

Training and employment in the northern and southern Mediterranean region



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The *MEDSTAT* programme

The European Union's policy toward the Mediterranean region is shaped by the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (or Barcelona Process) established as a result of the Barcelona Conference held in 1995.

In the area of statistics, EU Member States and Mediterranean partners have intensified their relations since 1996 through the *MEDSTAT* regional statistical co-operation programme, financed under the MEDA regulation.

With a budget of EUR 20 million, *MEDSTAT I* was implemented from 1996 to 2003. *MEDSTAT II* was launched in 2006 for a 45-month period with a budget of EUR 30 million.

MEDSTAT aims to respond to the needs of the association agreements, particularly in relation to free trade, sustainable development and social development. It contributes to the supply of statistical information that is useful in monitoring the progress of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation. Its objective is to harmonise statistical methods in line with European and international norms and standards and to improve the coherence of data in the Mediterranean partner countries as well as their comparability with the statistical data of the EU and EFTA countries.

MEDSTAT also aims to improve the quality of services provided to users by the national statistics institutes and the other partner bodies involved in the production of statistics. The provision of up-to-date, reliable and relevant high-quality statistical data is vital for political decision making and to ensure good governance.

From December 1996 until March 2003, *MEDSTAT I* covered several statistical sectors. Among them, the environment was the subject of a second project, *MEDSTAT-Env II*, which was implemented between 2003 and 2006.

Since January 2006, *MEDSTAT II* has been working on extending the qualitative work already done by organising training and by contributing technical resources to the information systems of national institutes and other statistics producers in the Mediterranean countries.

Special attention is paid to the coherence of data, to their harmonisation and dissemination in nine statistical sectors: trade in goods and services, transport, migration, tourism, the environment, national accounts, social statistics, energy and agriculture.

The programme currently involves 10 partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

**This publication can be consulted in English and French at the following website address:
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Training and employment in the northern & southern Mediterranean region

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1. Introduction

This publication deals with training and employment issues encountered in the Northern Mediterranean Countries (NMC)¹ and the nine southern and eastern Mediterranean countries participating in the MEDSTAT II programme (referred to here as the Mediterranean Partner Countries - MPC)². One of the keys for convergence between these two groups of countries is a rise in living standards in the southern and eastern Mediterranean. Such growth is not sufficient in itself; the demographic transition currently underway in the MPC is another factor favouring this convergence, which could produce results within two or three decades.

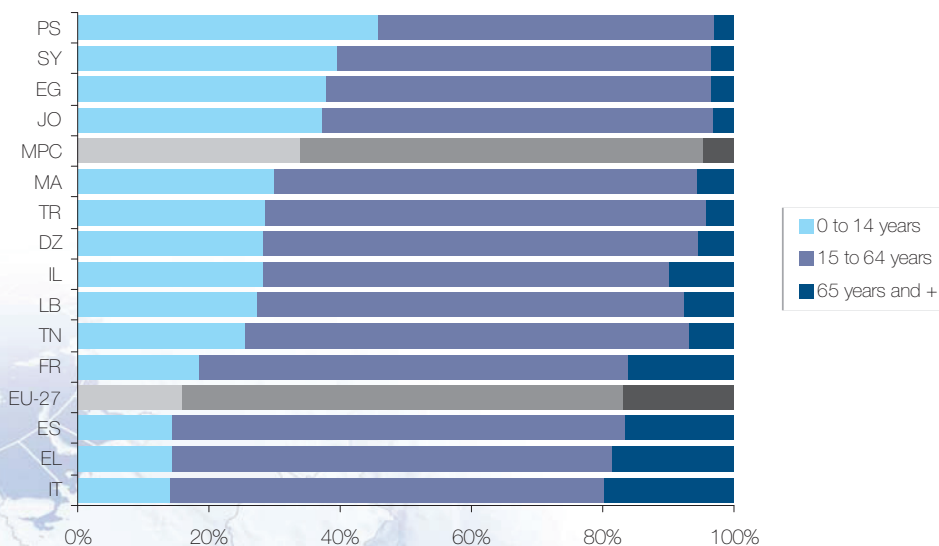
In fact, incorporating a young and increasingly well-trained population within the professional world is a societal problem that remains fundamental in the south, while the NMC are concerned with economic activity issues and the fate of an ageing population. The aim of this study is to report on the current socio-economic situation of the populations involved in the nine southern and eastern Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) as compared with certain European countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, including France, Greece, Italy, Spain, and Turkey. A comparison with the whole 27-Member European Union (EU-27) is made where it is significant.

2. A lower standard of living and a younger population in the south

The average GDP per capita in the MPC is approximately one-tenth of that of the NMC (see *Table 1 in Annex*): only Israel has a relatively high level of economic activity, with a GDP per capita close to European levels. Lebanon and Turkey fall in a midway situation, with a GDP per capita close to a fifth of the European level.

The causes of the lower level of economic activity seen in the MPC as compared with the NMC are primarily historical: lower labour productivity, inadequate training levels in some cases, high birth rate and, finally, very low participation of women in the labour force. The rapid changes taking place in these countries should, however, in the long term result in a marked upturn in living standards.

Chart 1: Population distribution by age (%)



Note: Data for 2006, except for Lebanon (2004)

Countries are sorted out by ascending order according to the proportion of the group 0 to 14 years.

