



On October 8, EFE-Tunisie celebrated the graduation of 24 young men and women from its soft-skills and job readiness program, Workplace Success. EFE-Tunisie is a local non-profit association that addresses youth unemployment in Tunisia by providing young women and men with skills and tools to find a job or start a business, build their future and give back to their communities. For its Workplace Success training program, EFE-Tunisie partners with local employers from the private sector to identify their needs and helps them identify, recruit and train young people in skills that respond to the Tunisian private sector needs.



For this Workplace Success program, EFE-Tunisie partnered with Vistaprint, an international company and global online supplier of printed and promotional materials that has been operating in Tunisia since 2009 and is currently expanding its operations and staff. EFE-Tunisie worked with Vistaprint, the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment, as well as with the regional universities of Jendouba (west), Gabes (south), Gafsa and Kairouan (center) to reach out to a wider pool of candidates within the rural and interior regions of the country.

In late September, EFE-Tunisie launched 2 classes for 24 unemployed youth from different regions of the country and guided them through the training that provides skills, tools and resources, communication, leadership, team-work, and time



Mr. Jamie McAuliffe, EFE director, and Mr. Robert Keane, Vistaprint CEO with one program graduate.



management. On October 8, EFE-Tunisie celebrated the graduation of all 24 students during a graduation ceremony that was attended by representatives from the Tunisian and U.S. governments, including EFE-Tunisie Chairman and former minister of employment Mr. Said Aidi and Vistaprint CEO Mr. Robert Keane, among others. The graduates were very happy to receive their graduation certificates and employment contracts during the ceremony, these graduates have already started working at Vistaprint's new offices in Tunis.



**Mr. Stephen Kochuba, the Acting
Public Affairs Officer**

From the northwestern region of Tunisia, Hedia, a 31 years old woman, is the income earner in her family. With parents who never attended school, three brothers who attained only a high school education and a sister who has only completed primary school, Hedia grew up taking care of everyone around her.

The thrill of becoming the first in her family to earn a university degree quickly turned into hopelessness over finding a job. Married with two children and pregnant with a third, Hedia felt lost when she tried to enter the fast-paced professional world after graduating in July 2011. The long months Hedia spent looking for a job sent a clear message: the education she had received working towards her Bachelor's degree in French simply did not prepare her to enter Tunisia's competitive job market.

After long months spent in job-searching and waiting to hear back from employers, a breakthrough came thanks to Education For Employment in Tunisia (EFE-Tunisie) and the U.S. Department of State Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). Hedia applied to participate in EFE-Tunisie's vocational training and job placement program, and was selected to attend the Workplace Success training program, through which she was able to hone her skills and build the confidence she would need to excel in her first job.

The decision to participate in EFE-Tunisie's training was not easy. Hedia would have to move to Tunis, 75 miles away from her family and husband – a decision that was difficult for her and her family. But Hedia's husband encouraged her to enroll, and Hedia knew that if she succeeded in the training, she could secure a job. Hedia packed up her belongings, moved with her children to her uncle's house in Tunis, and started classes.

The result was life-changing. Through EFE-Tunisie's Workplace Success training, Hedia learned how to communicate with coworkers, plan projects, organize her tasks and time, and manage



her stress level. For Hedia, the most enjoyable element was the spirit of teamwork and collaboration that she shared with other participants. She found that she wasn't just learning skills for work – she was learning skills for life: *“it is helpful for [me] in [my] personal life as well as professional life in terms of organization and time management.”* The training left an impression, and Hedia wished to tell Tunisian youth *“Do not hesitate to explore new possibilities through EFE, as it opens you up to new perspectives.”*

For this Workplace Success program, EFE-Tunisie partnered with Vistaprint to secure job opportunities for all successful EFE-Tunisie graduates. An international company and global online supplier of printed and promotional materials; Vistaprint has been operating in Tunisia since 2009 and is currently expanding its operations and staff. On October 8th, Hedia and her 23 classmates gathered at Vistaprint's office in Tunis to celebrate two accomplishments: receiving their graduation certificates from EFE-Tunisie Workplace Success program, and their official job offers from Vistaprint.

A week into her job as a customer account manager, Hedia feels that the EFE-Tunisie program is helping her to set, evaluate and meet her career objectives in her new position. She sees a better future for herself now that she is launching a career and can plan her steps to success, and remains determined to be an example for other alumni and future EFE-Tunisie trainees.

With skills to succeed in the workplace, a full-time job and an EFE-Tunisie alumni community to support her professional development, Hedia sometimes reflects on how her life has changed through training and employment. In her eyes, it is *“a whole different world.”*