

► Mainstreaming Employment into Trade and Investment in the Southern Neighbourhood

At a glance

“Mainstreaming Employment into Trade and Investment in the Southern Neighbourhood” (METI) is a four-year regional project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Labour Organization. The overall objective of the project is to enable policy makers in the Middle East and North Africa to incorporate employment issues into trade and investment policies, and design and implement interventions that ultimately optimise the quantity and quality of employment created in the region. It will also facilitate the operationalisation of the third pillar of the EU’s External Investment Plan through policy dialogue, and support initiatives related to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Target groups and beneficiaries

The target groups are government officials from ministries responsible for trade and investment, labour, economic affairs, planning, education and other relevant line ministries; staff in national statistical agencies; representatives from trade unions and employers’ organizations; private sector representatives; technical specialists from national and regional institutions and development practitioners. The final beneficiaries are workers (especially women and youth) and employers (SMEs in particular) in the tradable sectors of the partner countries, as well as education and training providers.

Regional dimension and specific objectives

The programme’s regional dimension will bring relevant stakeholders together from the Southern Neighbourhood countries to engage in joint capacity building, knowledge sharing, peer learning and wider regional dialogue on the employment impact of trade and investment policies. At the national level, the programme will generate knowledge, transfer expertise and enhance policy dialogue and coordination among government agencies, the social partners and the private sector on creating and upgrading employment through trade and investment policies. It will ensure that policy dialogue on trade and investment in the region accounts for decent employment and that policy makers and private sector representatives have the tools to design national and sectoral strategies that will ultimately help create more and better jobs, especially for women and youth. The project interventions will therefore target four specific objectives:

- Regional- and country-level analysis of the impact of trade and investment policies on productive and decent employment in the partner countries is strengthened.
- Governments, social partners and other relevant stakeholders in the region are enabled to factor the employment effects of trade and investment into policy development, including policy dialogue.
- Sectoral recommendations are developed with key stakeholders in the partner countries to take advantage of employment opportunities resulting from trade and investment policies.
- Assessments of the trade and employment impact of public infrastructure investments in the partner countries are discussed with key stakeholders to optimize employment creation.

Contact details

International Labour Organization
Route des Morillons 4
CH-1211 Geneva 22
Switzerland

David Kucera
T: +41 22 799 6694
E: kucera@ilo.org