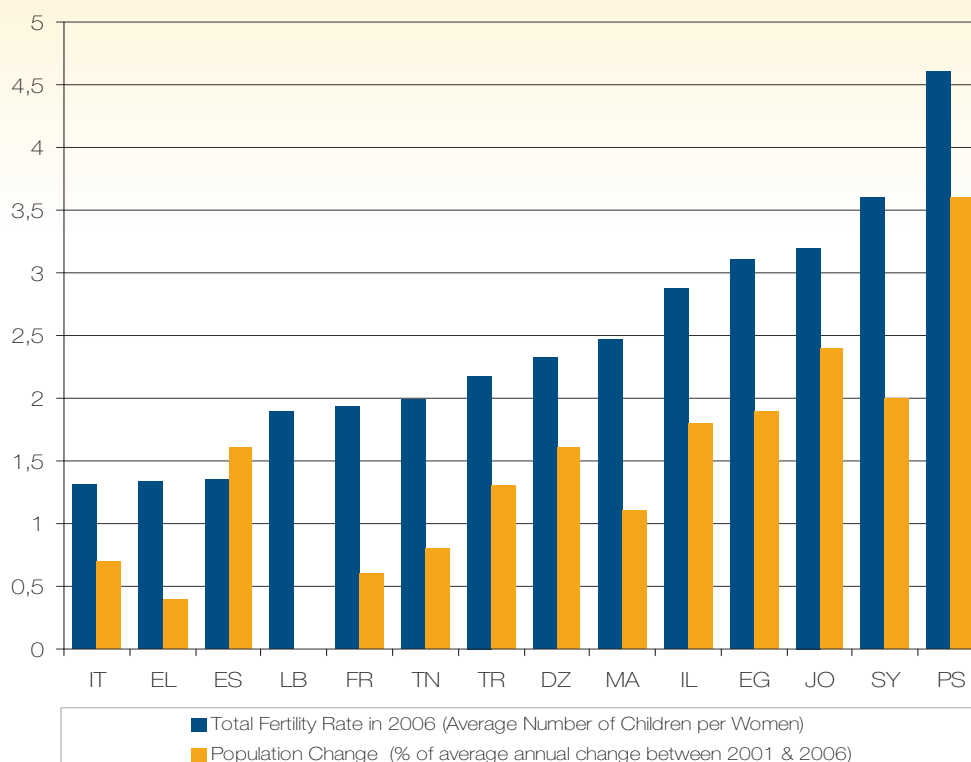
¹ The Northern Mediterranean Countries (NMC) dealt with in this publication are: France (FR), Greece (EL), Italy (IT) and Spain (ES). For the purposes of this publication, Turkey (TR) has been included in the Northern Mediterranean Countries (NMC).

² The nine Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) are: Algeria (DZ), Egypt (EG), Jordan (JO), Israel (IL), Lebanon (LB), Morocco (MA), the occupied Palestinian territory (PS), Syria (SY), and Tunisia (TN).

Significant demographic growth was a determining factor that hindered the rise in living standards in the southern MPC. These countries have recently, however, entered the phase known as "demographic transition", marked by a fall in fertility resulting from a rise in life expectancy.

In the eastern MPC, the total fertility rate remains however higher than 2.8 children per woman, while it is between 2 and 2.5 in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, but does not exceed 2 children per woman in the European countries.

Chart 2: Demographic indicators



Source : Eurostat

In close correlation with this high birth rate, demographic growth rates are higher in the MPC than in the NMC. Only those countries where a significant drop in fertility has started will experience a slow-down in demographic growth over the next two or three decades.

The positive correlation between fertility and population variations is not strict: the increasing life expectancy and migration flows are additional determining factors of population changes. In Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and the occupied Palestinian territory lasting high fertility rates, at around 3 children or more, go hand in hand with rapid population growth (see Chart 2).

However, in Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia, population growth is lower than fertility would lead us to suppose, and this is certainly partly due to emigration. In terms of rates, there is not always such a large difference between demographic growth in the north and the south: although from 2001 to 2006 population growth in Spain and in Algeria was the same, namely +1.6% per year, the Spanish population growth is mainly due to immigration and an increase in life expectancy, whereas the growth in the Algerian population is primarily due to the natural increase of the population.

Countries with young populations (see Chart 1 and Table I, in annex) have to deploy greater efforts on education. The share of children under 15 was 34% in 2006 in the nine MPC, whereas in the European Union the proportion was half that (16%).

From this viewpoint, four countries - Egypt, Jordan, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Syria - are still experiencing the effects of a high proportion of children aged under 15. Whereas, there is a relative similarity in the age structure of the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia), Israel, Lebanon, and Turkey.

The challenge produced by demographic changes is a lasting one. The current stabilisation of the number of births (or the gradual completion of the demographic transition) will make its effects felt on the labour market within a generation, i.e. around 2030-2040. When large populations reach the age of entry into working life, tensions in the labour market are perceived. These tensions are probably strengthened by an increased demand for better living conditions on the part of better-educated younger generations.

3. Rapid progress in the education system

The progress made in pre-school and primary education is a sign of greater demand for education: 100% youth literacy is a reality in all the countries involved and it is likely that this is the result of a change in families' attitudes to school. In the long term, a rise in educational and training standards should lead to higher labour productivity in relation to the international competition.

The countries of the southern Mediterranean have made considerable efforts in school enrolment at all educational levels. Starting with pre-primary education (prior to compulsory schooling age), enrolment rates are rising in the majority of countries. This rise is remarkable in two cases: in Algeria, where the pre-school enrolment rate rose from 2.8% in 2000 to 14.5% in 2006, and in Egypt, where the rate rose from 11.5% to 17.7% over the same period. However, there are a few exceptions to this rise in provision of education in the pre-compulsory schooling age: although they are already high, these rates are falling in Israel and Lebanon, and are at a standstill in Syria. The gap between these countries and the European countries remains significant, however, in most cases; in Europe the rate of pre-school enrolment is always above 50%.

Table 1: Gross school enrolment rate in pre-school, for both genders (%)

Country	2004	2005	2006
DZ	4.7	6.1	14.5
EG	14.7	16.6	17.7
IL	112.8	92.5	90.9
JO	30.7	31.6	32.4
LB	65.0	64.2	64.1
MA	56.4	57.5	59.2
PS	29.6	29.6	30.2
SY	10.7	10.7	10.9
TN	:	:	:
EL	66.9	68.0	68.9
ES	115.0	118.7	120.6
FR	113.2	117.0	115.6
IT	102.5	103.8	104.4
TR	8.5	10.4	13.3

Note: Rates above 100% correspond to enrolment before the age of 3 or after the age of 5

Source: UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UNESCO-UIS)

Table 2: Compulsory schooling in 2006

Country	Duration in years	Age at which compulsory education begins	Age at which compulsory education ends
DZ	9	6	14
EG	9	6	13
IL	11	5	15
JO	10	6	15
LB	9	6	11
MA	9	6	14
PS	10	6	15
SY	9	6	14
TN	11	6	16
TR	9	6	14
Total EU-27	8 to 13	5 to 7	14 to 18

Note: The difference between the age for compulsory schooling and the school-leaving age is less than the length of schooling because of the way in which ages are taken into account: the real age is used for compulsory schooling, while the age at the beginning of the calendar or school year is used for the length of schooling.

