

Final Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM)

Regional Forum

BIOS of Participants

Thursday, 15 July 2021 (10:30 – 13:30 UTC+1)

Aziza Nait Sibaha

Journaliste France 24



In charge of two emblematic France24 programmes, Aziza has interviewed more than 600 high-ranking personalities. Through her TV programmes, she has received heads of state, politicians, artists, economic stakeholders... A broad experience that makes her a seasoned interviewer and discussion moderator.

Costanza Farina

Director of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States

UNESCO Representative to Lebanon and Syria



Ms. Costanza Farina is the Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States and UNESCO Representative to Lebanon and Syria as of 31 March 2021. Ms. Farina was previously the UNESCO Representative in Jordan since February 2014. Before that, she was the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Jordan (July 2012 – January 2014). In over 30 years of professional career with the UN, Ms Farina notably served as Director a.i of the UNESCO Cluster Office in Qatar; UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Libya (2010-2011); Secretary of the Council with the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE) based in Geneva (2007-2010). She has had a long experience as UNESCO Representative in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and working with UNRWA for Palestine Refugees. Ms Farina holds a Master's degree in Oriental Languages and Cultures from the Istituto Universitario Orientale, Napoli, Italy.

Henrike Trautmann

Acting Director Near B. Neighbourhood South European Union

Ms. Henrike Trautmann is the Acting Director at Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission. She is also the Head of the Regional Programs and Cooperation Unit (DG NEAR B2) within this Directorate. She strongly supports sound and constructive policy dialogues in the Southern Neighborhood, as a prerequisite for building sustainable partnerships. As regards energy cooperation in the Mediterranean



area, she puts as a priority the development of comprehensive regulatory frameworks, the promotion of electricity interconnections, the massive deployment of renewables, energy efficiency measures in numerous economic sectors in order to gradually setup a reliable, integrated and efficient Mediterranean energy market. Henrike Trautmann, a historian by training, has worked in the European Commission for more than 25 years, focusing on external relations. She has dealt with Common Foreign and Security Policy, communication, humanitarian assistance and civil protection, as well with a number of policy files related to resilience building in fragile countries.

Borhene Chakroun

Director of the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO, HQ



Mr. Borhene Chakroun is an engineer and has a PhD in Education Sciences from Bourgogne University in France. Borhene worked, during the 1990s, as trainer, chief trainer, project manager. He has also worked as short-term consultant for the EU, World Bank and other international organisations before coming to the European Training Foundation (ETF) in 2001. At the ETF, Borhene worked as Senior Human Capital Development specialist. He is now Director of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division at UNESCO-HQ. Borhene conducted a range of policy reviews and skills systems diagnosis in different contexts. He has authored and co-authored various articles and books in the field of skills development and lifelong learning. Much of his most recent work focuses on global trends in reforming education and training systems and global agenda for skills development in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Salim Shehadeh

Programme specialist
UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut



Mr. Salim Shehadeh has been working at UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States since October 2016 as Programme Specialist, responsible for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). He has more than twenty-year experience in this area. He worked as Chief of the TVET & Youth UNIT at UNRWA HQ, located at Amman, before for nearly 14 years, and he also has working experience as Training Officer of UNAMID Darfur Office in Sudan. Before that, he was Electronics Lecturer and Program Coordinator at Al-Musanaa Technical Industrial College in Oman and the Chief Instructor and Lecturer at SCS Business and Technical Institutes in the USA from 1985 – 1993.

Oussama Ghneim

YEM Project Team Leader
UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut

Mr. Oussama GHNEIM has occupied many posts in the public and the private sector. He was the head of the TVET department, General coordinator for Technology education as well as the head of the Educational TV and Radio unit at CRDP (Center for Educational Research and Development) - Ministry of Education and Higher Education- Lebanon. He worked as a consultant and an expert in a number of national and international organizations, and NGOs. He is the president and founder of “WARD” Welfare Association for



Research and Development. He is also a lecturer at the Lebanese university and other private ones.

