

# UNIDO-SCANIA: Partnering for employment and economic revival of Iraq's industrial manufacturing sector

**Type:** Document

**Content Type:**

UNIDO-SCANIA: Partnering for employment and economic revival of Iraq's industrial manufacturing sector

**Language:**

**Sources:**

**Topics:**

**Knowledge Products:**

**Publication Date:** 18 Jul 2014

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In Iraq, the unemployment rate is high especially among youths, who represent approximately 78 percent of the population. The war in Iraq was a great contributor to this problem, given the damage done to infrastructure, including higher education and vocational training institutions. In response to the dire need for employment opportunities and the need for vocational and professional skills training, the Swedish Academy for Training was formed in 2012, through the collective efforts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Scania, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Education First (EF) and the Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA). This Academy targets unemployed Iraqis under the age of 30 and aims to train at least 300 students every year.

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