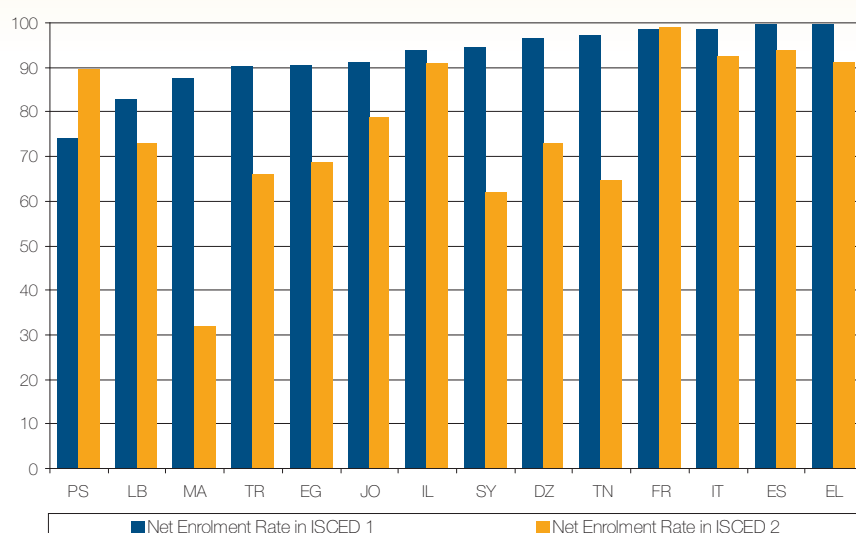
Source: Eurostat and UNESCO-UIS

An international standardisation in the ages and lengths of compulsory schooling is taking place. In all the southern countries, compulsory schooling begins at the age of six, except in Israel where compulsory schooling begins at five. Compulsory schooling ends slightly earlier in some southern Mediterranean countries than in Europe, particularly in Lebanon (age 11) and Egypt (age 13).

Primary education and the first section of secondary education are now accessible to all children in each age cohort, and in the long term this will ensure that all future generations are literate.

A lack of data and the huge diversity of national education systems make comparisons difficult, particularly at secondary level. They often differ in terms of the access age to vocational education: the more countries have modernised their education systems, the more they tend to open up general education to a greater proportion of an age cohort and to develop a long-term vocational education. This trend, which has been seen in Europe for a little over 20 years, is combined with a fall in the short-term vocational training.

Chart 3: Enrolment Rates in Primary and Secondary schools in 2006 (%)



Source: Eurostat and UNESCO-IUIS

Nonetheless, the school enrolment rates in the school systems of the southern Mediterranean countries are lower than those in Europe. In Morocco, in particular, the low school enrolment rates at secondary level are due to children dropping from school at particularly early ages.

There is only a slight difference in school enrolment rates among girls as compared to boys: female school enrolment rates are in general slightly higher than the male rates, except in Morocco, Syria and Turkey (see Table IV, in annex).

4. Insufficiently developed courses in some scientific and technical higher education disciplines

Teaching subsequent to the completion of compulsory schooling poses more difficulties: technical and scientific subjects are undoubtedly insufficiently represented in the MPC and the range of courses provided is more limited there than in Europe. Some students therefore turn to other countries, generally in Europe, in order to pursue university studies.

Although the annual number of graduates from higher education in Egypt (342 900 in 2002) and in Turkey (373 400 in 2006) is large, the proportion of graduates as compared with the total population of these two countries is less than half that of France. However, these coun-

tries, together with Israel, are the only ones in the MPC that can offer a full range of university courses, at an internationally recognised level: even though there are universities in other countries with worldwide reputation, they offer a more limited number of disciplines.

In the southern Mediterranean countries, however, literature and legal subjects account for a relatively greater share than in the European countries.

In all MPC, except in Morocco and Turkey, women form the majority of higher education graduates. This performance by women is also probably correlated with the weakness of scientific and technical courses, in which women participate less often. Additionally, completion of studies abroad is less frequent for women than for men.

Table 3: Graduates by field of study in higher education

Country	Year	Number of graduates	Share of women (in %)	Degrees in Education, Literature, Arts, and Social Sciences (in %)	Degrees in Science, Technology, and Agriculture (in %)	Degrees in Health, Social Protection and Services (in %)	Other Degrees (in %)
DZ	2006	107 500	61.1	70.9	24.1	5.0	0.0
EG	2002	342 900	:	:	:	:	:
IL	2006	52 600	58.9	:	:	:	:
JO	2006	47 100	53.7	58.3	30.3	11.4	0.0
LB	2006	30 500	54.3	67.5	20.4	12.1	0.0
MA	2006	54 500	42.7	76.9	16.9	0.1	6.0
PS	2006	21 900	57.1	73.4	17.0	0.1	9.5
SY	2004	26 900	57.4	:	:	:	:
TN	2006	56 600	59.0	:	:	:	:
EL	2006	59 900	61.5	49.4	32.9	17.7	0.0
ES	2006	286 000	58.3	49.8	28.4	21.8	0.0
FR	2005	643 600	55.5	55.8	27.3	16.9	0.0
IT	2006	379 900	58.6	60.2	23.6	16.2	0.0
TR	2006	373 400	44.7	62.1	26.0	11.9	0.0

Source: UNESCO-UIS. The data on Israel and Syria come from publications by those two countries

In fact, the absence of scientific and technical subjects in higher education drives students to pursue their studies abroad. While it is difficult to reckon these students, the information available shows that the countries of origin provide a good indication as to student destinations.

Thus, almost all Algerian students and 2/3 of Moroccan and Tunisian students study in France (see Table 4). Palestinian students go to the Arab countries. For their part, half of Greek students prefer the United Kingdom, and half of Turkish students go to Germany, while the United States is the preferred destination of Israeli students, with one-third of the students choosing to go there. On the other hand, movements of students between southern Mediterranean countries are very low - except for those from the occupied Palestinian territory.

These continuations of studies do lead to a certain 'brain drain' from the south to the north, with a certain, unknown though, proportion of students coming from the south who settle definitively in the country where they have completed their higher education. In addition, the exodus of skills, initially trained in the country of origin, towards northern countries poses the problem of lack of return on investment, the failure to pass on knowledge, and the country's deprivation of the opportunity to develop local educational disciplines and to retain skills.

In all cases, those graduating from the education system - whether or not they have graduated from higher education, and whether or not they have studied abroad - access the labour market with capabilities that are quite different from those of the European markets.

