuring direct linkage with the needs of the workplace and the labour market.

8. 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 organised a Training Workshop on “Developing Strategies on Enhancing Public Perception of TVET” on 21-23 September 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Technical and Vocational Education Training Division of the Ministry of Education Malaysia for the benefit of 108 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 26 OIC member countries.

The training workshop brought together participants from the national TVET Authorities of the OIC member countries to discuss the multi-dimensional reasons adversely influencing the image of TVET amongst the public and consider ways and means of improving the public perception of TVET. The training also provided insights into various strategies and practices that help enhance the image of TVET at national levels by highlighting the importance of ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality TVET for all.

It is undeniable that TVET plays a vital role in sustainable socio-economic development. However, the poor quality of TVET provision, weak linkages with stakeholders, social stigma, cultural barriers, and lack of qualified and competent teachers are considered among various multi-dimensional reasons behind the negative perception of TVET among the public. In this connection, this training workshop emphasised that TVET should be considered a viable educational option for a high quality of education, occupational career development and requirements of the labour market. Furthermore, the training workshop highlighted that efforts towards increasing the status and attractiveness of TVET would certainly help enhance the public perception of TVET.

9. Online Experience Sharing Programme on “Vocational Qualifications System in National Statistical Offices”

Within the framework of the OIC-VET Programme as well as SESRIC’s Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, SESRIC organised an Online Experience Sharing Programme on “Vocational Qualifications System in National Statistical Offices” on 12-13 October 2021 for the benefit of 6 participants from the General Authority of Statistics (GASTAT) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the online experience sharing programme, experts from the Vocational Qualifications Authority (MYK) of the Republic of Turkey shared their knowledge and best practices with a special emphasis on the following topics:

- Occupational Standards & Vocational Qualifications
 - Preparation of Occupational Standards & Vocational Qualifications
 - Quality Assurance of Occupational Standards & Vocational Qualifications
- Testing and Certification Activities