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## Vocational Training for Employment Programme (VET4JOB) Time to Start in Apprenticeship and Vocational Training

*VET4JOB is the most comprehensive programme concerning the apprenticeship and vocational training programme in Turkey supported by the European Union funds, thanks to a powerful system that targeting 22,400 Turkish citizens and Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) to facilitate transition of young people and adults to formal employment*

**Vocational Training for Employment Programme** is implemented with the cooperation of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen (TESK) and it is funded by European Union Facility for Refugees in Turkey. The programme is implemented by Expertise France and EDUSER. With a 30 million Euro budget and 48-month implementation period, the programme **is the most comprehensive programme implemented in Turkey in the field of apprenticeship and vocational training**. The programme aims to improve sustainable livelihoods and employment prospects for the Syrians under Temporary Protection and Turkish citizens, by supporting their skills development through apprenticeship and vocational education and training in line with labour market needs.

Mr. Jérôme Heitz, Expertise France Peace, Stability and Security Department Head, stated in his speech in the launching event of the programme held digitally on December 16, 2020, that a strong collaboration with the public authorities is the key for a successful implementation and he expressed his satisfaction regarding the synergy between the programme partners and drew attention to the role of this in the success of the programme. Mr. Heitz, expressed that, VET4JOB is fully ready to put its step to the field, while pointing out Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world and in this situation has become even more challenging task with the pandemic and in this regards VET4JOB is extremely an important programme to strengthen the economic resilience of Turkish and Syrian young and adults. Mr. Heitz stressed that it could be possible to realise VET4JOB programme without the support, commitment and contribution of the Ministry of National Education and TESK and added that the programme will reach out to relevant target groups by supporting their vocational skills development and to be a part of formal employment.

Mr. Libor Chlad, Head of Section, the European Union Delegation to Turkey, FRIT Section started to his speech by thanking all the partners involved in VET4JOB programme. He said that objectives became more ambitious than the initial plan due to the pandemic, but some things are the same as there are young people out there who are looking for hope and opportunities. Mr. Chlad added that vocational and technical education is a good start for these young people but also for the adults who can reconnect to the world of work after successful retraining. Mr. Chlad highlighted that vocational and technical education is an opportunity for young people who need to require not only the technical skills that can eventually lead to long term employment but also for them to obtain desirable behaviours and work discipline to be able to successfully succeed in the labour market. He also made a point to regarding difficulties faced by some vulnerable groups including refugees during the current challenging times and added people should be looking for opportunities and use this period for preparations to reach concrete results.



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Mr. Çetin Demirkazık, Acting General Secretary, Confederation of Turkish Tradesmen and Craftsmen, expressed in his speech in the digital launching event that the supporting individuals to obtain interest, skill, attitude, demeanor and professional ethics in the field of vocational and technical training in accordance with the required knowledge of the profession was highly strategic and highlighted the fact that the very basic factor to achieve Turkey's 2023 vision is the investment to be made to human resources. Mr. Demirkazık underlined that TESK is ready and determined to mobilize all necessary resources together with all its sub-organisations, for qualified apprenticeship and vocational training.

Mr. Prof. Dr. Kemal Varın Numanoğlu, General Director, Ministry of National Education Directorate General of Vocational Education and Training, emphasized that the development-oriented approach to humanitarian crises can be successful if supported by activities in areas such as education, health, entrepreneurship, socio-cultural cohesion through long-term planning, collaboration with local partners and concrete projects. Mr. Numanoğlu added that as the Ministry of National Education, they have spent a considerable time working on both planning and conducting routine activities by taking Syrians into consideration, and solving their educational problems through various projects by directly targeting them. Mr. Numanoğlu said that formal apprenticeship training allows young people who are out of the education system for any reason both by continuing their education and contributing to family income by participating in formal employment. In his speech, Mr. Numanoğlu draw attention that the lack of education and skill levels of Syrians as the biggest obstacle in their transition to formal employment in the labour market, and stated that VET4JOB is an effective and comprehensive programme that implemented to give an effective and comprehensive response to these problems. Mr. Prof. Dr. Kemal Varın Numanoğlu concluded his words by saying that the current refugee crisis can only be answered with solidarity, collaboration and common will.