Table 4: Flows of students in higher education towards other countries in 2006 (%)

Host Country	Arab Countries (1)	Turkey	and Eastern European Countries (2)	East Asia & Pacific Countries (3)	Germany	France	Spain	Italy	United Kingdom	Switzerland	Other West-European Countries (4)	United States of America	Total
DZ	0.9	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.1	93.5	0.1	0.4	2.0	0.9	0.3	0.6	100
EG	6.5	0.1	2.4	3.7	17.6	15.8	0.3	3.7	16.4	1.2	5.6	26.7	100
IL	16.5	0.2	17.0	0.4	10.8	2.6	0.3	9.4	8.3	0.6	2.5	31.4	100
LB	2.0	0.4	9.8	0.1	9.6	45.9	0.2	5.7	5.7	0.9	1.5	18.2	100
MA	0.1	0.0	1.8	0.1	18.9	67.4	3.7	1.9	0.5	0.9	1.1	3.6	100
PS	81.8	3.0	2.0	0.1	0.0	2.6	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.1	4.4	4.8	100
TN	1.6	0.0	8.2	0.2	13.7	69.2	0.1	2.0	0.5	2.0	0.6	1.9	100
EL	0.0	2.6	4.1	0.1	17.3	5.3	0.3	14.5	46.8	0.6	2.7	5.7	100
ES	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.4	24.2	15.6	0.0	2.1	26.6	1.9	13.4	15.2	100
FR	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.8	14.0	0.0	1.9	2.0	26.6	9.8	29.7	14.7	100
IT	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.3	24.2	14.0	2.9	0.0	17.1	5.9	24.2	10.5	100
Total EU-27	0.1	0.9	13.3	0.5	20.9	8.5	1.2	5.4	18.0	3.2	15.9	12.1	100
TR	0.0	:	5.1	0.3	53.0	5.0	0.0	0.6	4.3	1.0	5.5	25.2	100

Country categories:

(1) Arab countries: Bahrain, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and United Arab Emirates. No data are available on: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, the occupied Palestinian territory, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

(2) Central and Eastern European Countries: Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Leetonia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

(3) East Asia & Pacific Countries: Australia, Hong Kong, China, Japan, and New Zealand.

(4) Other West-European Countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Island, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden.

Source : UNESCO-IUIS

5. A prevailing public sector that could hinder the growth of employment

When they leave the education system, young people in the southern Mediterranean countries arrive on a job market where the public sector is often dominant and more attractive than the private sector.

The share of the public sector can be greater or smaller in different countries, but this indicator can cover very diverse circumstances: the public sector may include the administrations, education, monopoly-run public services or large state-run companies. However, in the southern Mediterranean countries where the share of the public sector is over 25%, this proportion remains lower than that of France, where the figure is very high because state-run companies operating in the commercial sector are also included.

Table 5: Share of public employment

Country	Year	Employment by Sector			Employment in Public Sector by gender	
		Total (Thousands)	Public (%)	Private (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
DZ	:	:	:	:	:	:
EG	2004	1 372	25.5	74.5	26.6	18.9
IL	:	:	:	:	:	:
JO	2005	866	29.5	70.5	25.9	41.8
LB	:	:	:	:	:	:
MA	2006	9 928	9.8	90.2	10.3	8.7
PS	:	:	:	:	:	:
SY	2005	4 893	25.8	74.2	:	:
TN	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	2004	4 330	23.0	77.0	21.6	25.3
ES	2006	19 748	14.6	85.4	11.8	18.6
FR	2004	22 649	30.0	70.0	:	:
IT	2006	24 726	14.7	85.3	:	:
TR	2006	22 330	13.5	86.5	14.0	12.3

Source: International Labour Organisation (ILO)

In the southern Mediterranean countries, the public sector offers, in terms of prestige, a regular income, the right to a retirement pension, a status and social protection that the private sector does not provide. One of the signs of this high status is that there are more men in the public sector than women, whereas the opposite is the case in Europe.

The lack of job opportunities for graduates from scientific and technical disciplines in the public sector deter a sizable number of students from joining these paths. The presence of a large public sector thus hinders recruitment by the private commercial sector: it pushes a number of students towards courses that are less useful to the private sector and deprives the commercial sector of the best-educated graduates.

Thus, the functioning of the job market has to deal with difficulties created by the disparity between the posts on offer and the abilities of new arrivals in terms of qualifications.

6. A rural population with low-productivity jobs

In addition to this difficulty, there is a lack of mobility in the work force, which is probably due to the size of the rural population: while the most productive job opportunities are generally to be found in urban areas, a significant section of the young population lives in rural areas.

Employment in agricultural activities is an indirect measure of the existence of a rural population. Morocco (43.4% of jobs are in agriculture), Egypt (30.9%) and Turkey (27.3%) still have a high agricultural and rural population and the drift from rural areas is not yet complete in those countries.

The share accounted for by agricultural employment is over 15% in the majority of the southern Mediterranean countries, with few exceptions: Israel, which has a very modern agricultural system, and Jordan, where agricultural production remains limited because of lack of arable land, which in turn encourages a rural exodus. In addition, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, and Turkey have high agricultural and rural populations. In contrast, in Europe as a whole, and in France, Italy and Spain in particular, the share represented by agricultural employment is no greater than 5%, and the contribution by agriculture to the GDP is at an equivalent rate.

Table 6: Distribution of employment by sector of activity (%)

Country & Reference Year	Agriculture (A + B)	Industries & Construction (C + D + E + F)	Trade, Transport, Services (G to Q)	Total Employment
DZ (2004)	18.1	28.4	53.5	100
EG (2003)	30.9	21.5	47.6	100
IL (2006)	1.8	21.7	76.5	100
JO (2006)	3.1	20.0	76.9	100
LB (2004)	8.0	24.0	68.0	100
MA (2006)	43.4	20.3	36.3	100
PS (2006)	17.2	23.6	59.2	100
SY (2004)	17.1	32.9	50.0	100
TN (2005)	18.7	32.3	49.0	100
EL (2006)	11.1	21.4	67.5	100
ES (2006)	5.0	29.6	65.4	100
FR (2006)	3.4	20.4	76.2	100
IT (2006)	4.1	28.4	67.5	100
Total EU-27 (2004)	5.9	23.7	70.4	100
TR (2006)	27.3	25.4	47.3	100

Source: Eurostat and ILO
Classification: ISIC-Rev.3 (International Standard for Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities)

7. The contribution of the informal sector

The existence of a significant informal sector can be seen in three types of employment: the self-employed, domestic workers and, in part, unclassified workers of whom little is known. The results lead us to believe that there is a significant informal activity in the western MPC, particularly in Morocco, where independent workers and home-workers account for over 50% of total employment. This proportion is also high in Syria (30%) and Egypt (27%). In the northern Mediterranean countries, Turkey and Italy have informal employment sectors estimated at a similar size.

