

# **The global dimension of youth employment with special focus on Northern Africa**

Joint seminar of the European Parliament and EU Agencies

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## ETF's mission and vision

- **Mission**

To help transition and developing countries to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems in the context of the EU's external relations policy.

- **Vision**

To make vocational education and training in the partner countries a driver for lifelong learning and sustainable development, with a special focus on competitiveness and social cohesion.

**Potential candidate countries:**

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/1999), Serbia

**Candidate countries:**

Croatia, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Turkey

**Other countries from Central Asia:**

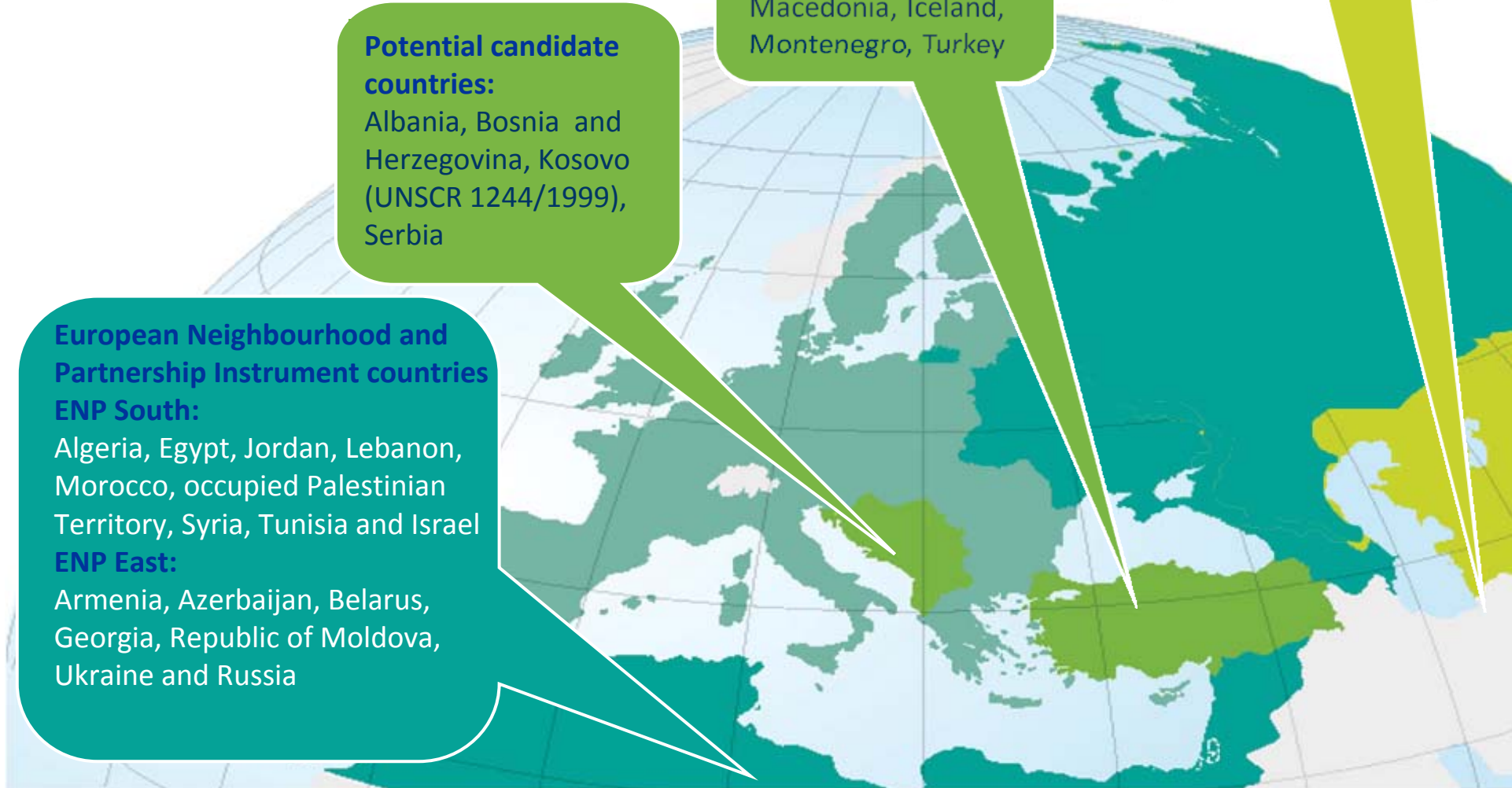
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

**European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument countries**  
**ENP South:**

Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Israel

**ENP East:**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Russia





## North Africa: *Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia*

### *Countries' characteristics*

- *Demographic pressure: young populations*
- *Coexistence of a modern and traditional economic sector (including agriculture)*
- *Large share of informal sector and small and medium sized enterprises*
- *Territorial disparities*
- *Centralised governance systems*



## Youth employment characteristics

The “educated unemployed” :

