



NEWSLETTER

The latest news from EU-GCC project

World

Youth Skills Day

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Editorial

In post-Covid-19 societies, as young people are called upon to contribute to the recovery effort, World Youth Skills Day calls attention to students' needs to be equipped with the skills to successfully manage evolving challenges and the resilience to adapt to future disruptions. The economic recovery from the crisis is an opportunity to accelerate reforms in education and training and strengthen their resilience notably by digitalising learning offers and methods and agile adaptation to changing labour market needs.

This edition of the Monthly Newsletter focuses on the programmes being implemented in the EU to adapting skills development systems to changes in the world economy triggered by the pandemic.

The pandemic has challenged all of us to not only imagine a new future but to work towards it.

*EU GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification Project
15th July 2020*



Commission launches Youth Employment Support: a bridge to jobs for the next generation



Young people deserve all possible opportunities to develop their full potential to shape the future of the EU and to thrive in the green and digital transitions. Young people often face a difficult start in the labour market, and this has been emphasised by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Commission is using this opportunity to ingrain the green and digital transitions in the DNA of the EU's youth and employment policies. With NextGenerationEU and the future EU budget, the Commission already proposed significant EU financing opportunities for youth employment. It is now for the Member States to prioritise these investments. At least €22 billion should be spent on youth employment support.

Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People, Valdis Dombrovskis, said: "It is more important than ever that we help the next generation of Europeans to thrive and get on the jobs ladder, especially at this time of crisis. We are proposing clear and specific ways forward for our young people to get the professional chances that they deserve. Today's proposals also set out what EU funding is available to support Member States in boosting youth employment. By investing in the youth of today, we will help to create a competitive, resilient and inclusive labour market for tomorrow." Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, said: "Now is the time to carry out much-needed reforms of the support measures we offer to young people. We owe it to the millions of graduates and those taking their early steps on the labour market to mobilise all the support we can. Our youth deserve the very best opportunities possible to develop their full potential."

For more information: file:///C:/Users/hp/Downloads/Youth_Employment_Support_factsheet_EN.pdf



The Youth Employment Support package is built around four strands that together provide a bridge to jobs for the next generation:

- The EU created the Youth Guarantee in 2013 and has since built bridges to the labour market for some 24 million young people. The Commission's proposal for a Council Recommendation on a **Bridge to Jobs** reinforces the Youth Guarantee and steps up the outreach to vulnerable young people across the EU, now covering people aged 15 - 29. The Recommendation keeps the pledge that if you sign up to the Youth Guarantee, you will receive an offer of employment, education, apprenticeship or training within four months. Bridge to Jobs will be more inclusive to avoid any forms of discrimination, with a wider outreach to more vulnerable groups, such as youth of racial and ethnic minorities, young people with disabilities, or young people living in some rural, remote or disadvantaged urban areas. It will link in with the needs of companies, providing the skills required - in particular those for the green and digital transitions - and short preparatory courses; and it will provide tailored counselling, guidance and mentoring.
- The Commission's proposal for a Council Recommendation on **vocational education and training** aims to make systems more modern, attractive, flexible and fit for the digital and green economy. More agile, learner-centred vocational education and training will prepare young people for their first jobs and gives more adults opportunities to enhance or change their careers. It will help vocational education and training providers to become centres of vocational excellence, while supporting diversity and inclusiveness.
- A **renewed impetus for apprenticeships** will benefit both employers and young people, adding a skilled labour force to a wide range of sectors. The European Alliance for Apprenticeships has made available more than 900,000 opportunities. The renewed Alliance will promote national coalitions, support SMEs and reinforce the involvement of social partners: trade unions and employers' organisations. The goal is to sustain the apprenticeship offers now, as apprentices we train now will be highly skilled workers in a few years' time.
- Additional **measures to support youth employment** include employment and start-up incentives in the short term, and capacity building, young entrepreneur networks and inter-company training centres in the medium term.

The EU is helping Member States tackle this challenge head-on by proposing:



Commission presents European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience

The European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience sets ambitious, quantitative objectives for upskilling (improving existing skills) and reskilling (training in new skills) to be achieved within the next 5 years. Its 12 actions focus on skills for jobs by partnering up with Member States, companies and social partners to work together for change, by empowering people to embark on lifelong learning, and by using the EU budget as a catalyst to unlock public and private investment in people's skills.

The aim is to ensure that the right to training and lifelong learning, enshrined in the European Pillar of Social rights, becomes a reality all across Europe. Businesses need workers with the skills required to master the green and digital transitions, and people need to be able to get the right education and training to thrive in life.