Mohamed Yahyaoui

National Observatory on
Employment and Qualifications
(ONEQ)
Tunisia



Mr. Mohamed Yahyaoui is an engineer specialized in economics and rural development. He is the Director of the National Employment and Qualifications Observatory of the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment and Project manager of sectoral analyses and skills expectations.

Habib Hinn

Palestine Economic and Policy
Research Institute (MAS)





Mr. Habib Hinn is an aspiring young economist. He is a lecturer at Birzeit University, a researcher at Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) and a board member at the Palestinian Economists Association. Mr. Hinn has a diverse research output, focusing on issues of immense importance to the Palestinian society. He has been part of the first and second Youth Employment in the Mediterranean projects, particularly the skills needs anticipation and assessment component. Mr. Hinn holds double master degrees in Economics and in Finance from Birzeit University and from the University of Warwick, both completed with distinction.

Véronique Lamblin

International Expert



Ms. Véronique Lamblin is Futures and Strategy Studies Director in the Futuribles Group since 2002. Born in 1961, holds a Material Science Engineer State Diploma (University Paris XIII, France), a Master degree in mechanical engineering (University of Laramie, Wyoming, U.S.A.) and "General Management and Business Program" at the European Center for Continuing Education (CEDEP), INSEAD Business School in France. She notably conducts studies in the fields of energy resources and technologies, water, transportation and mobility, sustainable cities, science and technology research, intangible assets of organizations, global economic and social issues in Western Europe for companies and public bodies. She also participated in

	<p>managing occupational foresight studies for vocational training in the field for the agro-industry, automotive repair or platform work. Before 2002, she has been Strategy Project Manager for the Corporate and Strategic Planning of Renault (car) Company. She has notably been in charge of the Long Term (10 to 15 years) Strategic Project Report of the Renault Group and futures and strategic studies.</p>
<p>Gary Gan Co-Founder JobKred Singapore</p> 	<p>Mr. Gary Gan is an experienced entrepreneur and marketer, involved in the startup of several successful companies across a broad spectrum of industries.</p> <p>He is currently co-founder of JobKred, a skills intelligence platform that uses AI and data science to understand the evolving industry skills demand, and guides people to close their skills gaps and navigate the future of work. JobKred is used by Fortune 50 enterprises, top ranked universities, government agencies and international aid agencies like the World Bank.</p>
<p>Mr Mohamed Slimani, Director of the Competence Development Centre (CDC) Digital and Artificial Intelligence OFPPT Morocco</p> 	<p>Graduated in communication networks from ENSIAS in 2002. After a long career in the various information systems professions ranging from systems and databases administration, IT development, systems architecture and project and infrastructure management, With a few Moroccan and multinational companies, Mohamed Slimani joined the OFPPT in 2020 to lead the training engineering activity and the training of trainers in the digital sector.</p>
<p>Sharon Fischer Senior Occupational Psychologist JDC- TVET Israel</p>	<p>Ms. Sharon Fischer is Senior Occupational Psychologist with an expertise in development & administration of personnel selection tests. She has experience in developing and implementing selection & evaluation systems to design & enhance HR management and personal development. She is an expert in Psychological Assessment & Development, Member of Israeli Psychologists Licensing Board and ISPA- Israeli Psychometricians Association.</p>



Benjamin Marteau

Director
Pix
France



Jean-François Plard

Project Manager
Pix
France



Qais Al-Safasfeh

Head of TVSDC, TVET and Skills
Development Commission (TVSDC)
Jordan

Mr. Benjamin Marteau is the director of “Pix”, the French online public service designed to assess, develop, and certify digital skills. Former General Delegate of the French Conseil national éducation-économie (“National Education-Economy Council”), he also served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the French Minister of Education (2012-2014) and as Parliamentary Assistant in the European Parliament.

Mr. Jean-François Plard is a Project Manager at “Pix”, the French online public service designed to assess, develop, and certify digital skills. He has served before as a European Project Coordinator at France Education International and Diplomatic Advisor to the French Minister of Education.

