

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Jordan Hosts High-Level Meeting of Arab Education and Labour Ministers**

AMMAN / DEAD SEA - Education and labour ministers from Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Tunisia, and senior representatives of the European Union (EU) will meet to work on solutions to youth unemployment. The meeting is hosted by the European Training Foundation (ETF), an agency of the EU, at the Moevenpick Hotel at the Dead Sea in Jordan on 25 September.

Unemployment and a lack of decent jobs has been the main issue causing revolts and instability across the Arab world. In Jordan, ministers and other senior officials and experts will discuss different approaches to tackling the job crisis and the role that education and training reform might play.

The scale of the current employment problem is exacerbated by fast population growth. Over 60 % of the population is under 30 years old. The number of young people in the region may well reach 100 million by 2020 – a great potential but a challenge at the same time.

The region tops the world's youth unemployment statistics, with peaks of over 30% in Algeria, the occupied Palestinian territory and Tunisia. University graduates are less likely to find jobs than other young people, which is a global anomaly. Only one in four women works - the world's lowest rate. At least 30 million young people - mostly unskilled or low-skilled - work in informal, poor quality jobs earning subsistence wages.

The data and analysis come from a new report (the Union for Mediterranean Employability Review) published by the European Training Foundation in September 2012. The document provides a number of policy recommendations on how to improve youth employment. The ETF advises measures both in education, especially to enhance vocational education and training, and in the labour market.

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**A press conference** is planned at Moevenpick Hotel, Dead Sea at 15h30 on 25 September

**More information** about the event and the reports: <http://ow.ly/dQQiC> (ETF website)

**Photos** from the meeting will be available at [www.etf.europa.eu](http://www.etf.europa.eu) on 25 September at 16:00.