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Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE
2018/4
Ramallah, 25-26 April 2018

Annual Sector Review-Achievements in 2017 and way forward 2018



Ramallah – On 25-26 April 2018, the Annual Sector Review of the Education Sector Working Group in Palestine took place at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), with a special focus on *Education to Work* as the theme of this year's meeting. This annual event is a forum for constructive dialogue among the main education actors in Palestine to review the performance and achievements made in the past year and make recommendations on policies and strategy for the future.

Field visits to the Al Aroub, Doura vocational schools in Hebron and to the Kufr Ni'meh vocational school in Ramallah schools were the opportunity to discuss first-hand the needs and priorities of key institutions and the relevance of their programmes with labour market needs in Palestine.

In his remarks, the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Sabri Saidam highlighted, *the achievements made, especially integration of vocational and technical education in general education, curriculum development, digitization of education, promotion of*

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extracurricular activities and attention to pre-school education were notable.

The Finnish Ambassador Anna-Kaisa Heikkinen, speaking as the deputy chair of the Group and on behalf of the Joint Financing Partners, emphasized that *This years' theme*, *"From Education to Work", will allow us to examine the relevance and quality of vocational and higher education. We will do so by looking at best practices, and the needs and challenges of ensuring that the education system teaches young people relevant skills.* She further emphasized, *It is also important to address the critical nexus of entering the labour market and finding employment*. Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, UNESCO Representative to Palestine commended *Palestine's recent accession to the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education and the setting-up of the Palestinian Centre for Development of techical and vocational training.* He also underlined the most recent data on unemplyement rate in Palestine included in the 2017 Census: *We need a system of quality TVET programmes and curricula, effective standards and up-to-date national policies, paired with a National Qualification Framework with the overall goal to enhance skills and their relevance for entrepreneurship and the labour market needs of Palestine.*

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