

Forum : Citizens' Forum on labour

Thématique : Empowering the youth to drive / thrive / embrace and match the requirements of the future labour market

Nom du/de la Citoyen.ne : Mya DJADOURI

Family situation - o Married / dating • Single - o With kids, if so how many	Education level - o Primary • Secondary - o University
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1. How are you concerned by the subject?

My name is Mya DJADOURI, I am 25 years old, I work at a small-scale olive oil cooperative in the northwest of Tunisia, the farm I work in focuses on high quality, organic and traceable extra virgin olive oil to access export markets. I am a young production and processing worker.

The olive-growing sector is considered strategic for Tunisia, this product is of great importance to the country, as Tunisia has ranked among the top olive oil–exporting nations, second after Spain and ahead of Italy. Agriculture is particularly important to local livelihoods, it creates employment where there are not many job opportunities. The agri-food sector is a major source of income and employment in Tunisia's interior and rural regions (World Bank). Olive oil is one of Tunisia's major agricultural exports (The Observatory of Economic Complexity), so the work I do contributes to the country's export revenues and brings foreign currency into our economy. My job also helps other local businesses and families because I spend my income in the community. This all proves the great importance of the olive-growing sector in Tunisia, for local communities, for young job-seeking people, for the country's Economy.

In my personal point of view, I am concerned by this matter because, being a young worker in a small olive-oil cooperative in northwestern Tunisia where I was born and raised, my future depends on my ability to adapt to the changing labour market. New technologies, automation, and new environmental requirements are changing the way we work, and young people in rural areas may not always have access to the training needed to keep up with these changes.

Young workers should not be left behind nor any workers. We need better access to any kind of training, whether it be digital or physical, so that we can improve our work and find new ways to work efficiently, adapting for what's to become of the Labour market and each and every worker. For me, empowering the youth and matching the requirements of the future labour market means that anywhere in my country or in the world, with the growing usage of technology, we have access to better training, to not let AI take the manual labour and replace it with machines, but to adapt it so it can help everyone, to give us the tools to develop our skills and create stable jobs.

2. What do you suggest at your scale?

On my scale, I believe that to help empower the youth it is necessary to encourage workers to learn new skills and adapt as the labour market is rapidly changing due to the growth of AI and other

machines. The exportation of olive oil is after all important for Tunisia, these machines surely could not obtain the same results manual labour obtains. We work carefully at every stage to produce high quality olive oil. The northwest of Tunisia, which is more rural, depends on these agricultural jobs.

To face these changes in the future labour market and to make sure that everyone can get access to a stable job it would be crucial to train workers more, to learn a variety of different tasks to make sure each worker cannot be easily disposed of. It would make the youth adaptable to any kind of other jobs necessary.

To help empower the young workers, giving them better working conditions could make them appreciate the work more, as well as safety equipment, better communication, proper breaks and schedules.

To give the youth more experience on the jobs they may occupy in the future, multiple apprenticeship programs could be offered, that way it would show to the youth that even in rural areas there are opportunities.

It would modernize traditional sectors by giving workers more skills and opportunities and it would make less people leave rural areas to live and work in the city. Rural sectors are crucial for Tunisia.