



International
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METI



Funded by
the European Union

► Mainstreaming Employment into Trade and Investment in the Southern Mediterranean



METI, the Mainstreaming Employment into Trade and Investment programme, is a four-year regional initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Labour Organization.

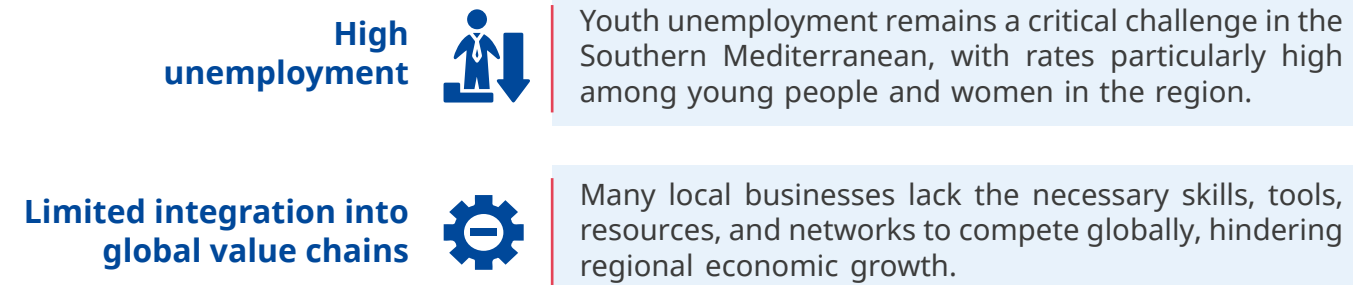
The Southern Mediterranean is economically diverse but remains weakly integrated both within the region and into the global economy. Many countries face high unemployment, informality, and low participation in the labor force, particularly among women and youth.

METI addresses these challenges by supporting policymakers in integrating employment considerations into trade and investment policies. This approach aims to create more and better jobs, especially for women, youth, and small to medium-sized enterprises, fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

By bridging gaps between economic strategies and employment objectives, METI has brought together governments, employers, and workers across its eight partner countries, setting the foundation for regional and global integration while promoting social justice.

► Addressing economic and social challenges in the Southern Mediterranean

The Southern Mediterranean region faces significant socio-economic challenges:



These barriers constrain the potential for inclusive economic growth and decent work.

Addressing these challenges requires innovative solutions, enhanced regional collaboration, and policies that place employment at the center of economic strategies.

► Why METI?

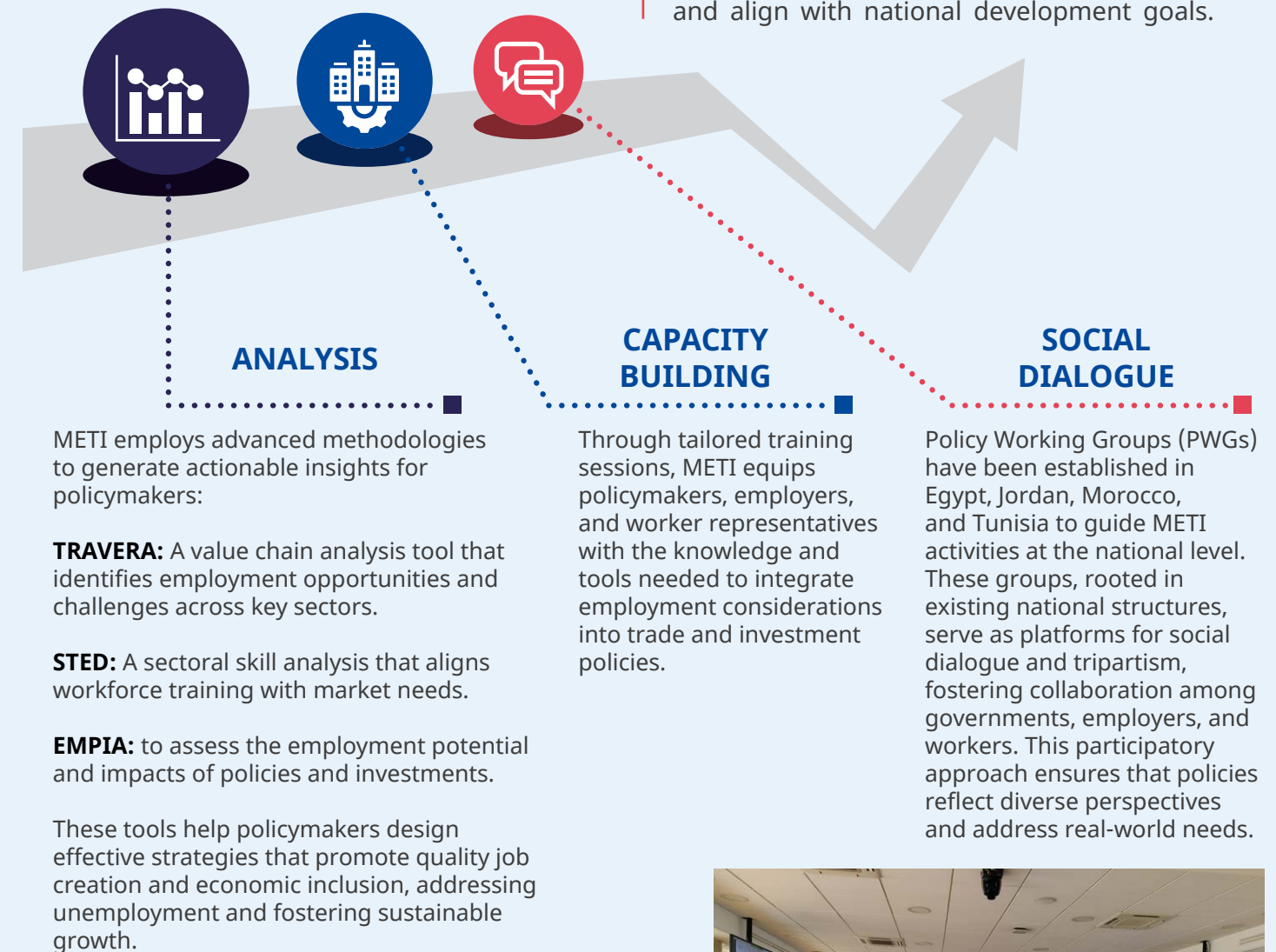
Launched in 2020, **METI** was created to tackle these pressing issues by:



METI's comprehensive approach ensures that trade and investment policies are aligned with the broader objectives of social justice, inclusive growth, and sustainable development in the region.

► An approach rooted in analysis, training, and social dialogue

METI's success is anchored in a comprehensive three-pillar approach: evidence-based analysis, capacity building, and social dialogue. These pillars ensure that trade and investment policies prioritize decent employment creation and align with national development goals.



PWGs play a vital role in:

- Guiding METI projects at the national level.
- Supporting the implementation of project activities.
- Ensuring the sustainability of METI's interventions.

This participatory approach ensures that policies reflect diverse perspectives and respond to real-world needs.

Collaborative and global alignment

Strategic partnerships with international organizations, including the EU, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the International Trade Center (ITC), enhance METI's analytical capacity by integrating recognized best practices.

METI's contributions align with global objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), driving inclusive growth and sustainable development.

This three-pillar approach ensures that METI's interventions are grounded in robust analysis, shaped through collaboration, and guided by national stakeholders for long-term impact.

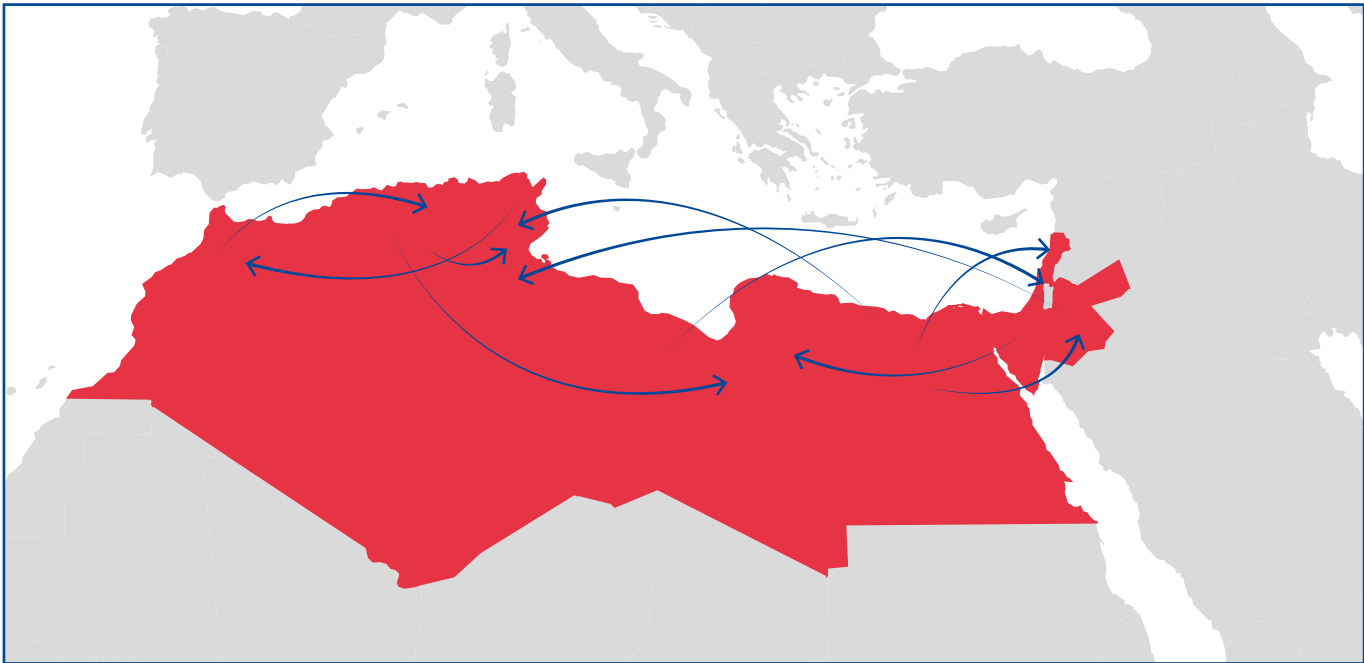


METI Regional Knowledge-Sharing Workshop, Turin, March 2023