In practice, the informal sector is made up of small-sized units of production, working in the production of goods and services, and especially in the sectors of commerce, transport and small-scale crafts. The size of this sector, on the margins of the official economy, depends on the extent of governments' tolerance.

From the point of view of companies, informal employment involves advantages in terms of flexibility and costs, but restricts access to funding and to latest technologies. From the point of view of governments, tax resources are correspondingly lower, and those with an informal job often remain excluded from public development policies.

Table 7: Distribution of workers by status (as a % of the number of workers)

Country & Reference Year	Wage Workers *	Employers	Self-Employed	Family Workers	Not-Classified Workers
DZ (2004)	61.3	4.7	26.1	7.9	:
EG (2007)	58.5	14.1	13.3	14.1	:
IL (2006)	84.1	3.8	7.0	0.3	4.8
JO (2005)	83.8	6.6	8.9	0.7	:
LB (2007)	62.7	9.5	23.3	4.4	:
MA (2007)	44.9	2.3	24.9	26.1	1.7
PS (2007)	59.8	4.0	24.2	12.0	:
SY (2004)	60.4	6.7	20.0	10.3	2.6
TN (2007)	69.6	:	24.6	5.8	:
EL (2006)	62.8	7.5	20.0	6.0	3.6
ES (2006, employment)	77.9	4.9	15.9	1.2	0.1
FR (2005)	80.3	3.8	5.1	0.9	9.8
IT (2006)	49.1	1.0	13.4	1.2	35.3
TR (2006, employment)	56.5	5.4	23.5	14.6	:

* including members of cooperatives
Source : MEDSTAT II

8. Low participation of women in economic activity

Aside from the marked youth of their populations, there is also a low level of female employment in the MPC. The rate of participation in the labour force by women (see Table 8 and Table II, in annex) is undoubtedly an indicator that classifies the countries under investigation into two distinct groups: all the MPC except for Israel have a female participation rate of less than 30% on one hand; on the other hand, the NMC and Israel have a female participation rate higher than 50%.

In general, women are less likely to access the labour market and to apply for jobs. However, there are only four countries (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Tunisia) where there is a gap of over 10 percentage points between unemployment rates for men and for women. In the other countries, discrimination in the labour market remains low and the gap between unemployment rates is small, which must be due to a lower demand for jobs on the part of women.

Table 8: Labour force participation rates and unemployment rates (%)

Country	Economic Activity Rate			Unemployment Rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
DZ	69.9	14.8	42.5	11.8	14.4	12.3
EG	75.1	23.6	49.8	7.1	25.1	11.2
IL	67.2	58.7	62.9	7.9	9.0	8.4
JO	63.1	11.9	37.7	11.9	25.0	14.0
LB [1]	73.4	22.3	47.1	7.3	9.5	7.9
MA	76.4	27.2	51.3	9.7	9.7	9.7
PS	67.7	14.5	41.3	24.2	20.5	23.6
SY [2]	72.8	14.5	46.4	5.8	19.9	8.1
TN	73.8	27.2	50.0	13.2	17.3	14.3
EL	79.1	55.0	67.0	5.6	13.6	8.9
ES	81.3	60.2	70.8	6.3	11.6	8.5
FR	75.1	65.0	70.0	6.3	11.6	8.8
IT	74.6	50.8	62.7	5.4	8.8	6.8
Total EU-27	77.6	63.0	70.3	7.5	8.9	8.2
TR	74.4	26.1	50.2	8.4	8.4	8.4

[1] Data for 2004; [2] aged 15 and above

Source: Eurostat; rates calculated for the population aged between 15 and 64

9. A differentiated access to employment for young women

It is in the young populations that differences in circumstances are more noticeable. In the nine MPC, there is a share of young people aged between 15 and 24, estimated to be 15% of men and 47% of women, who are neither active participants in the labour force nor in education. On the other hand, in the European countries, all young people aged between 15 and 24 either are economically active, even if they are unemployed, or are students or school pupils. In fact, in the European countries, the benefits of being enrolled at school or university explain the absence of non-active and not-in-education persons aged below 25 (even if they are not actually pursuing their education).

For men aged between 15 and 24, the MPC do not necessarily differ from the European countries: the proportion of young men with jobs is particularly high in Morocco and Syria, but is lower than in Spain. In Algeria and Egypt, this proportion differs little from that of France and Italy and is slightly lower than in Turkey.

