

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 existing labour market challenges in both countries and support youth skill development, with a specific focus on supporting the development of the effective implementation mechanisms for the Young Professional Agreements.

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

Component one: Developing partnerships

Developing partnerships between Tunisian and Swiss private sector companies, Tunisian career and employment centers and 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 and predeparture 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 implementation of the Young Professional Agreement.

Component four: Promoting awareness

Promoting awareness and enhancing knowledge among the Tunisian and Swiss private sector on the benefits of skills mobility partnerships, implementation of Young Professional Agreement

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, as well as support their job placement after their return.



For more information:

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