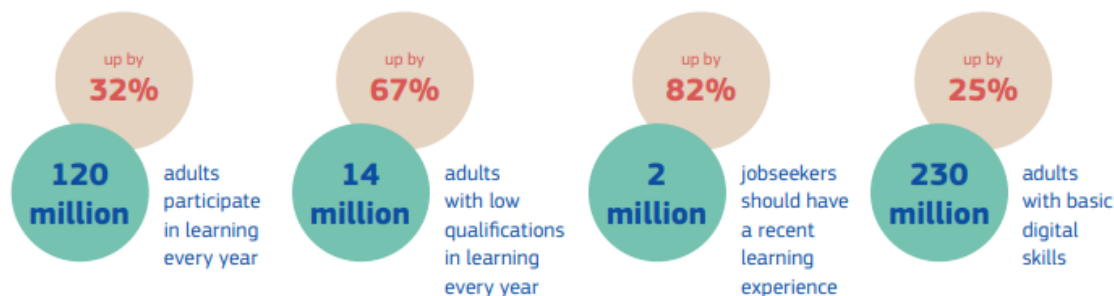
Skills for jobs in a green and digital economy

The green and digital transitions as accompanied by demographic trends are transforming how we live, work and interact. We want to ensure people have the skills they need to thrive. The coronavirus pandemic has accelerated these transitions and brought new career challenges for many people in Europe. In the aftermath of the crisis, many Europeans will need to retrain in a new skill or improve their existing skills to adapt to the changed labour market.

The Skills Agenda is composed by 12 “actions”.

1. A Pact for Skills
2. Strengthening skills intelligence
3. EU support for strategic national upskilling action
4. Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Vocational Education and Training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience
5. Rolling out the European universities initiative and upskilling scientists
6. Skills to support the green and digital transitions
7. Increasing STEM graduates and fostering entrepreneurial and transversal skills
8. Skills for Life
9. Initiative on Individual Learning Accounts
10. A European approach to micro-credentials
11. New Europass Platform
12. Improving the enabling framework to unlock Member States' and private investments in skills

Over the next five years, Europe should see:



For more information: file:///C:/Users/hp/Downloads/SkillsAgenda_2July_EN.pdf





Bahrain plans to empower Youth

The Kingdom of Bahrain has launched several initiatives addressing educational, training and vocational issues with the aim of empowering the youth.

*Investing in the quality of human capital by enhancing productivity, **skills** and employability of **Bahraini youth**.*

Digital Empowerment in Education

The digital empowerment in education in Bahrain starts in very early stages at schools' curriculum in which Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is used as tools and learning courses. Digital empowerment in education aims to prepare a technology-ready human capital and enable students, teachers, and workers in the educational sectors to get on-going learning on using ICT for development whether in education or in other aspects of life, in order to build national capacities that can produce digital educational content.

Qudurat Training Program

A national eGovernment capacity building and training program in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It was introduced by Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) as a strategic objective to bridge the digital gap in interacting with ICT for the eGovernment service. It has added also to the national education strategy by upscaling the ICT skills of the Bahraini citizens, increasing the country's e-Literacy rates as well as e-Maturity indices.

Tamkeen

The Labor Fund or Tamkeen is a public authority established as one of the cornerstones of Bahrain's national reform initiatives and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 to support the private sector and reinforce its role as key player in the national development. With its unique business model, Tamkeen generate the labor fund from the

private sector and re-inject it into the market as Professional Certifications, Training and Wage Subsidy program, and business startups support programs.

This model ensures the sustainability of the skills and economic development of the country and to be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Youth City 2030

Youth City 2030 is a multi-skills development initiative by the Ministry of Youth & Sport Affairs. It is a yearly summer camp aiming to promote innovative ideas and encourage a sense of creativity amongst Bahraini children and youth to foster a bright future for the nation's Youth. The City holds workshops and hands-on training to reinforce talent in areas such as leadership, media, information technology, arts, languages, science, and s

Techno Preneur Bahrain

Bahrain Development Bank and the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) has launched the first batch of Techno preneur Bahrain, a holistic development program jointly initiated by the (iGA) and (BDB) with the aim to support and facilitate the growth of the (ICT) sector in Bahrain. Technopreneur Bahrain offers entrepreneurs with a technological focus with a comprehensive platform that includes capacity building, coaching, mentorship, and funding and other services to support the development of their (ICT) concepts and transform them into commercial business ventures.



