



International Labour Organization – Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Expert Meeting on Youth Employment in the Arab States

Beirut, 12-13 March 2012

Agenda

Day 1

8:30 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Opening Remarks

- 1) FES: Samir Farah
- 2) ILO: Nada Al-Nashif, Regional Director, ILO Regional Office for the Arab States

**09:30- 11:00 Panel 1: “We will not be a lost generation..”
Youth Employment in the Arab Region- Getting the Facts Right**

ILO and FES: Key facts on the issues discussed (gapminder style)
Moderated panel discussion on the following points

- What are the specifics of Youth Employment issues within the overall Employment crisis in the region?
- Youth employment issues as a driving force behind the Arab democratic awakening: how to articulate civil and political rights with decent work?
- Low labour market participation: what can be the social impact of large scale detachment?

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

**11:30 – 13:00 Panel 2: “We have the skills, where are the jobs?”
Skills policies and programmes when there is no labour demand**

ILO and FES: 5 main facts figures on the issues discussed (gapminder style)
Moderated panel discussion on the following points

- Has the Arab region the right skills strategies to seize the opportunities of the global economy?
- Competency based training: meaningful participation of social partners to connect labour market and education / skills development systems (businesses for the definition of skills, dual training, assessment, unions to ensure productivity results in better work and greater income);
- Can dual training / apprenticeship / on the job training bridge the gap between education and the world of work? evidence from the region;
- Skills can increase productivity, and productivity can increase earnings but does this link apply to the SMEs in the region?
- Skills for abroad and transnational frameworks for recognition of competencies – can they help?

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

**14:30 – 16:00 Panel 3: “*Should I take any job?*”
youth expectations and decent work**

ILO and FES: 5 main facts figures on the issues discussed (gapminder style)
Moderated panel discussion on the following points

- Recent trends of job quality in the Arab region: worse than others down the value chain?
- Breadwinner vs. Homemaker: Are girls pigeon-holed by parents into “appropriate education” with limited upward mobility? and by employers in “pink collar - jobs”, irrespective of their levels of education?
- Doctors as Taxi Drivers – How to tackle the underemployment of Graduates?
- What are the needed implementation frameworks for decent youth employment?

16:00 – 17:00 Plenary discussion on the subjects discussed during the day

**20:00 Dinner hosted by ILO
Transportation provided**

Day 2

**09:30-11:00 Panel 4: “*Is going abroad my only option?*”
The double edged sword of Migration**

ILO and FES: 5 main facts figures on the issues discussed (gapminder style)
Moderated panel discussion on the following points

- Economic migration helps individuals but does it help their countries?
- What protection systems are/should be in place?
- What policies for educated youth to contribute to their countries’ development?

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

**11:30 – 13:00 Panel 5: “...after Tahrir, back to business as usual?”
Paths and solutions towards more jobs, more social justice**

ILO and FES: 5 main facts figures on the issues discussed (gapminder style)

Moderated panel discussion on the following points

- Are markets in the region more dysfunctional and corrupted than elsewhere?
- What policy mix has a proven impact to make the most of the demographic dividend?
- What is the right balance between public / private economic power?
- What coops can do: Successful Arab models;
- Alternative models from outside the region: Spanish social enterprises;
- Business climate: What is needed for youth entrepreneurship to become a viable option?
- Greening the economy: Is there a green market to create more jobs for youth?

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch Break

**14:30 – 16:00 Panel 6: “Does anyone listen after a year? ...”
The enduring power of gerontocracies versus youth empowerment**

ILO and FES: 5 main facts figures on the issues discussed (gapminder style)

Moderated panel discussion on the following points

- Youth in the Arab democratic awakening: A continuous engagement or a flash in the pan?
- Social media: A powerful weapon?
- What voice for the youth in the economic sphere
- What is the strategy of workers’ unions to take on youth voices in the region? And for Employers’ Organizations to represent youth enterprises?

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:30 Final thoughts/Next steps