In his opening speech, Halil Afşarata, Vice Presidency FRIT Office Coordinator draw attention to the importance of timely execution of programme activities for target groups and pointed out necessity of revisions to be made in existing programmes by taking impacts of Covid-19 into consideration.

## *Programme Implementation Provinces and Activities*

Within the framework of the programme to be implemented within 35 vocational training institutions that offers apprenticeship and vocational training to young people and adults in Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya and Mersin provinces; support will be provided to 14,400 new apprentice students, vocational and skill courses for 8,000 adults will be offered, and career guidance services for 5,000 apprentice students will be ensured.

Within the scope of VET4JOB, which is officially launched on the digital platform between 11:00 and 13:00 on December 16, 2020, there will be courses and supporting activities in the field of apprenticeship and vocational training for Turkish citizens and Syrian youth and adults. Through promoting apprenticeship training, it is aimed to combat child labor via referring children from working life to education who are working in informal jobs and/or at the risk of working. Activities to strengthen the local institutional capacity in the provinces where the programme to be implemented also will be carried out. For this purpose, psycho-social support training for staff and counselor teachers, lunch support for apprentice students, small-scale construction works and training equipment will be provided to for 35 vocational training institutions that offer apprenticeship and vocational training to



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young people and adults operating in 12 provinces within the capacity of VET4JOB. In addition, training activities for representatives working in local mechanisms, Turkish speech and language training for Syrian youth and adults, career development courses, registration to İŐKUR, certification of prior learning, mentorship and support services for business establishment will be provided.

Within the framework of the programme, awareness raising activities will be carried out for SMEs, especially tradesmen and craftsmen enterprises that can train apprentice students and families for them to guide their children in the right way. Enterprises are also supported within the scope of VET4JOB, as well as provision of small-scale construction works and training equipments to improve the educational environment of apprentice students. Besides, capacity building activities on apprenticeship training for employers, master trainers and managers, 4 different apprentice student forums where apprentice students will make their voices heard, 3 vocational skill contests for apprentice students and 1 business start-up contest and a nation wide communication campaign on the benefits of apprenticeship training and vocational training options and negative consequences of the child labour are aimed to be organized.

With the trainings to be provided during the programme, 36,800 Turkish citizens and Syrian participants will frequently come together in educational and working environments, and will have the opportunity to learn, exchange ideas and socialize together through activities aimed to improve their social cohesion skills. Via the programme, it is expected to achieve permanent systematic improvements in the apprenticeship and vocational training system, and by drawing attention to the advantages of apprenticeship and vocational training, more young people and adults are expected to acquire vocational skills that will enable them to access sustainable livelihoods.

## **Background:**

*With nearly 4 million refugees and asylum seekers consisting of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees, Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world. Important steps have been taken to ensure that people living in our country with temporary protection status have access to health, education and social services and livelihood opportunities. In addition, although important studies are carried out to ensure the social and economic cohesion of individuals with the society, the needs in this regard continue to be important. Researches point to the fact that the main reason for the low enrollment rate (32.5%) of the Syrians under temporary protection population in the 14-17 age group in our country is that these children have to work to contribute to the family income for economic hardships. There is a similar situation for Turkish children working in this age group.*

*Moreover, neither in education nor in employment rate of youth employment in Turkey is observed to be increased (27.9% in the 15-24 age group), it is known that this ratio is higher among Syrians. Labour market analysis reveals that enterprises have difficulty in finding qualified workforce and there is a great difference between the current skills of young people and adults and the skills required by the labour market. This situation brings important risks such as failure to break the poverty cycle, increase in informal employment and losing the gains achieved in the fight against child labour with itself.*

*In order to contribute to the solution of these problems, apprenticeship training, which is the most suitable and advantageous option for young people, and to increase the quality and supply capacity of vocational training services for adults will be carried out within the scope of VET4JOB. All these activities will increase the demand for apprenticeship and vocational training and contribute to the strengthening of the image of apprenticeship training among the public, especially families, youth and enterprises.*



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## For more information and contact

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