Accepted candidates are offered a placement into the program which follows the following route turning their (ICT) ideas and dreams into a reality. Candidates will have the opportunity to be coached and mentored by professional certified Coaches by (CMI), UK and will be offered a specialized capacity building program conducted by a team of professional trainers. In addition to linking them to a network with experienced mentors and gurus within the (ICT) industry and related business fields. They will also have personalized professional guidance on preparing business plan and other related business documents required for commercializing your (ICT) business idea and offered access to funding by the (iGA) & (BDB) to start their ideas.

Training and Manpower Development

Training and Development of Manpower Directorate was established by Royal Decree No. 65 of 2015 to reorganize Ministry of Labor and Social Development for restructuring the management of the fundamentals of developing the capabilities of national cadres, to be qualified cadres capable of competition and sustainability, in accordance with the requirements and needs of the actual labor market.

Types of training programs:

1 -Basic skills: This training programs designed to strengthen some of the basic skills and they are English, computer and mathematics and some professional certificates such as accounting, to provide the basic knowledge that will enable citizens to meet the requirements of employment and the requirements of working life, in terms of conduct and behavior within the company and to increase employment opportunities. This program also aims to bridge the gap between the level of candidates in terms of knowledge, skill, professional behavior and the level required to qualify for professional training.

2. Professional training programs: Professional programs aim to rehabilitate job seekers who are difficult to employ or do not have employment opportunities in the same fields of specialization. This requires a difficult task of rehabilitating university graduates in the required fields of specialization in the labor market, integrating them into jobs that provide them with a decent living. The aim of these programs is to provide job seekers with the professional skills required to perform their professional functions at the required level.

For more information:

- <https://www.tamkeen.bh/>
- https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal!/ut/p/a1/jdDfE4FAEfwv8VDr-3qqHg7TSlTwyByLybmHKY6k8ifLzz5Efbtdj7f2d0DBhGwLD7vRFzsZBYntzfTI-4Q9aZmagOchg7S4aTl-rZLcGxUYPEECLeroBsJY9bRdBP_y6MWWWE2vVYEgQKRmb-xPHQuXT_7M1xT9OX_CM5gDe2HvV9zBtzUfoH6PATCRyNX9Txc0WxFTAMv5huc8V0951d4WxeHYVVDsixVlaVluLqWqYKfllt5LCB6lnBlwzC6ePt2cvYpbTSuTGjY6Q!!/dI5/d5/L2dBISevZ0FBIS9nQSEh/
- https://www.bbicbahrain.com/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=946:the-launch-of-technopreneur-bahrain-a-national-initiative-towards-innovation&catid=14&Itemid=101&lang=en
- https://www.bahrain.bh/wps/portal!/ut/p/a1/lZJLU8lwFIX_iiy6LLIJ-nRXGUQZHg6l0myYptJySIRNB_b4BxhoUIZHeTc5Lv3hPE0BwxmWyrMtGVkonY18xbPI3BwyQg_YDOKERjrzMJu4B74BpBfCoASrt7gf_iv4XEC-A6P5BhBz87xj8cAKTBw2Tw-tgB6NFL_nFEEMukrvUSxbxU21o1OhELLI0QicwrWd7VSck3pqwKLpSpBU8aaQ721jqrchRj7uSE0MAOXYJtJwNshzgE28kLF0lv98Dzf1HPrOhiq1Muj7gXbnYQ_DeRo-A8R2xA_bMk5obpjZ33r0ix-livWWSyUFLzL43mt4ZhHimFSg-fl05kSgMTUMML3vCm_dmY7aXW9ebeAgt2u107NaZ2plYW_GVYqo1hONWhejWbrQL6bfe7xWhks9QV20HUav0A1Nlcw!!/dI5/d5/L2dBISevZ0FBIS9nQSEh/





Kuwait plans to empower Youth

The government has named the revitalisation of the education sector as one of the key pillars of New Kuwait 2035. It intends to advance this priority through a two-pronged approach: first, by introducing public sector reforms aimed at improving national standards of teaching, management and student assessment; and, second, by opening the sector to greater privatisation in order to meet growing demand for high-calibre education.

The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) is an academic institute in Kuwait, it is considered one of the largest institutes in the Middle East in terms of the number of enrolled students. The PAAET offers a wide variety of programs across its different colleges and training institutes. The goal of PAAET is to develop the national technical manpower and to meet human resource needs of the country through its two sectors: Education and Training and it provides training to students to have careers beyond the oil industry.

