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CobotsVETMed: Introducing Human-Cobot Technology for TVET Schools in Tunisia and Algeria

The CobotsVETMed project, co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme, will run from 2025 to 2027 with the goal of strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems in North Africa. The project focuses on addressing the growing demand for automation skills in emerging economies, particularly in Tunisia and Algeria, while supporting sustainable industrial development.

As industries increasingly adopt automation and smart manufacturing technologies, the need for a workforce equipped with advanced digital and technical skills continues to grow. CobotsVETMed responds to this need by integrating collaborative robotics (cobots), industrial automation, and digital learning environments into TVET education subsequently aims to prepare a new generation of skilled professionals capable of driving digital transformation and sustainable manufacturing.

The project brings together a consortium of six partners from Europe and North Africa, including **Iceberg Plus** and **ASTI Automation** from Romania, **AREA** from Italy, **Ecole Nationale Polytechnique** from Algeria, and **Institut Supérieur des Systèmes Industriels** and **AMTA Academy** from Tunisia. The consortium combines expertise in industrial automation, digital education, and vocational training to develop innovative learning approaches aligned with Industry 4.0 requirements.

Curriculum Development

During the first phase of the project in 2026, the partners will develop a specialised curriculum tailored to the industrial needs of Tunisia and Algeria. The curriculum will include;

- Virtual “hands-on” training
- Theoretical framework
- Assessment and evaluation

designed to provide learners with practical knowledge of collaborative robotics and automation systems. To ensure the curriculum is relevant and adaptable, the project team will conduct research assessing the infrastructure and technological capacity of participating TVET institutions. The results will guide the development of learning materials that can be effectively integrated into existing educational environments.



Smart Step E-Learning Platform

Once developed, the learning materials will be translated into French and Arabic and uploaded to the Smart Step e-learning platform as a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). This multilingual platform will enable students and trainers to access the course materials, track learning progress, and complete assessments. Feedback from students and trainers will be collected through surveys, interviews, and assessments conducted on Smart Step to evaluate the effectiveness of the course content and delivery.

Pilot Implementation

In the final quarter of 2026, the project will launch a pilot phase to test the curriculum and integrate cobot technology within selected school environments. This phase will include technical setup and infrastructure adaptation, carried out by experts within the consortium to ensure smooth implementation using Universal Robot UR Sim simulation environment. Teacher training will be a key component of this stage. Workshops and training sessions will equip educators with the skills needed to operate cobots and teach within a robotics-integrated learning environment. Since many trainers have experience in robotics but limited exposure to cobots, the training will be intensive and delivered through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning formats.

Testing and Scaling

In 2027, the curriculum will be tested with a small group of students who will act as pilot learners. The participating universities and project partners will closely monitor the training process and gather feedback from students and instructors. Based on this feedback, the curriculum will be refined to ensure it meets both educational standards and the needs of local industries in Tunisia and Algeria.

By late 2027, the improved curriculum will be delivered on a larger scale across participating institutions. The project will also support partner schools in building the capacity to independently deliver cobot-related training in the future, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the initiative and its alignment with European Union standards.

The project's partners:



This press release and a press picture is available [**here to view and download.**](#)

For more information on the CobotsVETMed project please see [**cobotsvetmed.eu**](http://cobotsvetmed.eu)

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