Mr. Qais Al-Safasfeh, as for the economic and industrial sector, has established the Petra Group for Training and Technical Education since 2013, where the group was able to make a qualitative addition in the field of technical training and education in Jordan and in most Arab Gulf countries by preparing standards and requirements for implementing TVET programs, preparing budgets. Technical and TVET programs, evaluation of TVET programs, preparation of professional standards for electricity sector companies for the Electricity Companies Group in the Sultanate of Oman, and preparation of plans for vocational guidance and counseling.



Lara Alameddine

International Expert
Life and Work Skills Toolbox
Lebanon



Ms. Lara Alameddine is an International Consultant in Education - Expert in Life Skills. She holds a master's degree in "Education and Training - Major Research" and is conducting doctoral studies on the implementation of Life Skills in the French educational system at the University of Paris La Sorbonne. She has more than 20 years of experience and has dedicated the last 10 to 15 years to the development of Life Skills educational programs and educational policies and strategies to international institutions such as the UNESCO, the EUROPEAN UNION, the UNICEF, and the UNDP in several countries of the MENA and LAC regions, the GCC, and Europe. She has recently designed the 24 manuals of the "Life and Work Skills Toolbox" of the YEM project that is initiated by the UNESCO and funded by the European Union for eight countries of the Mediterranean region.

Mr Ziad Jweiles

Executive President
National TVET Commission
Palestine



Mr. Ziad Jweiles is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training – Palestine. He holds a Ph.D. in educational administration from Amman Arab University/ Jordan as well as a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manchester / Britain. He is an International Consultant (Middle East and North Africa) in the field of evaluating support projects provided to countries in the sector of education, vocational and technical training and the labor market. He worked for different International NGOs such as Enabel, GIZ, UNESCO, and he was a Project manager for the establishment of a multi-purpose TVET center funded by the European Union – EU. Mr. Ziad works as a Consultant for human resources development, expert in education, training and strategic planning, Curriculum Development, Monitoring and Evaluation M&E, Quality assurance, and Entrepreneurship for various international Organizations as well as Local Institutions and NGOs.

Jeremy Curtis

Director of Hickman Enterprise
United Kingdom

Mr. Jeremy Curtis is Director of Hickman Enterprises, an international education consultancy, and has 40 years' experience in education, specialising in TVET and Work-Based Learning. He has extensive experience of developing National Occupational Standards, as well as



Georgios Zisimos

Head of Policy Advice and EU Programming
European Training Foundation (ETF)



setting up and developing NQF frameworks, developing credit-based systems, quality assurance and risk policies. Jeremy has developed full guidelines for the implementation of NQF systems. He has led development of VET occupational standards nationally and internationally in several vocational sectors. He has led workshops and work groups on developing and operating quality assurance systems and provided advisory services for implementing reforms in the VET sector.

Mr. Georgios Zisimos is the Head of Policy Advice and EU programming Unit in ETF. He started working at the European Training Foundation in Turin in March 2014 as senior expert on EU Education Training Policies. On February 2010, he was appointed in Brussels member of the Cabinet of the EU Commissioner responsible for education, culture, multilingualism, youth, and sport. He oversaw the education portfolio within the cabinet. Before 2010 he served as Member of Scientific Committee on Curriculum Reform in Greece and Cyprus. In 2005, he was elected Secretary General of the Cypriot Secondary Teacher's Union and elected member of the Executive Committee of the ETUCE. Georgios is an educationist who taught in public schools both in the UK and Cyprus. He holds an MA in Curriculum Development. He has been the author of numerous publications in the field of education and training.

Snehal Vasantlal Soneji

International Training Expert
ITC-ILO



Mr. Snehal Soneji is Head of the Employment Policy & Analysis Programme at ITCILO in Turin. Before taking on this role, he led one of ILO's largest programme focused on strengthening the TVET and Skills Development System in Bangladesh. Working closely with the government, it aimed to build the capacities of managers and staff of TVET colleges to establish an inclusive, private sector led, demand driven dual training system in the country. He has more than 24 years of experience in the development sector across Asia, 10 years of which as Country Director of Oxfam GB in Indonesia, Philippines and Bangladesh where he led successful delivery of development programmes coupled with advocacy, campaigning & policy influencing at the highest levels in these geographies. He has spearheaded new models of resource mobilization for Oxfam partnering with Universities (Monash University, Australia) & foundations (IKEA foundation) and has extensive experience of working with EU & DFID funded projects. A graduate of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (India), he possesses excellent people management skills and was the change project manager of the process that led to the creation of Oxfam India in 2008. He speaks six languages (English, French, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali and Malayalam).