► Driving regional transformation through collaboration



METI’s regional activities have fostered a culture of collaboration and created a shared vision for inclusive and sustainable economic growth across the Southern Mediterranean. By leveraging innovative tools, engaging diverse stakeholders, and strengthening partnerships, METI has empowered policymakers to address employment challenges collectively and effectively.



► Regional collaboration and engagement

Through its initiatives, METI has convened policymakers from eight countries, facilitating the exchange of best practices, the strengthening of networks, and the promotion of cross-border cooperation. This collaboration has been pivotal in tackling shared challenges and exploring common opportunities.

► Regional impact

Enhanced knowledge exchange



METI has fostered a deeper understanding of common socio-economic challenges and opportunities across the region.

Strengthened regional dialogue



The program has brought together key stakeholders from Southern Mediterranean countries to participate in capacity building, knowledge sharing, and peer learning activities.

Focused policy discussions



METI has facilitated broader regional dialogue on the employment impacts of trade and investment policies, ensuring inclusive and sustainable approaches to economic growth.



METI first regional technical training 31 October to 4 November 2022 Italy



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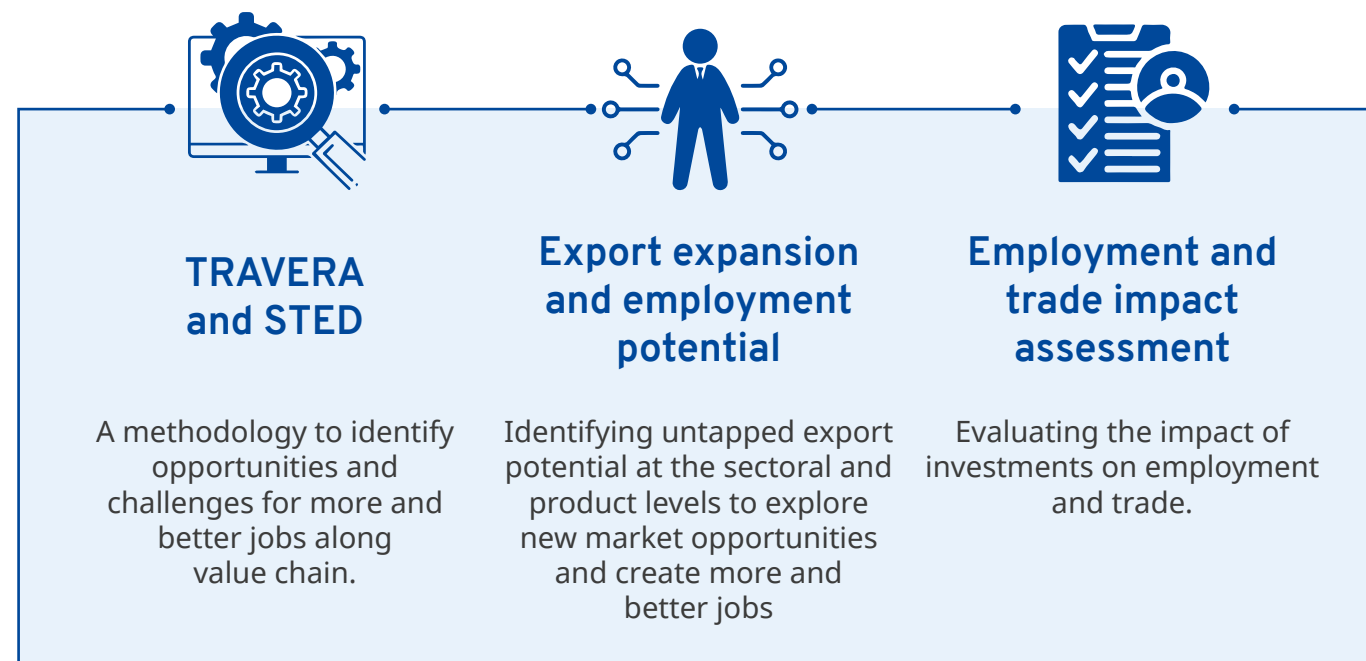
► Concrete impact at national level