Post-secondary education comprises technical and vocational courses offered by PAAET and degree programs offered by Kuwait University, and 14 private universities. The Government of Kuwait is encouraging its citizens to opt for vocational training programs to fulfil the demand for a skilled workforce. Students enrolling for vocational training at PAAET can join programs after primary, intermediate or secondary school, although the majority of students, about 70 percent, are enrolled having completed secondary level education.

Post-secondary education include courses at a PAAET technical college lasting for two and a half years, following which the students receive a certificate that is less than a tertiary diploma, but does allow the graduates to enter the workforce.



Oman plans to empower Youth

National Youth Programme for Skills Development, Sultanate of Oman. The National Youth Programme for Skills Development is designed to make a significant difference with its vision to create a community of young Omanis ready to embrace and exploit the opportunities of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) for the benefit of Omani society - and for future economic prosperity.

Launched in 2018, the Programme targets Omani youth from all the governorates of the Sultanate aged between (15 - 29 years old); in order to qualify them with 4IR ethics, skills and knowledge and advanced technologies. The two main schemes in the programme are the Al Shabab and the Al Nashia Schemes.

Al Shabab Scheme

This Scheme targets the age group between 18-29 years old and is designed to give participants a unique educational experience to equip them with 4th Industrial Revolution skills, values and knowledge. It starts with a 3-month E-Learning Stage, where those who successfully complete the requirements are qualified to the Omani Youth Tech Ideathon to develop ideas for the startup technology projects; followed by the Applied Learning Stage within and outside the Sultanate to benefit from the successful international experience before they work on the establishment of their startup technology projects on the ground and presenting them to the investors.

Al Nashia Scheme

This Scheme targets the age group between 15-17 years old and is designed to give participants an impressive educational experience full of challenges and opportunities to provide them with the future skills; such as programming, robotics, computational thinking, digital media, digital citizenship and other 21st century skills; thus contributing to enhancing their creativity and self-confidence to go through the 4th Industrial Revolution and its applications on global levels.





DEVELOPING QATAR'S YOUTH FOR A DIGITAL FUTURE

In 2014 Qatar established the Ministry of Youth and Sports aimed at promoting young people and their talents and developing them in the realms of culture, science, and religion. Other youth-focused initiatives include:

- **Silatech** is working to foster entrepreneurship among Qatar's youth.
- **The Qatar Scientific Club (QSC)** has been significant in promoting learning and development in the fields of science and technology. QSC's mission is to promote scientific hobbies and activities among youth and assist them in their creativity until they are able to compete in the challenging digital world.
- Similarly, **Qatar National Robot Olympiad** is a program that seeks to boost interest in

science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through fun projects and competitions. The aim is ultimately to encourage and increase the number of students who choose such subjects in secondary school and at college. This initiative has seen tremendous growth and public support over the years.

- Further, Qatar Academy has integrated 21st-century learning into its curriculum. Technology is embedded in the learning environment to promote digital literacy and fluency and make learning mobile and ubiquitous.
- **Qatar Fund for Development** presents a lecture to introduce youth to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals



KSA plans to empower Youth

Saudi Arabia officially unveiled its ambitious economic plan, Vision 2030, in April 2016. As part of Vision 2030, the Saudi Arabian government has established a National Labour Gateway (TAQAT) program to expand entrepreneurial and vocational training programs to better exploit the growth opportunities offered by the young population. The opening of broader job and career opportunities through Vision 2030 initiatives aims to stimulate a significant shift in youth and female participation in vocational and technical education and in related occupations. The Ministry of Education is the key government agency with overall responsibility for the sector. Over the years, separate departments for higher education and education for women have been merged into the Ministry. The Training and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) is responsible for training. With colleges and institutions all across Saudi Arabia, TVTC caters

for more than 120,000 trainees in more than 100 locations. According to statistics from the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (2018), the percentage of students enrolling in technical college programs in 2017 increased by 17% from the previous year for 2-year technical diploma programs, by 23% for international technical colleges (excellence colleges), and by 20% for trainees in specialized institutes operated in partnership with the private sector.

The labour force participation rate among Saudi women has gradually increased from 14% in 1990 to 22% in 2017. Increasing enrolment rates of women in technical and vocational training and development has been a major goal of recent initiatives. Among the 15 million jobs that Saudi Arabia plans to create by 2030, women are expected to occupy 3.6 million of the 11 million positions reserved for nationals.

For more Information: https://www.motc.gov.qa/sites/default/files/developing_qatars_youth_for_digital_future.pdf
<https://silatech.org/qatar/>





UAE approves new strategy to develop advanced skills

The strategy is based on five key themes focussing on areas such as education, economy and the quality of life.