Giulia Marchesini

Human Capital

Ms. Giulia Marchesini is Human Capital Senior Programme Manager at the Center for Mediterranean Integration of UNOPS since 2014.

Senior Programme Manager
Center for Mediterranean
Integration (CMI), UNOPS



She leads the human capital agenda, including education, migration, forced displacement and mobility components. In the field of higher education, she recently led the authoring and production of the CMI-World Bank report “Internationalization of Tertiary Education in the Middle East and North Africa”. Before joining the CMI, Giulia worked for the French Development Agency (AFD) in the Partnerships and Mediterranean departments. From 2012 to 2013 she was advisor to the French Ministry for Development, where she was notably in charge of dialogue with the MENA region. Her experience in the MENA region also includes coordinating economic and commercial issues for the French Ministry of Economy and Finances (2007-2009).

Chris Cooper

Education and Society Expert
British Council



Mr. Chris Cooper leads the British Council’s skills systems work which aims to support the development of relevant and inclusive TVET systems. It encourages closer links between education, employers and policy makers by sharing practice and experience between countries. He is currently responsible for the British Council’s Skills for Employability programme and EU funded TVET projects in Morocco, Libya and Nepal as well as our contribution to the VET Toolbox. He is an economist who has provided research, evaluation and policy advice in the skills sector for nearly 30 years, primarily in the area of employer engagement, work-based learning and labour market analysis.

Nidal Ayesh

Nidal Ayesh, Enabel
Belgium Development Agency
Palestine



Mr. Nidal Ayesh is a TVET expert with around 20 years of experience in the sector. He is now one of the key team members of the Enabel-Palestine. He was the Director General of the Vocational Training Directorate at the Ministry of Labor from 2015 to March 2021. He is the Official Delegates of Palestine at the WorldSkills Organization and was the National coordinator of Torino Process for the last 4 years. Mr. Nidal is well known with his support to the partnership approach and teamwork and believes in the private sector role for the development of the TVET system. He also believes that each one must take his role and “shape” the change “Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time, we are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek”.

Enzo Sciolla

Team leader,
German Foundation for
International Cooperation (GIZ)

Mr. Enzo Sciolla has a master's degree in electrical engineering and 20 years of experience in the industrial manufacturing sector. Since 2017, he has been working as a consultant for several EU-funded projects in the field of SME development and vocational education in different countries: Russia, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon.

He was responsible for the ProVTE project team (Lebanon) from 2017 until 2020 and is currently the leader of the VTE4all project (Lebanon).



Reem Jeibat

Chief of TVET and Youth Division
UNRWA



Ms. Reem Jeibat is currently the Chief of TVET and Youth Division within the Department of Education at UNRWA, Headquarters Amman. She has over 20 years of experience at UNRWA in the Education and TVET Programmes. She provides strategic leadership for the TVET programme in the five Fields of UNRWA operations (Jordan, West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria) to empower Palestine refugee youth and enhance their livelihoods through skills development, market-relevant and responsive TVET curricula, systemic linkages with the labour market and a sharp focus on entrepreneurship.

Aziz El Hajir

Program Specialist in Educational
Technologies
ICESCO



Mr. Aziz EL HAJIR is in charge of ICT in education, literacy and TVET programs. A graduate from the University of Rouen (France) in Engineering and Training Consulting and from Mohammed 5th University (Morocco) in Social Development Management, Professor Aziz El Hajir has, for more than thirty years, carried out several missions of responsibility within the Ministry of National Education in the Kingdom of Morocco, including 7 years as the manager of the Moroccan-Korean ICT Training Center, before joining ICESCO in March 2017.