Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMCs) continue to register rates of unemployment twice as high as the global average, particularly amongst youth and women.

Critical Issue:

Youth unemployment rates in selected SEMCs (%)

Youth unemployment is bound to increase in the coming decades, as population projections point to a substantial increase in working-age populations.

Root Causes

- Low quality education and skills mismatch; poorly matched with the needs of the private sector and employability.
- All SEMCs feature large public sectors and under-developed private sectors.

Note

Chronic SEMC unemployment results from an over-supply of job seekers for available jobs and a lack of suitable candidates to fill those jobs.
Important Findings from EMNES Survey

**Policy Proposals**

1. Implementation of structural reforms to address the dysfunctional relationship between education systems and labour markets.

2. Establish an agency dedicated to formulation, implementation and monitoring of ALMPs and governance arrangements supported by a Euro-Mediterranean labour market information system.


**Necessary Actions**

- Structural reforms to ensure education systems equip future job seekers with necessary skills.

- Formulation of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs)

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