

PRESS RELEASE

## **IMSET aligns with international standards to foster employability in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

*Ministers, multinational officials as well as training and employment experts contributed to a live forum to discuss the importance of TVET provision for the country's economic development.*

**Tunis, 31 May 2022** – Employability is emerging as a crucial topic as training institutions around the world strive to create added value for their students beyond acquiring a degree. The same speech takes place at IMSET, the flagship institution and pioneer of private vocational training in Tunisia, which is part of the Honoris United Universities network. With the support of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), IMSET organized a symposium on 31 May 2022 entitled ‘Towards Excellence in Employability Strategies in Africa.’

The event was attended by the Minister of National Education Mr. Fethi Sellaouti, the Director General of Honoris Tunisia, Houbeb AJMI, and Mr. Hafedh Ghaddab, Director of the Vocational Training Pole of which IMSET is a member, with the support of IFC Resident Representative in Tunisia, Georges GHORRA. Dignitaries from the private sector and international donors were present. Also present were training and employment experts, trainers and students.

The Minister of Education, Fethi Sellaouti, during his speech, stressed the importance of vocational training today: *"It has long been considered a less prestigious path than the classical university school path, which is false. We strongly believe that education and training, whether public or private, can only be complementary, as they equip learners with transversal skills and skills that have become in high demand in the labor market."*

In his speech, Hafedh Ghaddab, Director of the Honoris Network's Vocational Training Unit, stressed that *"IMSET is not content with its role as a traditional provider of vocational training services, but wants to impact the entire national human resources development system. By having the ambition to boost the national project for the reform of vocational training while being involved in the enhancement of this system."*

IFC's Resident Representative in Tunisia, Georges GHORRA said, *"Supporting job creation is a priority for IFC in Tunisia and Africa. Our work in the region shows how technical and vocational education and training and vocational training centres can be drivers in the implementation of employability strategies, especially as these pathways are often seen as a second-choice option compared to university studies. Yet their employability outcomes are similar to, if not better, than those of universities."*

Two expert panels were organized. The first focused on ‘Employability strategies and good practices in Africa and the Middle East through the experiences of IFC and the World Bank.’

The panel highlighted best practices in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for enhancing employability among young graduates. The second panel entitled ‘Valuing vocational training through the strengthening of career development, IMSET Tunis an example to meditate’ presented a case study carried out by IFC on IMSET.

This study was based on the results of the Vitae 360 assessment, conducted by IFC on the activities of IMSET and Honoris United institutions to support the employability of IMSET graduates.

IFC's Vitae 360 assessment assesses institutional processes that support skills that increase students' employability in TVET and higher education in general. This international benchmarking has been deployed in higher education institutions in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. Institutional performance is based on 72 measurable elements across five (5) dimensions of employability that include employability strategy, career services, employer engagement, learning relevance and retention, and completion and alumni.

IMSET's positive ranking in the Vitae 360 assessment is proof of its commitment to providing quality training. This is reflected in the positive feedback received from employers, alumni and students. The results highlight the impact of IMSET and Honoris' investments in social infrastructure on the demand-driven curriculum, career development services, work-integrated learning, and partnerships with employers to support the institute's transition to work.

IMSET students also take the Honoris 21st Century Skills course which helps them acquire the essential skills needed for the new world of work. The programme helps IMSET graduates to differentiate themselves and remain attractive in the job market.

This event sets standards on how technical and vocational education and training institutions can improve graduates' employment outcomes by making strategic investments in the five essential elements of employability. Concrete reflections and recommendations were shared at the conclusion of the event by local employers, ANETI and training and employment experts. The recommendations will feed into the IMSET 2022-23 Program Implementation Action Plan.

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### **About Honoris United Universities**

Honoris United Universities is the first and largest pan-African private higher education network committed to transforming lives through relevant education for lifetime success. Collaborative intelligence, cultural agility and mobile mind-sets are at the heart of the Honoris approach to educate the next generation of leaders and professionals able to impact regionally in a globalized world. Honoris combines the expertise of its member institutions to develop world-class African human talent that is competitive in today's fast-paced, demanding and increasingly digitized labour and start-up markets.



Honoris comprises a community of **61,000** students on **70** campuses, learning centres and via on-line, in **10** African countries and **32** cities. The network is formed of **15** institutions: multidisciplinary universities, specialized schools, technical and vocational institutes, contact, distance, and online institutions. Students have an opportunity to experience exclusive partnerships and exchange programs in more than **190** universities across Europe, the United States and Asia. Over **420** degrees are offered in Medicine, Health Sciences, Engineering, IT, Business, Law, Architecture, Creative Arts, Fashion and Design, Media, Political Science and Education.

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