The UAE Cabinet has approved a new strategy that aims to develop advanced skills among nationals in the country. The Strategy for the Advanced Skills National Programme is part of plans to develop future skills in vital areas in the UAE.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said that the UAE is focussing on education as a top priority and on making it sustainable, diverse and adaptable to the requirements of future development plans.

“We want Emiratis to be prepared for the changes around us and equipped with advanced skills that maintain UAE’s competitive edge,” he said.

The strategy is based on five key themes and a number of initiatives focussing on areas such as education, economy and the quality of life.

- The first element includes the definition of advanced skills, identified through the study of international systems and models of advanced skills required in UAE’s government and job market, in collaboration with over 70 different entities.

A total of 12 different skills have been identified for the UAE in four main categories: basic skills, competencies, personal traits, and specialised skills.

- The second element includes advanced skills measurement tools, which will be done through a number of partnerships with international organisations, research institutions and academia to develop skills measurement mechanisms.
- The third element aims to identify the target groups. The national programme aspires to reach a number of target groups: students at various academic and academic levels, new graduates and employees in the public and private sectors.
- The fourth element includes policies and programmes to ensure the participation of stakeholders, and build strong partnerships with the private sector, as well as develop the content of educational and training programmes.
- The fifth element is to inspire the community by raising awareness of the importance of advanced skills and providing opportunities for all groups to acquire such skills and lead their own development through continuous learning.

The UAE Cabinet also adopted the formation of the Advanced Skills Council to oversee relevant policies, programmes and initiatives.

The council includes representatives from the ministries of Economy, Education, Human Resources and Emiratisation; the Federal Authority for Government Human Resources; the Federal Youth Authority; Advanced Sciences portfolio; Artificial Intelligence portfolio; the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge; and Dubai’s Knowledge and Human Development Authority.



EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification recent Activities

**INVESTMENT
PROMOTION
AGENCY**
OF QATAR

Webinar

Emerging investment opportunities and sectoral diversification in Qatar's Post-COVID Era.



H.E. Sheikh Ali Alwaleed Al-Thani



Mr. Alar Olljum

The EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification Project, the Investment Promotion Agency of Qatar (IPA Qatar) and the EU Delegation to Qatar, on Tuesday, June 30, co-hosted a special webinar on Qatar's economic and digital transformation in the COVID-19 recovery phase.

Co-chaired by IPA Qatar's CEO H.E. Sheikh Ali Alwaleed Al-Thani and the EU's Minister Counsellor to Qatar Mr. Alar Olljum, the event gave EU Missions and business associations representing EU countries in Qatar an outlook on emerging opportunities expected to shape the future of investments in the country. The webinar also announced the launch of the EU-Qatar Vision 2030 Technical Working Group to advance European institutions' role in driving Qatar's economic diversification in the Post-COVID Era.

Webinar | Abu Dhabi Value

July 2nd

Procurement-led localisation initiative

Abu Dhabi Local Content Program,
Mr. Khaled Mubarak Saeed
Industrial Development Department Director



برنامج أبوظبي للمحتوى المحلي
Abu Dhabi Local Content Program

For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1066



For more information, the editorial team suggests the links below:

European Union

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/?Page=1>

<https://ec.europa.eu/trade/trade-policy-and-you/publications/news-archive/>

Gulf Wide

<http://www.gdnonline.com/>

<http://gulfbusiness.com/>

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/gcc>

Bahrain

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/>

<http://www.bna.bh/en/index.aspx>

KSA

<http://www.arabnews.com/>

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/>

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/?lang=en>

Kuwait

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/>

<http://news.kuwaittimes.net/website/>

<https://www.kuna.net.kw/Default.aspx?language=en>

Oman

<https://timesofoman.com/>

<http://www.omanobserver.om/>

<https://www.muscatdaily.com/>

https://www.omannews.gov.om/ona_eng/#/home

UAE

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/>

<https://gulfnnews.com/>

<https://www.thenational.ae/>

<http://wam.ae/en>

Qatar

<https://www.qatarday.com/news-category/local>

<https://www.qatarliving.com/news>

<https://www.gulf-times.com/>

<https://www.thepeninsulaqatar.com/>



EU-GCC Dialogue on Economic Diversification

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As always, we welcome your feedback on the topics and sectors that interest you most and you would like to see covered in future editions of the newsletter.

lbenhmida@eugcc.eu
eugccdialogue@gmail.com



@DialogueEu eugccdialogue