

# Skills over Scarcity

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## Critical issues

- In Senegal, the degree of youth participation in work-linked training courses could be linked to socio-demographic factors and the characteristics of the parents of the youth.
- Youths obtain the best results when they participate in work-linked training courses.



Source : AMF83 (2018)

- Youth who participate in work-linked training courses have a higher chance of obtaining a stable and regular job, compared to those who do not benefit from that training.

## **Youth employment in Senegal: A serious problem**

Senegal's labour market is characterised by a strong mismatch between the supply of training and jobs, and a high unemployment rate. Indeed, the unemployment rate was estimated at 16.7% in 2019 and varies according to the age group of the youth (according to graph 1). Furthermore, the available jobs were characterised by a high vulnerability (72% of jobs) and a high rate of informal jobs (72%). 3000 youth arrive in the labour market each year, yet the labour market offer is estimated at only 2000 jobs (see graph 2). The problem of youth employment in Senegal is one that requires an urgent solution, if the country is to attain the prescribed Sustainable Development Goals of quality education and decent work and economic growth (SDG 4 and SDG8).

## **What has the government done?**

In general, the government has put in place policies and public reforms targeted towards professional training in order to facilitate the socio-professional insertion of youth through the reform of its higher education system, the creation of a ministry of labour, professional and technical training.

Despite the various policies and reforms, youth continue to face problems of employability. In order to alleviate this, a partnership programme was signed between the government and the Employers Council, notably the Convention National Etat-Employer (National Agreement between the Government and the Employer) which ensures the active and regular promotion of youth employment and prescribes objectives to facilitate the insertion of youths into the labour market. Such work-linked training sessions endow young school-leavers with the skills and technical know-how that they need in order to be recruited into the labour market.

# Policy options and recommendations for economic policy

From the results of our study, several options and policy recommendations are proposed. The government, in collaboration with employers in the private sector will win the challenge of professional insertion of youth through:

**Graphique 1 : taux de chômage des jeunes selon la tranche d'âge**



**Graphique 2 : Offre et demande d'emploi des jeunes.**



- Expanding the activities of CNEE
- The effective application of the financial and training mode agreed upon in the CNEE whereby the government representative is at 60%, 50% and 40% respectively, and inversely, the percentage share of private enterprises is at 40%, 50% and 60%.
- A revision of its financing and professional training policies, aiming to take charge of 90% of the costs, by having a more active participation by private companies so that they become prime stakeholders as is the case in certain countries such as France whereby private companies are the main donors;
- A revision in the mode of orientation of the youth in the various training fields, by giving them the opportunity to be trained in the specialised fields of their own choice.
- An expansion of professional training in colleges in order to avoid situations where youth find themselves lacking in the competencies required for their professional insertion.



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