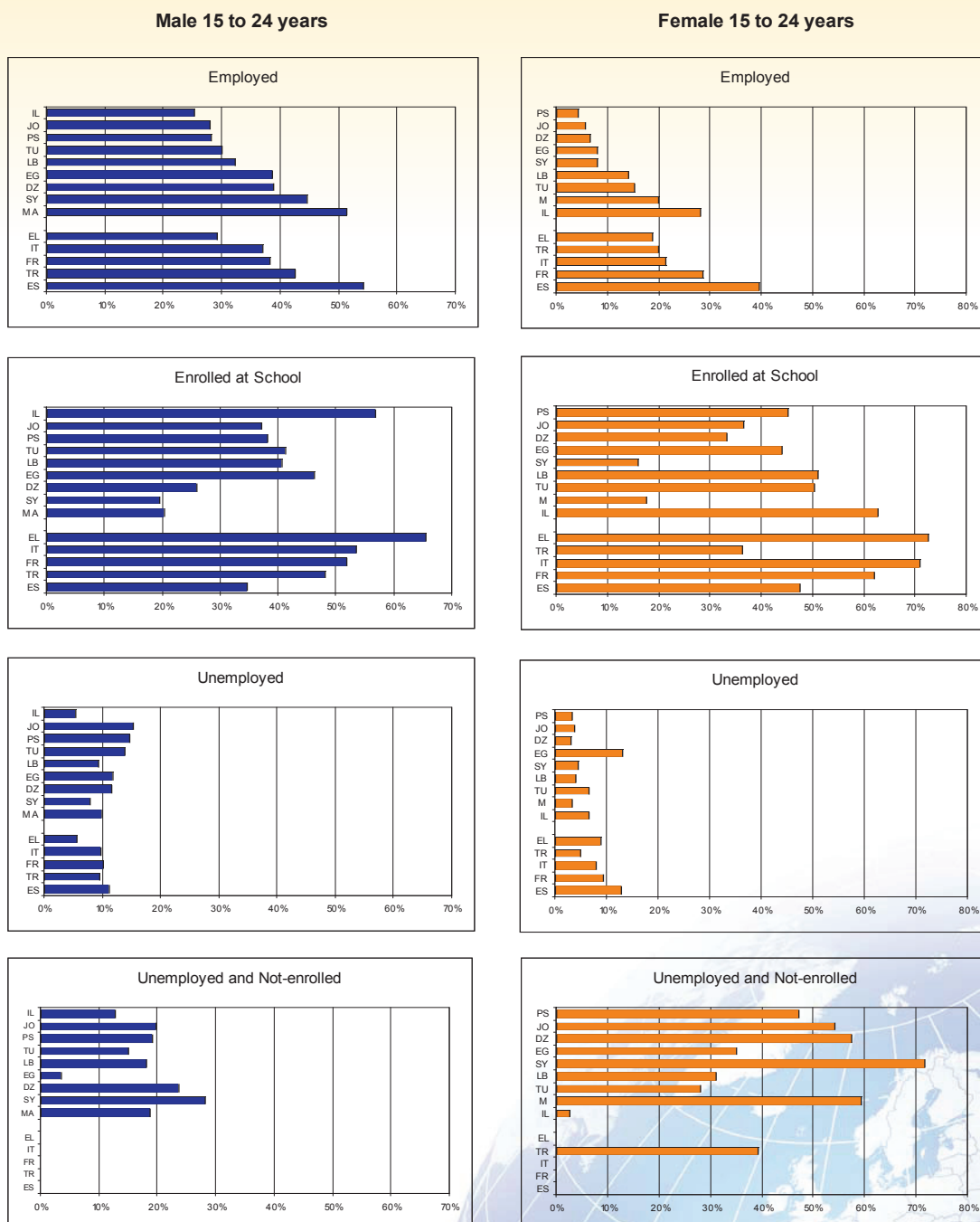
For young men, unemployment accounts for 5 to 12%, except in certain countries (Jordan, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Tunisia) where current economic conditions are unfavourable. A section of the population of young men is still in education, and the proportion of students here indirectly indicates the duration of studies: in countries such as France, Greece, and Italy, education lasts longer than in the MPC. The statistical data show for certain countries a high proportion of young men not in education: Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, and Turkey. However, these results should be interpreted cautiously³ (see Chart 4 on the next page and Table V, annex).

A comparison between the situation of women in the MPC and the NMC, shows that, in contrast, a significant section of the young female population does not place itself in the labour market after the completion of education: in almost all countries, the proportion of young women in education is slightly higher than that of men of the same age. Women are therefore in education for a similar length of time as men.

³ The way in which those in military service appear in the records is not known for all countries.

However, in the MPC they have more limited access to the labour market: less than 20% obtain work, except in Israel, where the situation is similar to that of France. Also a sign of lower access to the labour market, the proportion of the unemployed within the population of the same age cohort is low there, except in Egypt: it is lower than that of men in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, and Turkey. Few young women in the MPC place themselves on the labour market: the proportion of non-active and not-in-education women is therefore high and is often twice as high as for men (*see also Chart I, and Table V, annex*).

Chart 4: Situation of people aged 15-24 in terms of employment and education in 2006 (%)



Note: Country data are sorted out for each sexe, according to the Employed, separately for the NMC and MPC.

Source : Eurostat

10. Employment of older people

In most countries, in both the southern and northern Mediterranean countries, the retirement age is 60. As a result, employment rates fall rapidly around the age of 60, but they fall less quickly in the MPC, where higher post-65 employment rates persist, than in the European countries.

There are two reasons for these findings: the first is arithmetical; since life expectancies are lower in the southern Mediterranean countries, the total population, constituting the denominator, is lower as compared with the European countries. The second reason is the lack of a retirement system in the MPC for a large size of the working population, or seeking employment to maintain its income level. This phenomenon applies to both men and women, although the low level of female employment restricts its significance for women.

Table 9: Retirement age and life expectancy (in years)

Country	Legal Age for Retirement		Life Expectancy in 2006	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
DZ	60	55	70	72
EG	60	60	66	70
IL	65 à 70	60 à 65	79	82
JO	60	60	69	74
LB	64	60	68	72
MA	60	60	70	74
PS	:	:	71	74
SY	:	:	70	75
TN	60	60	70	75
EL	65	65	77	82
ES	65	65	78	84
FR	60	60	77	84
IT	57	57	78	84
TR	55	50	71	75

Source : World Health Organisation (WHO)

Table 10: Employment rates for those aged 45 and above in 2006 (% of the relevant population)

Country	Male			Female			Total		
	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years +	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years +	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years +
DZ	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EG	94.1	69.7	20.1	22.8	8.1	1.1	58.5	40.3	11.8
IL	84.0	70.1	16.6	70.6	48.3	5.2	77.0	58.7	10.1
JO	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
LB	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
MA	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
PS	84.9	58.1	17.8	18.9	11.1	3.2	52.7	33.2	9.5
SY	90.5	65.7	31.0	11.8	6.3	1.4	52.5	39.3	19.0
TN	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
EL	92.6	61.0	7.3	58.1	28.0	2.1	75.1	43.9	4.4
ES	90.5	63.5	3.3	60.8	31.0	1.2	75.6	46.8	2.1
FR	92.1	43.1	1.6	81.5	38.0	0.8	86.6	40.5	1.1
IT	91.6	45.0	6.1	58.3	22.5	1.2	74.8	33.4	3.3
Total EU-27	89.6	56.2	6.6	73.9	37.2	2.9	81.7	46.4	4.4
TR	73.6	46.0	22.0	23.3	16.8	6.6	48.8	31.1	13.6

Source : Eurostat

11. What prospects for the future ?

The European countries and the Mediterranean partner countries will have to tackle jointly challenges such as coping with migration movements and solving many environmental problems. However, it is likely that the global context will not make it easy to respond to these challenges: the growing demand for raw materials is expected to increase prices and create shortages; the world economic crisis may lead to a contraction in international trade and a reduction in the amount of international aid. In addition, the persistence of the conflict in the Mideast, the growing politicisation of religion, and the rise of terrorism are likely to increase tensions still further.

In this unfavourable context, convergence between the northern and southern Mediterranean countries is a way of defusing conflicts, both within states and between states. A rise in living standards in the MPC is liable to keep young people in their countries of origin and to reduce the 'brain drain' and uncontrolled migration from the south to the north. The provision of technically adequate jobs would give young people a more stable situation and a more productive activity. A rise in living standards would thus go hand in hand with the completion of the demographic transition in the MPC. Relationships between the northern and southern Mediterranean countries could therefore be more balanced between partners, which would have significantly reduced their internal problems.

