



Press Release

For immediate release

Ministerial Conference on “Providing Africa’s Youth with Skills and Training for Jobs” Will Kick Off in Abidjan on July 22, 2014

Tunis, July 17, 2014. The Inter-Country Quality Node on Technical and Vocational Skills Development (ICQN-TVSD), which is steered by Mr. Moussa Dosso, Minister of State of Côte d’Ivoire in partnership with ADEA, will hold a high level Ministerial Conference on “Providing Africa’s Youth with Skills and Training for Jobs” in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, July 22-23, 2014. The Conference will be opened officially by the Prime Minister of Côte d’Ivoire, Daniel Kablan DUNCAN.

Some 25 African Ministers responsible for vocational training, employment and youth matters in their respective countries will attend the event. Participant will also include 30 experts from various parts of the African continent and other regions of the world as well as representatives of technical and financial partners.

The conference will focus primarily on the pooling and sharing of pathways and modalities to improve through skills development and job creation, young African’s access to the world of work.

The Ministerial Conference will be preceded on July 21st by a one-day experts’ meeting, to be attended also by the technical and financial partners. The meeting will share and analyze the training, workforce integration and job creation strategies that countries have begun to implement in order to address the real needs of the labor market. Actions taken by countries and their effectiveness will be discussed on the basis of reports produced on these by each country. The discussions will support the formulation and endorsement by the African Ministers of a Regional Action Plan to significantly facilitate youth’s access to employment.

The Ministers will adopt the Regional Action Plan (2014-2017) that will address youth employment through training and skills development and enhanced inter-country cooperation in these areas. Ministers will also decide on the institutionalization of the ICQN-TVSD as a permanent structure for inter-country cooperation on TVSD and define the ICQN-TVSD’s work program (2014-2017).

The experts’ meeting and Ministers’ Conference are organized by the Inter-Country Quality Country Node (ICQN) on Technical and Vocational skills Development (TVSD) in partnership with ADEA and with the support of the French Agency for Development (AFD), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the International Development Research Center (IDRC), the German Cooperation (GIZ), Luxemburg’s development agency (LuxDev), the Swiss Cooperation through NORRAG and the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF).

Some facts and figures on youth employment in Africa

Youth employment is one of the biggest challenges facing the African continent in its efforts to fight poverty and, more fundamentally, ensure the sustainable development of the continent.

Although Africa has recorded an annual economic growth of nearly 5% over the last ten years, the available data show that job creation is largely insufficient, when under normal circumstances this situation should have enabled African countries to resolve the problem of employing the many young people entering the job market. Data from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the World Bank have revealed that young people make up 60% of the unemployed population, not counting those who are clearly under-employed. The data from these organizations also indicate that between 2000 and 2007, Africa's working population increased by 96 million while jobs increased by only 63 million and 4 out of 5 of these new jobs were created by the informal economy. This situation has led to a severe deterioration in the economic and social situation of the youth on the continent, resulting in strong negative impacts on the personal and occupational development of Africa's young people. For example, one of every two young people who join an insurgent movement states that the main reason is unemployment. In addition, a great majority of young people entering the job market hold unstable jobs and, as a result, have no assurance concerning the earning potential and permanence of their work.

About the ICQN-TVSD

ADEA's Inter-Country Quality Node on Technical and Vocational Skills Development (ICQN-TVSD) was set up in 2010 was created to enable countries to share experiences, strategies and policies in the field of TVSD. Ultimately it seeks the effective implementation of policies and actions at the service of Africa's accelerated and sustainable development.

The ICQN is led by the State Ministry for Employment, Social Affairs and Vocational Training of Côte d'Ivoire. Twenty-five countries from all the sub-regions of Africa, currently participate in the activities of the ICQN.

More information on the conference is available on the dedicated conference web site at http://www.adeanet.org/min_conf_youth_skills_employment/

The agendas of the meetings as well as the documents produced by countries on their strategies to integrate youth in the work force and create jobs can be downloaded from the web site.

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