

International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Improving education for the world of work

Context

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) plays a crucial role in promoting the economic growth and socio-economic development of countries. This is particularly true in an era of globalization, which is significantly influencing the demand for skills and the way work is organized. Yet quality TVET is seen as unaffordable by many governments, enterprises and training providers.

Mission

Inaugurated in 2002, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre provides expertise and technical assistance to countries and regions that need to improve TVET, with special focus on least developed and developing countries. It supports policies and practices to promote Education for All for the changing world of work, and focuses on providing lifelong education for employment that is relevant, effective and accessible to all. This includes promoting functional literacy and good citizenship. UNESCO-UNEVOC also seeks to advance current debates on ways of adapting education for the world of work.

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Activities

UNESCO-UNEVOC's work has four main components:

■ Networking

The Centre's flagship project is the UNESCO-UNEVOC Network, a worldwide network of 230 key organizations and institutions specializing in TVET (ministries, research, planning and training institutions) in over 157 countries. It serves as a unique platform for sharing knowledge and experiences regarding all aspects of TVET. In addition, the Centre's E-Forum provides an opportunity for sharing information on TVET, through the Internet.

■ Knowledge sharing and publications

The Centre is publishing a handbook and a series of books that link research, policy and practice of TVET with the world of work:

- *The International Handbook of Technical and Vocational Education and Training* is currently under preparation (with contributions from over 200 authors worldwide); and
- The book series 'Education for the World of Work: Issues, Concerns and Prospects' explores TVET issues in depth.

UNESCO-UNEVOC publishes discussion papers, case studies, reports and a newsletter, and maintains a website.

■ Advisory services and training

UNESCO-UNEVOC offers advisory services in project design, project management, networking techniques and fund-raising



The Centre has 3 UNESCO international and some 15 other staff members

methods. The Centre also provides mobile training teams, workshops, fellowships and internships to develop TVET at the country level. Examples of activities in this area include:

- UNESCO-UNEVOC and the Ministry of Education of Botswana are developing TVET systems in the 14 countries of the Southern African Development Community;
- The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States and UNESCO-UNEVOC are collaborating to identify priorities, promote cooperation and increase funding for developing TVET in the region; and
- UNESCO-UNEVOC is working with the UNESCO and ILO offices in Bangkok to develop teaching/learning modules in national languages that can be used throughout the region to promote skills training and citizenship. A teacher's manual is also underway on methods for 'learning to do'.

■ Inter-agency collaboration

The Centre also collaborates closely with international agencies (such as the International Labour Organization), donors, national institutions and NGOs, and with the private sector, to promote skills development for employability.