

What labour-matching policies are needed within and between countries in the Mediterranean region?

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Critical Issue:

Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs) continue to register rates of unemployment twice as high as the global average, particularly amongst youth and women.

Youth unemployment is bound to increase in the coming decades, as population projections point to a substantial increase in working-age populations.

Youth unemployment rates in selected SEMCs(%)



Source: Own elaboration based on WBDI data

Root Causes



Low quality education and skills mismatch; poorly matched with the needs of the private sector and employability.



All SEMCs feature large public sectors and under-developed private sectors.

Note




Chronic SEMC unemployment results from an over-supply of job seekers for available jobs and a lack of suitable candidates to fill those jobs.




Important Findings from EMNES Survey




Substantial efforts were made to develop Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs) in recent years.



Limited capacity of implementing agencies and sporadic collaboration with employers.




But these policies are not backed by adequate information systems and sufficient allocation of funds.



SEMC migration policies geared towards security concerns, rather than formulated with labour-matching rationale.


Policy Proposals



1.....
Implementation of structural reforms to address the dysfunctional relationship between education systems and labour markets.



2.....
Establish an agency dedicated to formulation, implementation and monitoring of ALMPs and governance arrangements supported by a Euro-Mediterranean labour market information system.



3.....
Formulation of a new policy framework for responsible, inclusive and sustainable migration in the Euro-Mediterranean - that goes beyond security concerns.

Necessary Actions



Structural reforms to ensure education systems equip future job seekers with necessary skills.



Formulation of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs)