



# The future of TVET in Iraq: International trends and their relevance for the Iraqi National Education Strategy 2022-2031

**A UNESCO-UNEVOC National TVET Leadership Programme  
Organized in cooperation with UNESCO Baghdad**

## **Theme**

*Expanding TVET for sustainable development in Iraq: Best practices in private sector engagement, digital transformation and green energy*

**Wednesday, 15 May 2024 and Thursday, 16 May 2024  
College of Media at the University of Baghdad - Baghdad, Iraq**

## Background

As UNESCO's designated centre for technical and vocational education and training (TVET), UNESCO-UNEVOC supports Member States in their efforts to strengthen and upgrade their TVET systems. Through its innovative projects, capacity-building programmes and collaborative activities with more than 230 UNEVOC Centres around the globe, UNESCO-UNEVOC is working towards ensuring access to quality skills training and development for all. Among many other programmes, one of its flagship programmes is the TVET Leadership Programme.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC TVET Leadership Programme aims to build the capacity of TVET leaders from around the world, supporting them to become successful and effective agents of change in their institutions and beyond. The Programme is designed to update participants' understanding of the latest developments in TVET and equip them with the skills and tools that are required for effective leadership in the TVET sector.

Since 2016, the TVET Leadership Programme has trained over 900 TVET leaders, managers, and staff from more than 95 countries. This includes global, regional, and national editions of the programme, organized through in-person and/or online modalities.

Iraq has recently launched its own 10-year strategy for Education (Iraq National Education Strategy 2022-2031) including the TVET Sub-Sector. The Government has a TVET law under ratification. This is a good time for senior decision makers to get together and plan the operationalization of INES and the strategic orientations adopted.

From this perspective, the Chair of the Higher Committee for Education Development of Iraq requested UNESCO Iraq to undertake a training workshop for Senior Iraqi TVET decision makers in collaboration with UNESCO-UNEVOC.

The request is founded on UNESCO's continuous support to Iraq in TVET Reform Project since 2018. Particularly, the TVET Reform Project implemented by UNESCO and funded by the European Union will be entering its third Phase in 2024.

The National TVET Leadership Programme in Baghdad, against the backdrop of the New Iraqi National Educational Strategy, aspires to be a catalyst for transformative discussions and actionable plans. The thematic focus of the TVET Leadership Programme in Iraq will be guided by the principles and rationale for the UNESCO Strategy for TVET 2022-2029, the current and future trends in international TVET and the relevance and practical elements for the TVET system in Iraq.

## Objectives

The National TVET Leadership Programme in Iraq is designed to sharpen leaders' vision, share up to date TVET knowledge and trends and develop leadership skills that drive change and can adapt to the evolving demands of the national TVET system.

Specifically, the objectives of the TVET Leadership Programme in Iraq are as follows:

- Understand global best practices and trends in TVET development and transformation.
- Explore strategies for TVET transformations: Green economy and digital transformation of TVET in line with national priorities.
- Exchange on strategy and actions for engaging private sector in TVET.
- Address potential challenges and bottlenecks related to the implementation of the national TVET strategic orientations.

### Target group

- TVET Leaders and decision-makers
- Advisors to the Prime Minister on Education
- Representatives from the Federal Ministry of Higher Education (HE) in Iraq and the Ministry of HE in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI)
- Representatives from the Federal Ministry of Education in Iraq and the Ministry of Education in KRI
- Representatives from the Directorate of Planning in the Ministries of Education in Iraq and KRI
- Representatives from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
- Presidents of Technical Universities
- Director Generals of Vocational Education in Iraq and in KRI
- Director General of the Human Development Department at the Federal Ministry of Planning
- Representatives of the Employers Association
- Sectorial Council Representatives
- Representatives of international partners involved in TVET and skills development

### Programme content and expected outcomes

The theme of the conference is 'Expanding TVET for Sustainable Development in Iraq: Best Practices in Private Sector Engagement, Digital Transformation, and Green Energy'.

It is a two-day event.

- Day 1: Ensuring successful implementation of national strategic orientations related to TVET.
  - UNESCO strategy for TVET (2022-2029) and international recommendations related to TVET.
  - State of TVET in Iraq and anticipation of bottlenecks for the implementation of the TVET Reform.
  - Good practices to ensure successful implementation of a TVET policy, strategy, or reform.
- Day 2: International trends and good practices on key thematic areas related to TVET.
  - Achieving Labor Market links
  - Digital Transformation of TVET
  - Greening TVET

Each aspect above will be carefully curated, with presenters, panel discussions, working groups and networking opportunities.

UNESCO-UNEVOC will engage its international experts to facilitate the thematic sessions. These experts will bring country level day-to-day experiences in national TVET institutions. In addition to the knowledge exchange, their presence is also significant to create potential collaboration, partnership, and exchange programmes after the implementation of the event.

After the event, UNESCO-UNEVOC will issue a "certificate of participation" to all participants that successfully completed the programme. This will be to ensure the visibility of the competency and knowledge acquired during the Programme.

The National TVET Leadership Programme provides a platform for TVET leaders to assess the congruence of global best practices, digital transformation trends, and green energy initiatives with the goals and priorities outlined in the New Iraqi National Educational Strategy. It offers an opportunity to discuss and refine implementation priorities that will contribute to the strategy's overarching objective of enhancing the quality and relevance of education in Iraq.

## Agenda

| UNESCO-UNEVOC National TVET Leadership Programme: Iraq                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DAY 1 – Ensuring the successful implementation of national strategic orientations related TVET  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
| Time                                                                                            | Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                               |
| 08:30-09:00                                                                                     | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                               |
| 09:00-09:05                                                                                     | Welcome Remarks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | UNESCO-UNEVOC                                                                                                                                 |
| 09:05-09:15                                                                                     | Opening remarks from the Minister of Higher Education                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | HE Dr. Na'eem Alabodi                                                                                                                         |
| 09:15-09:25                                                                                     | Opening remarks from the Deputy Minister of Education                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Dr. Mahdi Alawadi                                                                                                                             |
| 09:25-09:35                                                                                     | Opening remarks from the Executive Director of the Educational Initiative                                                                                                                                                                                               | Dr. Hamed Ahmed                                                                                                                               |
| 09:35-09:45                                                                                     | Opening remarks from the representative of the KRI                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dr. Mohamed Husain                                                                                                                            |
| 09:45-09:55                                                                                     | Opening remarks from the EU                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | EU Ambassador                                                                                                                                 |
| 09:55-10:05                                                                                     | Opening remarks by the Representative of UNESCO Iraq                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Paolo Fontani                                                                                                                                 |
| 10:05-10:15                                                                                     | Presentation of the agenda, objectives, and expected results of the workshop                                                                                                                                                                                            | Dr. Olivier Pieume                                                                                                                            |
| SESSION 1: Overview of the international agenda on education, TVET and skills development       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:15-10:45                                                                                     | Presentation and QnA on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 4 and targets related to TVET and skills development</li> <li>UNESCO Strategy for TVET (2022-2029)</li> <li>International recommendations on TVET and skills development</li> </ul>                 | Dr. Olivier Pieume                                                                                                                            |
| 10:45-11:10                                                                                     | Group photo, tea break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                               |
| SESSION 2: Overview of the national agenda on education, TVET and skills development            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
| 11:10-11:30                                                                                     | Overview of the education and TVET system performance in Iraq                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Dr. Tariq Ali                                                                                                                                 |
| 11:30-12:30                                                                                     | Panel Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key strategic orientations for the national education sector in Iraq (the education strategy)</li> <li>Key strategic orientations for TVET (in the education strategy/the TVET law under ratification)</li> </ul> | Dr. Hamid Ahmed<br>Dr. Mahdi Alawadi<br>Dr. Ehab Naji<br>Dr. Maha Abdulkarem<br>Dr. Hazem Baqer<br>Dr. Mohamed Husain<br>Moderator: Tim Mizen |
| 12:30 – 12:40                                                                                   | Tea Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                               |
| SESSION 3: Identification of bottlenecks for the implementation of reform in TVET               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
| 12:40-13:40                                                                                     | Identification of bottlenecks for implementing TVET reform in Iraq (Presentation and working group)                                                                                                                                                                     | Khalil Bahloul                                                                                                                                |
| SESSION 4: Good practices to ensure successful implementation of a TVET policy, strategy/reform |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                               |
| 13:40-14:00                                                                                     | Evaluation of the performance of the national TVET and skills development system: Good practices (Presentation and QnA)                                                                                                                                                 | Dr. Olivier Pieume                                                                                                                            |
| 14:00-14:30                                                                                     | Results based management in the education and skills development system: Good practices (Presentation and QnA)                                                                                                                                                          | Dr. Anasse Bouhlal                                                                                                                            |
| 14:30 onwards                                                                                   | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                               |

| DAY 2 – Thematic sessions                                 |                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 8:15 - 09:00                                              | Arrival                                                                                                                                          |                                            |
| 09:00-9:10                                                | Wrap-up of the first day of the workshop                                                                                                         | Sanskruti Ghosalkar                        |
| SESSION 5: Greening TVET                                  |                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |
| 9:10-9:25                                                 | State of the greening TVET and skills system in Iraq                                                                                             | Dr. Alaa Abdulhasan                        |
| 9:25-09:45                                                | International trends related to the greening of TVET and skills development system (Presentation and QnA)                                        | Dr. Margarita Pavlova                      |
| 09:45-10:30                                               | Development of a greening action plan for a TVET institution (Presentation and working group)                                                    | Dr. Margarita Pavlova                      |
| SESSION 6: Digital Transformation of TVET                 |                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |
| 10:30-10:45                                               | State of the digital transformation of the Iraq national TVET and skills development system                                                      | Dr. Ehab Naji                              |
| 10:45-11:15                                               | International trends related to the digital transformation of TVET and skills development system (Presentation and QnA)                          | Dr. Anasse Bouhlal                         |
| 11:15-12:00                                               | Development of a strategy for digital transformation of the national TVET system (Presentation and working group)                                | Dr. Olivier Pieume                         |
| 12:00-12:15                                               | Tea break                                                                                                                                        |                                            |
| SESSION 7: Best Practices in Achieving Labor Market Links |                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |
| 12:15– 12:30                                              | State of the linkage between national skills system offer and the labor market needs                                                             | Dr. Maha Abdulkarem                        |
| 12:30– 13:00                                              | Sector Skills Bodies: Importance and international good practices (Presentation and QnA)                                                         | Khalil Bahloul                             |
| 13:00-13:20                                               | Dual training/work-based learning: Importance and international good practices (Presentation and QnA)                                            | Dr. Anasse Bouhlal                         |
| 13:20-13:40                                               | Public-private partnership frameworks - Importance and international good practices (Presentation and working group)                             | Khalil Bahloul                             |
| 13:40-14:10                                               | Drafting of the Recommendations                                                                                                                  | Dr. Olivier Pieume and Sanskruti Ghosalkar |
| Closing Session                                           |                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |
| 14:10-14:30                                               | Presentation of the recommendations                                                                                                              | Tim Mizen                                  |
|                                                           | Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From a representative of participants</li> <li>From a representative of UNESCO</li> </ul> |                                            |
| 14:30 onwards                                             | Lunch                                                                                                                                            |                                            |
|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                  |                                            |

### UNESCO – a global leader in education

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation for peace and sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education, providing global and regional leadership to drive progress, strengthening the resilience and capacity of national systems to serve all learners. UNESCO also leads efforts to respond to contemporary global challenges through transformative learning, with special focus on gender equality and Africa across all actions.



### The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to *"ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."* The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



## Stay in touch



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