



SKILLS MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP: MAKING MIGRATION WORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PHASE III)

High levels of unemployment and stagnant economic growth in Tunisia have contributed to internal instability. Private sector-led job growth in Tunisia has been constrained with employers unable to recruit suitably qualified candidates. Apart from the long-standing structural barriers to economic growth, other key factors include poor implementation of labour insertion programmes and the lack of cognitive, behavioural and practical job skills among low- and high-skilled populations.

In addition, the education system in Tunisia is not providing graduates with the technical and soft skills that are essential to thrive in today's rapidly evolving and globalized economies. Stimulating job growth would therefore boost economic development and reduce irregular emigration from Tunisia to Europe, particularly among migrant workers in search of employment opportunities abroad.

Likewise, Switzerland is among many countries in Europe that faces labour shortages in different sectors.

Young Professionals Agreement (YPA)

To address the labour market needs in Switzerland and enhance the skills and employability of young Tunisians the **Young Professionals Agreement** between both countries came into place, enabling traineeship opportunities in Swiss private sector companies.

However, this agreement has not been fully utilized due to lack of awareness or well-established implementation mechanisms and partnerships.

Duration: January 2021 - October 2023

Pilot: ~20 interns placed in private sector companies in Switzerland for 3-6 months

Beneficiaries: Tunisian university students or graduates

Funded by: Swiss Agency for Development and Coordination (SDC)

Partners: IOM Tunisia, SDC, SEM, Swisscontact

SKILLS MOBILITY PARTNERSHIP: PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the initiative is to support the Tunisian and Swiss Government's efforts to utilize the potential of existing Skills Mobility Partnerships, to address the labour market challenges in both countries and support youth skill development. This is intended with a specific focus on supporting the development of the effective implementation mechanisms for the Young Professionals Agreement.

The specific actions of the initiative will be structured around four main components:

Component one: Developing partnerships

Developing partnerships between Tunisian and Swiss private sector companies, Tunisian career and employment centers as well as universities and diaspora organizations to strengthen mechanisms for search, selection and placement of young qualified Tunisians for the trainee positions in Swiss companies.

Component two: Strengthening capacities

Strengthening capacities of Tunisian career guidance centers, employment agencies and TVET institutions to provide career orientation, training, job search as well as pre-departure preparation and orientation services to young Tunisians to increase their employability in Switzerland.

Component three: Diaspora participation

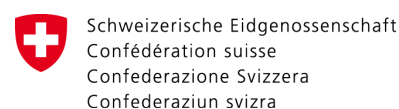
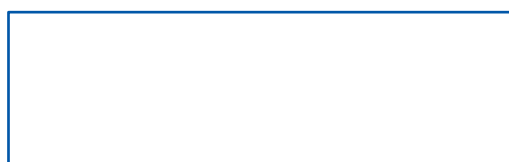
Developing mechanisms and forms of diaspora participation in the implementation of the Young Professionals Agreement.

Component four: Promoting awareness

Promoting awareness and enhancing knowledge among the Tunisian and Swiss private sector on the benefits of skills mobility partnerships, the implementation of the Young Professionals Agreement and ethical recruitment principles in hiring foreign workers.

The Role of IOM

IOM Tunisia, in close coordination with IOM Switzerland, address the above challenges by piloting the short-term placement of young Tunisian professionals in internship positions in Switzerland and support their job placement after their return.



This project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tunisia and Switzerland, with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Coordination (SDC).