

Sustainable Economic Development, Employment and Labour Market

More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth II (MJO II)

Background and Objective

In the Palestinian Territories, high youth unemployment is one of the most pressing problems. University graduates are especially affected, with the unemployment rate reaching nearly 50% (28% in the West Bank and 74% in the Gaza Strip). Unemployment among female graduates is significantly higher (61%) than among male graduates (around 34%). Many graduates work in professions that do not correspond to their attained degree. Depending on the field of study, it takes an average of up to two years for graduates to start their first employment.

‘The interest of the university in Dual Study programs comes from its belief in the necessity of true partnership with the private sector. Thanks to the practical experience and skills, which Dual Studies students gain during the study period, the opportunity to be employed or self-employed are improved compared to regular students.’

Ayman Sultan, Vice President for Planning and Development, Palestine Polytechnic University, Hebron

At the same time, companies often do not find suitable candidates to fill their vacant posts. This is partly due to the inadequate university curricula which is not tailored to the requirements of the labour market. The Dual Studies approach is unique in the Palestinian Territories and the region. It aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice and is based on the German model which refers to a mode of studies that combines practical work placements at a partner company with academic training at the university.



Project name	More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth II (MJO II)
Commissioned by	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Palestinian Territories
Partners	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR)
Duration	July 2021 – June 2026

Approach

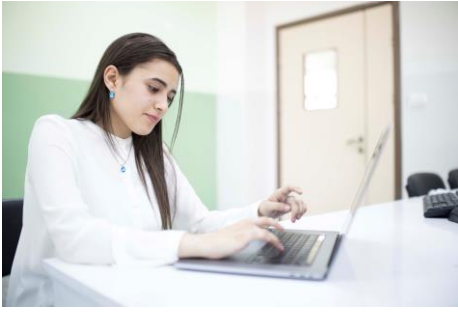
Since 2015, five Dual Studies Bachelor programmes have been successfully established at Al Quds University (AQU) in East Jerusalem as part of the GIZ programme More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth I (MJO I). Graduates of the Dual Studies Bachelor programmes at AQU have been able to achieve above-average employment rates.

More Job Opportunities for Palestinian Youth II (MJO II) builds on the successful approach of the ongoing Dual Studies programmes at AQU and aims to systematically improve the quality and quantity of Dual Studies programmes to the benefit of Palestinian young adults and the private sector.

MJO II supports the Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU) in implementing Dual Studies programmes. Two programmes were successfully launched in 2022 (Renewable Energy



Students of the Dual Studies Programme in Renewable Energy Engineering at Palestine Polytechnic University



Students of the Dual Studies Programme in Financial Technology at Palestine Polytechnic University

Engineering and Financial Technology). In June 2023, a third programme (Business Technology) was successfully accredited.

MJO II advises the PPU on curricula development, the design and implementation of practical phases, and organisational processes for academic and technical staff. As a result, the capacity of PPU is strengthened and the governance structure for Dual Studies is established. Additionally, MJO II supports PPU to attract partner companies and to strengthen the cooperation between university and private sector organisations. Accordingly, practical training phases are jointly developed and implemented according to mutually agreed quality standards, e.g., for training plans, and qualification of trainers.

Furthermore, MJO II cooperates with the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Accreditation Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC), to improve the framework conditions for employment-oriented Dual Studies programs. This includes the development of policy recommendations and Dual Studies guidelines based on the experiences of employment-oriented Dual Studies programs.

In close coordination with other GIZ programs, MJO II will also support Higher Education organisations in Gaza to increase the employability of their graduates on (international) labour markets. Additionally, the programme will support the transfer of knowledge and innovation from universities to the private sector as well as the international exchange of the PPU and AQU with the private sector and academic institutions, both in the Palestinian Territories and Germany.

Achievements

By the winter semester of 2025, MJO II aims to achieve the following :

- 275 students (137 of whom are women) are enrolled in three Dual Studies programmes at Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU).
- Three Dual Studies programmes at Palestine Polytechnic University are accredited by the Palestinian Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC).
- 90 companies will participate in the Dual Studies programmes at PPU.
- Quality standards for the gender-sensitive implementation of the practical phases are operationalised in the participating companies and at selected universities.
- Framework conditions for the quality and implementation of employment-oriented Dual Studies programmes are improved.

So far it has been achieved :

- Three Dual Studies programmes at PPU have been accredited by the AQAC (Financial Technology, Renewable Energy Engineering, Business Technology).
- 88 students (54 of whom are women) are currently enrolled in the two programmes Financial Technology and Renewable Energy Engineering.
- 48 companies are currently participating in the Dual Studies programs at PPU. 25 company supervisors received mentoring training.

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