



“Enhancing Tunisian youth employability through vocational apprenticeships and professional internships in Belgian companies”

Financed by: Government of Belgium

Implemented by: IOM – The UN Migration Agency

Partners: Tunisian and Belgian Government; Universities, academic institutes and private sector in Tunisia and Belgium

Geographical coverage: Belgium and Tunisia

Duration: March 2018 – August 2019 (18 months)

Budget: 350 000 EUR

A. CONTEXT

To face the challenge of unemployment, the Five-year Plan for the development of Tunisia 2016-2020 provides specific dispositions aimed at improving the educational system to better link it with the employment possibilities available in Tunisia. It also includes a support for investments and to the micro-enterprises, as well as measures to reinforce the relationship with Tunisian nationals living abroad. In addition, the National Strategy for Employment aims at diminishing the unemployment rate among young people through the development of a qualified, competitive, and productive workforce.

Knowing that the unemployment issue constitutes an important push-factor for irregular migration toward Europe among young Tunisians, reinforcing the legal pathways will enable migration to become a driving force for development and, in the future, to concretize the engagements of the government in its Five-year Plan.

IOM, with the support of the Belgian and Tunisian Government, and in coordination with different partners at national level, will provide a group of targeted Tunisian students and university graduates with concrete opportunities to develop their competences in Belgium, and thus improve their chances of finding an adequate and lasting job in Tunisia.

The project will contribute in tackling the issue of unemployment in Tunisia and promote legal migration pathways toward Europe. In the long

term, this initiative will contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the Agenda 2030, specifically in its « leave no one behind » objective.

This project supports the implementation of the following Sustainable Development Goals



B. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT IN TUNISIA AND BELGIUM

The project aims at supporting the efforts of the Tunisian government to reduce the high unemployment rates among young Tunisian nationals by offering internships and apprenticeships in Belgium to a group of 30 selected beneficiaries, to enable them to reinforce their knowledge, acquire new professional competences, and increase their probability to find an appropriate job in the Tunisian labour market.

With the financial support of the Kingdom of Belgium, and in close collaboration with the Belgian and Tunisian authorities, the Universities, the academic institutes, and the Belgian and Tunisian

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private sector, IOM intends to achieve the following two objectives:

1. Identify the domains where additional workforce is required and that could thus contribute to the decrease of the unemployment rate in Tunisia;
2. Increase the possibility of employment of young Tunisians in the Tunisian labour market after a positive legal migration experience in Belgium and a tailored support once back in Tunisia.

C. A THREE-PHASE STRATEGY

Through the two above-mentioned objectives, IOM will implement the following activities on the basis of a three-phase cycle:

Identification of apprenticeship and internship opportunities

▪ In the first phase of the project, a list of partner educational institutions in Tunisia, both professional and superior, will be drafted. From these institutions, the 30 beneficiaries participating in the project will be selected. At the same time, a network of public and private enterprises, in both Belgium and Tunisia, will be created to identify apprenticeship and internship opportunities in the two countries.

Selection of the beneficiaries and matching with the apprenticeship and internship opportunities

During the second phase, 20 young Tunisians among the students enrolled in the professional training system and 10 recently graduated from University will be identified and, according to their profile, will experience:

- A six-month internship in one of the enterprises identified in Belgium

Support on how to draft a CV for University graduates.

- A three-month formation in a VET school followed by a three-month apprenticeship for the students enrolled in the professional training system.

Insertion in the Tunisian labour market

▪ The third phase will start once the beneficiaries will be back in Tunisia at the end of their apprenticeship/internship in Belgium. The beneficiaries will receive a five-month support to find an employment in an enterprise based on the offers available in the Tunisian labour market. If an opportunity is available, they will be supported for another cycle of apprenticeship/internship during five months.

C. SYNERGIES

IOM has a long-lasting experience in the field of labour migration management, and through this project it proposes to support and promote the employability of young Tunisians, addressing in particular those young people at risk of irregular migration.

In synergy with this project, IOM also implements other initiatives in the field of labour migration:

- The Mobi-TRE project, that aims at developing work opportunities for the populations of the north-west and south-east of Tunisia, through the promotion of investments by the Tunisian diaspora.
- The project RDPP NA, that aims at improving the economic opportunities for the migrant and the host communities.
- The project INCORPORA, that aims at the professional integration of people at risk of social exclusion, particularly women, disabled people and young unemployed persons.

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