The areas of change which are likely to respond positively to these challenges can be identified as follows:

- Integrating young people who are increasingly well educated into a production system that offers more modern and higher-valued jobs, thus reducing the proportion of informal and less productive jobs;
- Completing the rural exodus by reducing the number of people working in agriculture and increasing the productivity of agricultural work;
- Improving access for young women to the labour market and ensuring that they fully participate in economic activity;
- Providing to older people incomes that enable them to retire gradually from the labour market, as the majority of MPC have begun to do.



Definitions

Demographic transition

Demographic transition refers to the shift from a traditional situation, where fertility and mortality are high, and roughly in balance, to a situation where the birth and mortality rates are low, and are also in balance.

Total fertility rate

The mean number of children that would be born alive to a woman during her lifetime if she were to pass through her childbearing years (between 15 and 49) conforming to the fertility rates by age in a given year.

Life expectancy at birth

The mean number of years that a newborn child can expect to live if subjected throughout his life to the current mortality conditions.

Length of compulsory schooling or number of compulsory schooling years

Number of years during which children are legally obliged to attend school.

Adult literacy rate

Percentage of the population aged 15 and above who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement on their everyday life.

Net enrolment rate (NER)

Number of pupils of the theoretical school-age group corresponding to a given educational level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group. For example, the net primary enrolment rate (Level 1 of the 1997 UNESCO International Standard Classification of Education ISCED 1) is the number of pupils of the theoretical school-age group at each level of primary education expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

This indicator is slightly different from the gross school enrolment rate at a given level, which is the number of pupils in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to that level of education. For higher education, the population used covers the five years following the official age for leaving secondary education.

International students

Students who have crossed a national or territorial border for the purposes of education and are now enrolled outside their country of origin.

Public employment

All jobs held by officials in the public administration, and in some cases officials in state companies.

Labour force participation rate

The net labour force participation rate is the population in the labour force aged 15 and above expressed as a percentage of the population aged between 15 and 64. The labour force is the sum of the number of persons employed and of persons looking for a job (the unemployed). The activity rate is an indication of the relative size of the supply of labour available for the production of goods and services. The labour force participation rates for men and women are expressed as a percentage of the male and female populations respectively, and not by reference to the total population (men and women together).

Unemployment rate

This is the number of persons aged between 15 and 64 who are unemployed expressed as a percentage of the total active population of that age group. The labour force or active population is made up of the employed and the unemployed.

According to the standard definition of unemployment, unemployed persons aged between 15 and 64 are those persons who were without a job during the reference week, who had actively sought work in the four-week period ending with the reference week, and who are available for work immediately or within the next two weeks.

Informal work

Any work that is unregistered and/or not included in official accounts, carried on as a person's main job or by a person as business owner. It is characterised by professional relations not governed by contracts and the impossibility of separating the accounts of the productive activity from those of households.

Statistically, the difficulty lies in the fact that these informal production units can only be identified through surveys directed to households (surveys on the labour force) but their activity should be analysed using 'business'-type surveys.



Statistical annex

Table I: Population and reference data in 2006

Country	Total Population (in thousands)	Youth under 15 years (in thousands)	In %	Working Age Population of 15-64 years (in thousands)	In %	Population over 65 years (in thousands)	In %	Population Increase (Average Annual % between 2001 & 2006)**	GDP per capita in Euros
DZ	33 481	9 502	28.4	22 217	66.4	1 762	5.3	1.6	2 770
EG	71 348	26 905	37.7	42 018	58.9	2 424	3.4	1.9	1 068
IL	7 117	2 018	28.4	4 397	61.8	702	9.9	1.8	15 868
JO	5 600	2 090	37.3	3 329	59.4	181	3.2	2.4	1 873
LB [2004]	3 755*	1 023	27.2	2 450	65.2	282	7.9	:	:
MA	30 366	9 120	30.0	19 549	64.4	1 697	5.6	1.1	1 708
PS	3 825	1 754	45.9	1 955	51.1	116	3.0	3.6	1 024
SY	18 488	7 294	39.5	10 584	57.2	610	3.3	2.0	1 382
TN	10 077	2 578	25.6	6 799	67.5	700	6.9	0.8	2 459
Total MPC	184 057	62 284	33.8	113 298	61.6	8 474	4.6	1.7	2 210
EL	11 148	1 595	14.3	7 486	67.1	2 067	18.5	0.4	17 600
ES	44 116	6 400	14.5	30 358	68.8	7 358	16.7	1.6	22 300
FR	63 195	11 738	18.6	41 207	65.2	10 250	16.2	0.6	28 400
IT	58 942	8 303	14.1	38 955	66.1	11 683	19.8	0.7	25 100
Total EU-27	494 051	78 428	15.9	332 395	67.3	83 229	16.8	0.4	23 700
TR	72 520	20 494	28.3	47 725	65.8	4 301	5.9	1.3	4 400

Source : Eurostat

* Estimated population in Lebanon does not include those living in Palestinian refugee camps

** Calculated by the authors

Table II: Labour force participation, employment and unemployment in 2006, reference data

Country	Working Age Population (15-64 years, in thousands) [a]	Active Population (in thousands) [b]	Activity Rate (Total, in %) [b]/[a]	Activity Rate (Male, in %)	Activity Rate (Female, in %)	Employment (Total, in thousands) [c]	Activity Rate (Total, in %) [c]/[a]	Unemployment (Total, in thousands) [d]	Unemployment Rate (Total, in %) [d]/[b]
DZ	22 217	9 432	42.5	69.9	14.9	8 869	37.2	1 160	12.3
EG	42 018	20 904	49.8	75.1	23.6	19 342	44.2	2 341	11.2
IL	4 397	2 764	62.9	67.2	58.7	2 574	60.0	232	8.4
JO	3 329	1 254	37.7	63.1	11.9	1 034	31.1	176	14.0
LB [2004]	2 450	1 155	47.1	73.4	22.3	1 108	32.2	96	7.9
MA	19 549	10 019	51.3	76.4	27.2	9 928	46.3	972	9.7
PS	1 955	807	41.3	67.7	14.5	666	31.6	190	23.6
SY	10 584	4 982	46.4	72.8	14.5	4 578	43.3	404	8.1
TN	6 799	3 395	50.0	73.8	27.2	3 005	39.9	485	14.3
Total MPC	113 298	54 712	48.3	:	:	51 104	45.1	6 056	11.1
EL	7 486	4 887	67.0	74.6	50.8	4 452	61.0	435	8.9
ES	30 358	21 585	70.8	81.3	60.2	19 748	64.8	1 837	8.5
FR	41 207	27 778	67.4	74.8	64.1	25 173	61.1	2 605	9.4
IT	38 955	24 661	62.7	79.1	55.0	22 988	58.4	1 673	6.8
EU-27	332 395	233 600	70.3	77.6	63.0	214 361	64.5	19 193	8.2
TR	47 725	23 935	50.2	74.4	26.1	22 346	45.9	2 011	8.4

