



« ISESCO'S ROLE IN THE PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY: THE KEY ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION »

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ISESCO's role in the promotion of Knowledge Economy: The key role of Higher Education

1 - ISESCO's Knowledge Economy program :

ISESCO has launched since 2010 a large scale program on K.E in partnership with the World Bank, The European Development Bank and the Center for Mediterranean Integration focused on :

- fostering innovation in the MENA countries,
- governance and management of Science and Technology Parks (STP),
- Capacity building on Innovation policies, technology innovation,
- entrepreneurial skills.

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2013: Launch of the report : Transforming Arab Economies: Traveling the Knowledge and Innovation Road- ISESCO, World Bank, EIB, CMI:

- ❑ It places a knowledge and innovation driven model at the heart of new development strategies in the Arab region.
- ❑ It highlight how the knowledge and innovation approach can help arab countries diversify their economies and innovate, creating new enterprises and jobs.
- ❑ The study places these issues in a suggested integrative framework that includes developing more open and entrepreneurial economies, preparing a better educated and highly skilled population improving innovation and research capabilities and expanding information and communication technologies and their applications.

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- It exhorts policy makers to adopt new policy agendas and a new type of open mindset that can lead to the creation of more jobs of higher value in a rapidly connected and globalized world.

Given the diversity of the arab world, the study does not provide a cookie-cutter approach but rather offers examples from within the region or from countries that have put in place effective strategies to maximise the use of knowledge, innovation, and technology .

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2- Higher Education Program:

ISESCO holds a bi-annual higher education ministerial conferences in order to assess some lessons (state of Higher education in the ISESCO member states..) and develop road maps based on strategies and actions adopted by the higher education conferences.

ISESCO plays a catalyst role, considering knowledge as a driven force of productivity and economic growth and encourages an universel vison of Higher Education

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ISESCO plays different role :

- Educate and forme people and function as a rouser of conscience
- It has an ethic orientation role especially in a context of values crisis.

1- **The implication of Socio- economics transformations on Higher education**

- The world faces daunting challenges, migration phenomena, galloping population, exponential growth of scientific knowledge globalization and internationalization ... that affects Higher education..

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Massification of higher education, declining public funding, commercialization of higher education activities and increasing competition among universities on regional, national and international level, gender inequity in University, unemployment etc

2- An Universal vision based on cooperation and quality governance

Knowing that all those key challenges are closely connected, meeting the requirements of a new type of integrated and consistent ecosystem focused on a “balanced governance” based on coordination between government ministries, IO, as well as with the private sector and civil society.

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Main role of The Federation of the Universities of Islamic World (gathers 350 universities)

- 1) Scientific cooperation
 - 2) Academic cooperation : Academic Chairs
- Role of the quality governance of Universities
 - KPI adopted by ISESCO

3- Main programs of Higher Education:

- Grants are provided in the fields of research-These grants are intended to help in preparing researchers to undertake their own future research projects and to provide supplemental financial assistance.
- Prizes to scientists and technologists from ISESCO Member States, who have made remarkable contributions in their research fields. ICPSR Prizes are awarded in 6 fields: Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Physics and Technology.
- PIREN

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- South South workshops on maintenance and reparation
- **high level program called Tafahum** on exchange of students, researchers and teachers among universities in the Member States: The project aims to contribute to promoting a better understanding among young people and the educational staff of cultural diversity by helping them to acquire the proficiency and basic skills necessary for youth's personal development, employability and active citizenship.

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Thank you for your attention