



Press Release

Erbil, 15 April 2019, UNESCO with support of the European Union and in partnership with the Ministry of Planning in Iraq and KR-I, the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) and the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO), launched an Assessment report of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis covering seven economic sectors and the informal sector. This report is based on a survey that was conducted by CSO & KRSO in 2017 and covered 7 economic sectors in the private sector in addition with some focus group discussions which have been implemented with relevant ministries and organizations.

The twin aims of the reports are, firstly, to inform education policy and priorities at secondary and tertiary levels, especially competency-based curriculum development for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and the development of training and opportunities for unskilled and/or unemployed people (with emphasis on women and youth) to enter the labour market and participate in formal and informal economic activity and, secondly, to build the capacity of stakeholders to survey businesses and analyze employer demand in order to determine the best use of funding and target relevant TVET provision to better meet the demand of the labor market.

The seven economic sectors were determined in consultation with the project's stakeholders and were based on growth potential and sectors conducive to fostering youth employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. These sectors include agriculture, construction, hospitality, information and communications technology (ICT), manufacturing, transport and storage, and wholesale and retail trade; and cover the governorates of Baghdad, Basrah, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Najaf, Sulaymaniyah and Wasit.

It's vital for the economy of Kurdistan region of Iraq to assume reform in the applied laws and regulations that allow a healthy growth in the private sector through making the necessary changes in vocational and technical learning taking into consideration the needs of this sector in terms of skills and expertise, said **Dr. Ali Sindi**, Minister of planning in KRG during the opening speech of the launch event.

The Senior project Officer for TVET Reform Project in Iraq **Mr. Rory Robertshaw**, said, "the hope of these reports is to strengthen baseline information on the demand and supply of skills in the labour market in order to more efficiently and effectively inform all TVET stakeholders, including the private sector, in taking the appropriate next steps in reforming the TVET system – which is vital to the growth of the country's economy during such a critical juncture."

The Assessment of the Labour Market & Skills Analysis is a component of the larger TVET Reform Project, funded by the European Union and in partnership with



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the government of Iraq and KR-I. The Project's objectives are to improve the overall TVET governance system with modern, demand-driven curricula along with improving the capacities of TVET stakeholders and the paths of TVET graduates into the labour market.

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