

ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

Thesis title: Analyzing Unemployment Locally (Morocco) and Globally

Author name: Youssra El Khourchi

Course, level of education: Faculty of Business Administration and Management,
bachelor's degree

Host Department/Institute: Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics, Department
of Economics and Natural Resources, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life
Sciences

Primary thesis advisor: Dr. Dedák István

Summary:

This thesis provides an in-depth examination of unemployment, with a particular focus on Morocco within the global context. The study is structured to explore both theoretical and practical dimensions of unemployment, analyzing its causes, impacts, and potential solutions. The primary goal is to provide insights into the unique challenges Morocco faces, especially in relation to youth unemployment, gender disparities, and economic structure, while also offering a comparative analysis with global trends, including Hungary as a case study.

The first section presents a Literature Review, detailing the evolution of unemployment theories, including classical, Keynesian, and monetarist perspectives. It discusses various types of unemployment -such as frictional, cyclical, and structural- and highlights how each theory addresses these types differently. This theoretical framework sets the stage for analyzing Morocco's labor market within a broader global economic context.

Following the literature review, the thesis delves into Local Unemployment in Morocco, investigating the distinct characteristics and causes of unemployment in the country. Key factors include demographic trends, a high rate of youth unemployment (36.1%), low female

participation in the workforce (unemployment rate of 17.7% for women), and sector-specific challenges. The study emphasizes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which worsened existing issues, especially in sectors like agriculture and tourism, resulting in job losses and heightened economic instability. Furthermore, the analysis highlights the mismatch between educational outcomes and labor market needs, with graduate unemployment at 19.4%, demonstrating a significant gap between qualifications and available job opportunities.

The thesis then shifts to a Global Perspective on Unemployment, comparing Morocco's unemployment trends with global and regional patterns. It explores how different regions address unemployment, from advanced economies with cyclical unemployment trends to developing regions struggling with structural and demographic challenges. Special attention is given to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, where Morocco's unemployment issues align with broader regional challenges. Hungary is used as a comparative case study to highlight differences and similarities; as a European Union member, Hungary's stable industrial sector and targeted vocational training programs provide insights into potential strategies Morocco might adopt.

In the Policy Responses to Unemployment chapter, the study reviews various policy approaches employed globally and locally to address unemployment. Active labor market policies, social safety nets, and vocational training are examined as essential strategies. The thesis assesses Morocco's current policies, such as the Idmaj and Taehil programs, aimed at enhancing youth employability and promoting entrepreneurship. However, it notes that these programs have had limited reach and impact, suggesting that Morocco could benefit from stronger alignment between educational institutions and labor market demands, as well as expanded support for sectors with high growth potential.

The final chapter provides Recommendations for Morocco, offering a strategy to reduce unemployment and improve labor market conditions. Key recommendations include promoting employment and entrepreneurship, addressing educational mismatches, and expanding opportunities in high-productivity sectors such as technology and manufacturing. Additionally, the thesis highlights the importance of fostering gender equality in the workforce, enhancing social safety nets, and investing in innovation. By implementing these strategies, Morocco can better equip its workforce to meet evolving economic demands and reduce unemployment sustainably.

This comprehensive analysis not only contributes to the academic discourse on unemployment but also aims to serve as a practical guide for policymakers. By examining both local and global perspectives, the thesis provides a balanced view of the unemployment challenges and opportunities facing Morocco today.

Keywords: Unemployment, Morocco, global trends, youth unemployment, labor market policies, economic structure, educational mismatch.