Source : Eurostat

Table III: Demographic indicators

Country	Total Fertility Rate in 2006	Population Increase (Average Annual % between 2001 & 2006)
DZ	2.32	1.6
EG	3.1	1.9
IL	2.88	1.8
JO	3.2	2.4
LB	1.90 [2004]	1.6
MA	2.47	1.1
PS	4.6	3.6
SY	3.6	2.0
TN	1.99	0.8
EL	1.33	0.4
ES	1.35	1.6
FR	1.94	0.6
IT	1.31	0.7
TR	2.18	1.3

Source : Eurostat

Table IV: Enrolment rates in primary education and the first section of secondary education in 2006 (in %)

Country	Net Enrolment Rate ISCED 1	Net Enrolment Rate ISCED 2		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
DZ	96.5	71.1	75.4	73.2
EG	90.5	67.1	70.5	68.7
IL	94.1	89.2	92.4	90.8
JO	91.3	77.3	80.3	78.8
LB	82.9	69.7	76.5	73.0
MA	87.5	32.8[1]	31.2[1]	32.0[1]
PS	74.0	88.5	90.9	89.7
SY	94.5[2]	63.6	59.9	61.8
TN	97.3	61.4[2]	67.6[2]	64.5[2]
EL	99.6	90.1	92.1	91.1
ES	99.6	92.3	95.4	93.9
FR	98.6	98.0	100.0	99.0
IT	98.6	91.8	93.2	92.5
TR	90.2	71.3	60.6	66.0

Note: [1] data for 2004; [2] data for 2003; the number of pupils is computed at the start of the school year preceding the calendar year
Source: Eurostat and UNESCO-UIS

Chart I: Distribution of young people by work situation and gender (in %)
[See Table V on next page]

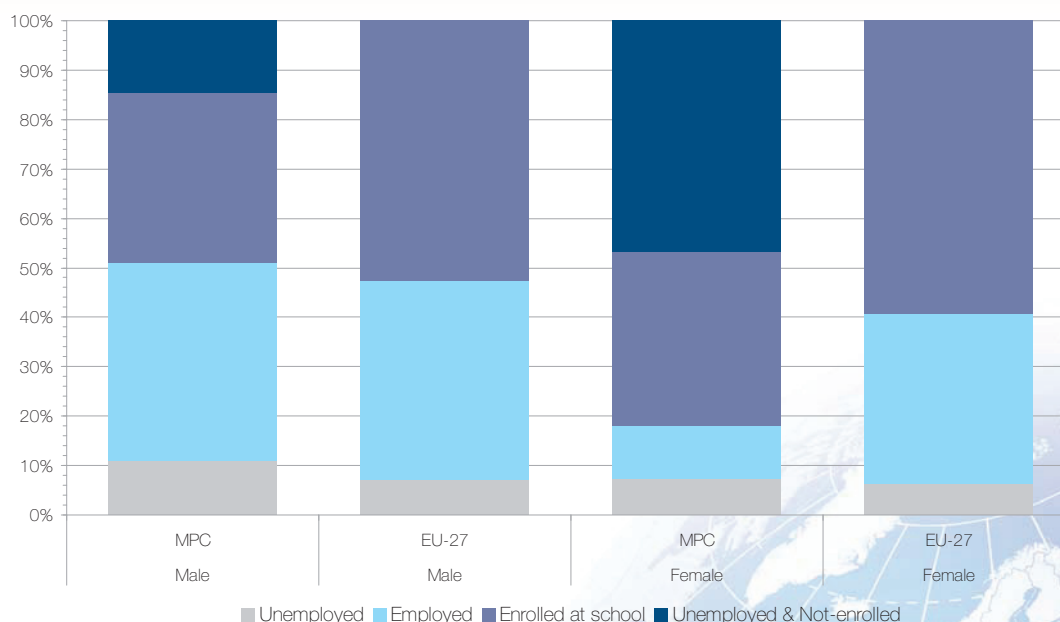


Table V: Distribution of young people by education and employment status (in %)

	DZ	EG	IL	JO	LB	MA	PS	SY	TN	EL	ES	FR	IT	TR
Male 15-24 years														
Unemployed	11.5	11.7	5.3	15.3	9.2	9.9	14.7	7.9	13.9	5.5	11.2	10.1	9.6	9.5
Employed	38.9	38.6	25.2	27.9	32.1	51.2	28.0	44.5	30.0	29.2	54.2	38.1	37.0	42.5
Enrolled at school	25.9	46.2	56.8	37.1	40.6	20.3	38.2	19.5	41.1	65.3	34.6	51.8	53.4	48.0
Unemployed & Not-enrolled	23.7	3.5	12.7	19.7	18.1	18.6	19.1	28.1	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Female 15-24 years														
Unemployed	3.0	13.0	6.6	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.3	4.4	6.6	8.8	12.8	9.4	8.0	4.9
Employed	6.4	7.9	28.1	5.6	14.1	20.0	4.3	8.0	15.1	18.7	39.6	28.6	21.2	19.8
Enrolled at school	33.1	44.1	62.7	36.4	51.0	17.5	45.3	16.0	50.4	72.5	47.6	62.0	70.8	36.3
Unemployed & Not-enrolled	57.5	35.0	2.6	54.2	31.0	59.1	47.1	71.6	27.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	39.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total 15-24 years														
Unemployed	7.2	12.4	5.9	9.4	6.7	6.7	9.1	6.3	10.2	7.1	12.0	9.8	8.8	7.1
Employed	22.7	23.9	26.6	16.4	23.7	35.9	16.4	27.4	22.6	24.0	47.1	33.5	28.9	30.8
Enrolled at school	29.5	45.1	59.8	36.8	45.5	18.9	41.7	17.8	45.8	68.9	40.9	56.7	62.3	42.0
Unemployed & Not-enrolled	40.6	18.6	7.7	37.4	24.1	38.5	32.8	48.5	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Eurostat and UNESCO-UIS

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