At the national level, METI generates knowledge, transfers expertise, and enhances policy dialogue and coordination among government agencies, social partners, and the private sector. This is achieved by aligning trade and investment policies with employment objectives, fostering tangible outcomes in partner countries.

Tailored Interventions

METI implements country-specific activities in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia, leveraging innovative tools and methodologies to address unique challenges and harness local opportunities.

► Key methodologies applied across countries



EGYPT

- **Policy Working Group (PWG):** Established under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation. The PWG provides policy guidance and fosters social dialogue.
- **Country report:** Analyzes trade, FDI, SMEs, and labor market trends, with a focus on women and youth.
- **Sectoral focus:** Sugar, sugar confectionery, and chocolate. A value chain assessment (VCA) was conducted with findings presented to national stakeholder.
- **Recommendations and implementation:** The PWG formulated policy recommendations and developed an actionable roadmap.
- **Public infrastructure assessment:** Evaluated employment outcomes of the Kafr El Sheikh Wastewater Expansion Program, resulting in targeted policy suggestions.
- **Policy briefs:** Summarized findings and policy recommendations from METI's analytical work to guide policymakers.



JORDAN

- **Policy Working Group:** Chaired by the Economic and Social Council of Jordan to align trade and employment strategies.
- **Country report:** Explored the potential of trade and investment to foster decent employment.
- **Sectoral focus:** Engineering products and services. Findings from the VCA informed the PWG's policy recommendations.
- **Additional study:** Investigated productive investments in the engineering sector, aiming to unlock its full potential.
- **Public infrastructure assessment:** Analyzed the Wadi Al Arab Water System II Project, leading to policy suggestions like prioritizing local materials and suppliers in public procurement.
- **Policy briefs:** Consolidated insights to inform policy development.



MOROCCO

- **Policy Working Group:** Headed by the Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment, and Skills to guide METI's interventions.
- **Country report:** Explored the relationship between trade policies and employment outcomes.
- **Sectoral focus:** Textile sector (specifically knitwear). The VCA results informed policy recommendations.
- **Additional study:** Examined productive investments in the textile sector to enhance its contribution to employment.
- **Public infrastructure assessment:** Evaluated the Noor Ouarzazate Solar Program, leading to recommendations such as mandating ex-ante and ex-post evaluations of employment impacts.
- **Policy briefs:** Synthesized METI's findings to support policymaking.



TUNISIA

- **Policy Working Group:** Established under the Ministry of Trade and Export Development, fostering national policy dialogue.
- **Country report:** Highlighted opportunities in European markets and recommended upgrading trade and investment agreements.
- **Sectoral focus:** Aromatic and medicinal plants. Findings from the VCA informed actionable recommendations.
- **Public infrastructure assessment:** Analyzed the SONEDE Performance Improvement Program, with the PWG proposing policies to optimize employment outcomes.
- **Policy briefs:** Provided concise recommendations for policymakers based on METI's activities.

► Towards a new phase: METI II

Building on the achievements of the first phase, METI is poised to embark on a new chapter. The second phase aims to deepen the program's impact by addressing emerging challenges and leveraging opportunities for inclusive and sustainable growth across the southern Mediterranean region.

While details of METI II are still under development, its overarching focus will include:



As METI evolves, it will continue to serve as a vital platform for collaboration among governments, employers, workers, and international partners. Together, these efforts aim to foster economic resilience, create opportunities for underserved groups, and contribute to a fairer and more inclusive economy.



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