



Strengthening green skills in Morocco



In Morocco, our International Skills Partnerships have directly supported the government's aim to **transition to a green economy** by prioritising renewable energy sources, reducing carbon emissions and creating green jobs. Working directly with the government and training providers, we have facilitated the exchange of knowledge, best practice and innovative approaches to **drive green skills development and strengthen employability.**

Supporting quality assurance and inclusive engagement

South Eastern Regional College, in Northern Ireland, partnered with the Ministry of Economic Integration, Small Business, Employment and Skills, Office for Vocational Training and IFMERE (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Training Institutes) to **drive quality assurance in green skills training and promote the development of soft skills.**

After an initial review to establish key areas of support, South Eastern Regional College proposed its **project-based learning model** as an approach to develop trainer skills, enhance trainee engagement and raise the quality of the learning experience.

Through this approach, trainees were encouraged to practically apply their theoretical knowledge to real-life projects, such as designing, developing and constructing a solar-powered car. Building on IFMERE's previous experience of project-based teaching and learning, the new approach further enhanced the **focus on developing the student voice, employer engagement and soft skills development.** Meanwhile, the flexibility

of the approach meant the Moroccan partners could adapt activities to their specific context. A visit to South Eastern Regional College in the early stages of the partnership also gave them the chance to observe programme delivery and learner experience first-hand.

As well as training Moroccan staff to use the project-based learning approach, South Eastern Regional College played a key role in establishing a monitoring framework to help trainers assess progress, implement necessary changes and achieve targeted outcomes.

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The study visit was extremely beneficial, offering us a direct look at the innovative practices in curriculum design and quality assurance that are shaping the future of vocational training in the UK. This hands-on experience has allowed us to incorporate these practices back into our own programmes, ensuring they are aligned with global standards.

Anass Ait Laachir,
Director of IFMERE in Tangier



South Eastern Regional College hosted eight visitors from Morocco for a week-long study visit as part of the project © South Eastern Regional College

Impact

By combining engineering, renewable energy and project management skills with soft skills such as communication, time management, problem-solving, leadership, negotiation and conflict resolution, the project-based learning approach has not only equipped trainees with the necessary practical experience, but has also helped to **foster a more holistic understanding of the real-world challenges** that are relevant to the industry they want to enter and the community they are part of.

IFMERE has seen a **significant improvement in the quality of teaching and learning** since integrating the approach. Trainees are benefiting from a much more interactive, applied experience, and the focus on teamwork is building a stronger sense of inclusivity.

South Eastern Regional College have been invigorated by the strong connections made through the partnership and are keen to continue the collaboration, particularly in the areas of engineering and renewable energies. They have valued the opportunity to learn about curriculum management at a national level and the use of regional hubs in curriculum development. The partners have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to continue the collaboration.

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The knowledge gained from the UK colleges was transformative. We've disseminated it extensively across our network, reaching trainers, students and industry partners. This collaborative learning has allowed us to embed advanced practices in our curricula and align more closely with industry needs.

Ayoub Mezroui,
Director of Studies at IFMERE

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A highlight was getting to meet students and see their projects. It was really impressive to see the innovative thinking at work and the level of engagement as they demonstrated their projects.

Elaine McKeown,
Senior International Development Manager,
South Eastern Regional College



South Eastern Regional College visited Morocco to support the development of a Quality Assurance Framework for the Moroccan TVET sector

Developing green hydrogen skills

Connected by a shared commitment to developing the green jobs of the future, Petroc College, in Devon, and IFMEREE (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Training Institutes), in Morocco, partnered to **strengthen capacity in green skills development** and **boost employability**, with a particular focus on green hydrogen.

After an initial baseline analysis of the TVET and renewables sector in Morocco, Petroc College shared a variety of resources with IFMEREE, including curriculum models, and delivered an online course on green hydrogen skills, including workshops with guest speakers.

A visit to Devon provided the Moroccan partners with an in-depth look at the UK renewables sector in action, as well as valuable networking opportunities, including comprehensive tours of the National Composites Centre and Hydrogen Alliance in Bristol, insightful sessions on the Offshore Wind Industrial Growth Plan in Exeter, and a visit to the Langage Green Hydrogen site in Plymouth.

On their reciprocal visit to Morocco, the UK partners shared insights with senior management, trainers and students on sustainable technology training methods and conducted a seminar on cutting-edge developments in green hydrogen in Tangier. A visit to local employers offered insights into the region's renewable energy sector and workforce needs.



Impact

By further developing specialist knowledge, skills and networks through the partnership, IFMEREE have strengthened their position as leaders and experts in renewables and green hydrogen skills in Morocco. The partnership has also supported their understanding of how institutions can, and do, work together to develop skills and the critical role of employer engagement in the UK skills system.

For Petroc College, insights from their visit to IFMEREE are helping shape their own green skills curriculum. This project has helped students and staff to understand the different contexts in which large scale infrastructure projects can be supported in different cultural environments including the opportunities afforded to the project from a centrally controlled model in Morocco with significant state support, compared to the business-oriented approach in the UK.

Both partners are keen to continue the partnership through further funding opportunities, including the Turing exchange scheme. IFMEREE have signed Memoranda of Understanding with both Devon and Cornwall Training Providers Network and Petroc College to continue supporting long-term collaboration and impact.



The trip was an incredible opportunity to learn from global leaders in renewable energy and to bring those insights back to Petroc. We're excited to develop collaborations that will enhance green skills.

Jackie Theakston-Thomas,
Faculty Manager for Engineering
and Motor Vehicle,
Petroc College

