

New Integrated National Initiative for Moroccan Youth



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The CESE stresses in its referral-based study that the youth population in Morocco are a valuable national asset and a great demographic dividend. They are also viewed by the study as an important engine of social economic development and a central ingredient to wealth creation.

Put at the heart of social change, nevertheless, young people experience a distressing sense of discomfort wading through a range of difficulties finding a productive place within society. Not only does the youth have little opportunity for voice in national strategic decision-making, but they also do not have equal and adequate access to quality education and healthcare.

The major findings of the Council's analysis of indicators concerning young people and their participation in economic and social life are the country's relatively low level of social cohesion, coupled with phenomena such as school dropout, unemployment, underemployment, and the lack of support structures to facilitate young people's participation in social life. The combination of these factors, the study underlines, yields isolation and frustration for the youth, propels them into delinquent and criminal extremist behavior, and increases their quest to seek greener pastures abroad.

These constraints sit against a backdrop of growing social demands and pressures – particularly among large swathes of young people – that the current development model be rethought to meet their needs and ambitions. Although the national political situation has changed significantly since 2011, the aspirations and demands of young Moroccans for a better future remain high.

Given this situation, the CESE considers timely to launch a new integrated youth-centered national initiative. The specific objective is to provide long-term solutions to better meet the legitimate expectations of young people for a decent life, social justice, equity and active participation in the entire process for the development of the country. The goal is also to provide the youth with the opportunity to fully unfold their energy and potential through equal opportunity, improve their wellbeing and empower young minds with their strong history and committed values to make their own path and forge ahead with grit in an open, globalized world.

Recommendations:

Nine main areas of action and related measures have been identified to meet the ambition outlined in the proposed initiative. These are as follows:

- Develop young people's capacities, raise their knowledge and sharpen their skills throughout life to help them enter the workplace and continually adapt and improve so they can remain relevant and competitive.
- Promote the integration of young people into the labor market.
- Better protect young people from health risks and improve access to quality healthcare, medical coverage and universal social protection.
- Back up the Integrated National Initiative for the Youth with the National Initiative for Human Development (known by its French acronym INDH).
- Strengthen the indivisible citizenship of young people, not only in all its fullness and various aspects but also in terms of rights and obligations.
- Consolidate the foundation of our shared societal values and create an environment that brings these values to concrete expression among the youth.
- Promote creative expression, cultural awareness, artistic development and nurture a passion for sports among young people.
- Educate and raise awareness among young people about the importance of environment preservation and protection.
- Engage young people in major global agendas and involve them in raising the country's stature in the world.

An overall vision on the youth is essential for a more fast-paced and all-inclusive growth in Morocco. It is a requisite to meet the economic and social aspirations of the entire Moroccan population in general, and young people in particular, towards a fair and equitable multidimensional development and shared prosperity and well-being for all.