

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

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Experts from many international, regional and national agencies generously share their views, experiences and findings on skills, helping policy-makers among other stakeholders to understand the linkages between education, training and the world of work, and how to integrate skills into national development planning to promote employment and economic growth.



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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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