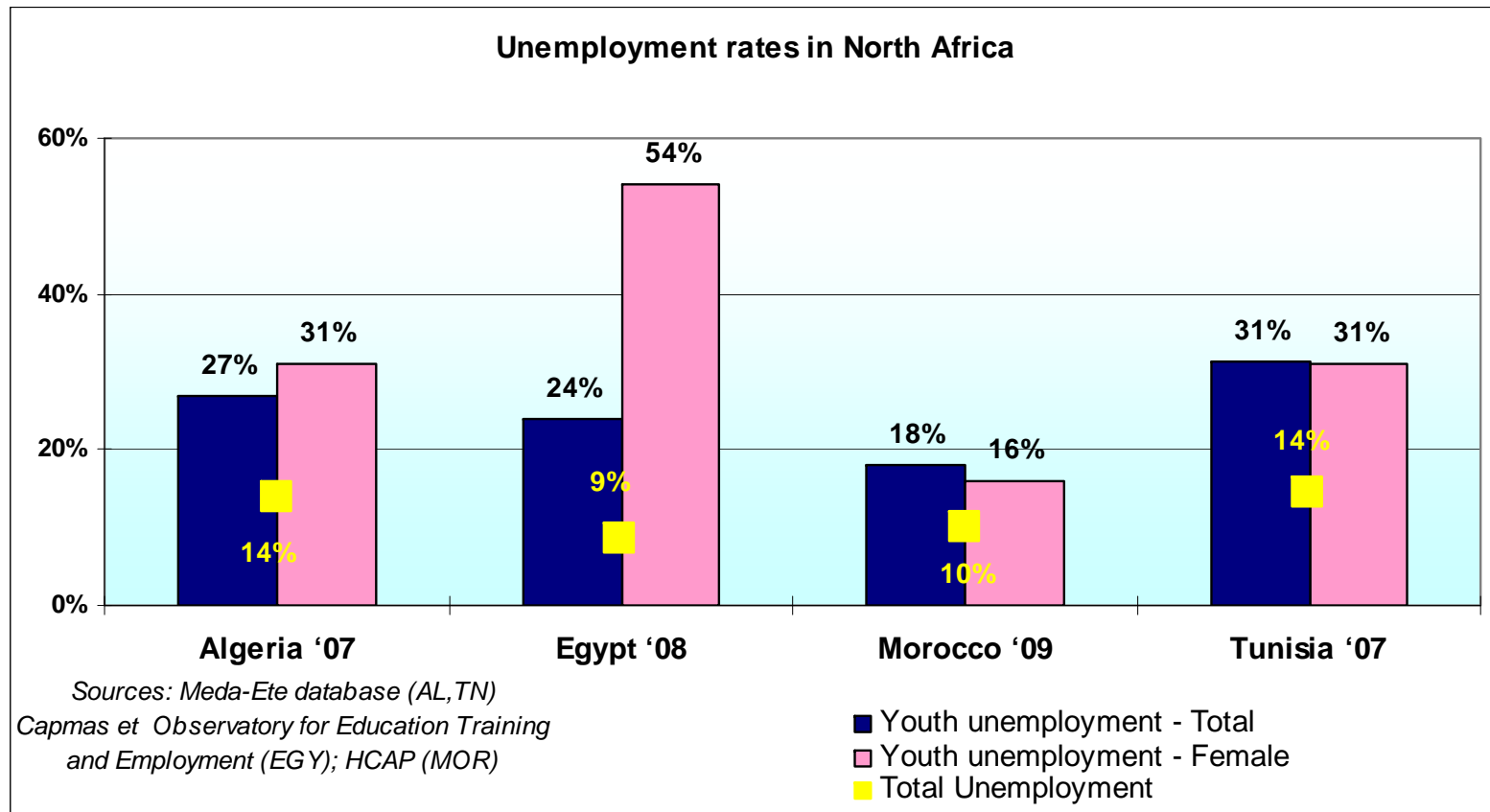
- university graduates have limited opportunities to find jobs corresponding to their expectations and qualifications
- This is due partially to the lack of jobs and partially to skill mismatch

The informal employment of low and middle qualified

The vulnerability of illiterate youth – many of them women

Migration

## Unemployment rates





## Preparation for the labour market: Education and Training

- Improved access to education - primary education (MDG's) and path towards higher education
- Still large numbers of young people remain deprived from E&T
- Quality is lagging behind
- Insufficient preparation for the labour market –normally education transfers academic knowledge
- VET unattractive and of narrow scope – far from its European economic and social role
- Active Labour market Measures: exist but their coverage is low - the focus on educated unemployed



## The road ahead

Concerted effort to

- (i) improve the relevance of skills of young people and enhance their employability,
- (ii) support job creation (SMEs; regional development; sectors) and
- (iii) improve the functioning of their labour markets by addressing segmentation.





## Improving E & T and its relation to employment

- Access, quality and relevance (of education at all levels) for employability
- Increasing attractiveness of VET as valid educational pathway towards employment (*more pressure on post-compulsory levels of education in the future*)
- The content of education : knowledge and key competences (entrepreneurship, citizenship, communication)



## Improving E & T and its relation to employment

- Bringing the world of education closer to the world of work with enterprise business cooperation – social partnership -(the sectoral approach)
- Open the education and training institutions to stakeholders - Ensure inclusive governance – *(all have interests - all have obligations – all have benefits)*
- Strengthening evidence-based policy making through monitoring developments in the demand and supply of skills, identifying skill gaps , ensure a better matching



## Facilitating school-to-work transition

- ALMMs as a means for skills adaptation, activation and work experience
- Career guidance and counseling
- Strengthening the role of public employment services

EU/EU MSs /PCs enhanced co-operation