

## **Regional Expert Meeting on Promising Practices in TVET and Entrepreneurship Education in the Arab States Beirut, 19-21 November 2013**

### **Information Note**

#### **Background**

In the context of the UNESCO Third International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training 2012 hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of China in Shanghai in May 2012, UNESCO's Director General was invited to seek to implement the following actions through the UNESCO TVET Programmes and concerned Units:

-Collect and disseminate evidence demonstrating the multiple and diverse policy approaches for transforming and expanding TVET and skills development, using the global and regional UNEVOC Network and Centres.

-Expand and enhance the capacities of the UNEVOC Network to play a key role in developing the capacities of decision-makers and practitioners, and facilitate the involvement of all stakeholders in TVET transformation and development.

Following these recommendations and based on the outcomes of the International Forum (November 2012), as well as a number of regional meetings organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education-Beirut (Amman, July 2012 and Manama, December 2012), the Regional Expert Meeting on Promising Practices in TVET and Entrepreneurship Education in the Arab States (Beirut, 19-21 November 2013), organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education-Beirut, is the next step in a sequence of activities aiming to further address the transformation of TVET and Entrepreneurship Education, through regional and international exchange of evidence-based policies and practices within the UNEVOC Network. Representatives of business and industry, NGOs, and regional/international organizations will be part of the dialogue through cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon: General Directorate for Vocational and Technical Education and the Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD).

#### **Scope and aims**

Youth are among the most vulnerable when it comes to securing decent employment. Around the world, the number of young people has been increasing, with the world's population aged 15-24 estimated to have reached over 1 billion in 2010. At the same time, youth unemployment rates have also been increasing, estimating that young people are now three times more likely than adults to be unemployed. Since young people comprise a large and growing proportion of the world's working-age population, their employment prospects affect future economic growth, both in their countries and globally (GMR 2012). Quality Technical

and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) are widely recognized as having an important role to play in tackling youth unemployment. Its orientation towards the world of work and the acquisition of employability skills means that it is well placed to address issues such as skills mismatch that have impeded smooth school-to-work transitions for many young people.

In parallel, climate change and environmental degradation are jeopardizing livelihoods and future sustainability in many areas of economic activity around the world. Alongside other drivers of change such as globalization and rapid technological change, they are increasingly causing important shifts in labour markets and skills needs. Public policies and enterprise strategies in many areas follow calls for innovative, clean and greener economies. Transformation to a green economy will not only generate new jobs, but will also change the scope and character of existing jobs. Stakeholders such as employers and training providers need to work in a long-term partnership to bring about these changes. These factors are having a great impact on youth development and the ability of youth to respond adequately to these challenges.

A Working Group from UNEVOC Centres in Lebanon, Oman, and Tunisia had been formulated after Bahrain Regional Workshop (December 2012) to study the use of ICTs in Entrepreneurship Education and develop a Portal/Website to promote regional and national cooperation in the Arab region. The curricula and teacher training guidelines developed in the three countries will facilitate such cooperation between Ministries of Education and UNEVOC Centres.

Against this backdrop, the objective of the Expert Meeting is to facilitate panels of experts for the discussion and exchange of experiences by mapping contemporary issues and showcasing skills development strategies, evidence-based approaches and innovative practices in the areas of youth, employment, and skills-business entrepreneurship; entrepreneurship education and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs); and regional/international cooperation and coordination on TVET merging issues and priorities (i.e. Greening TVET).

The discussion outcomes, recommendations and evidence gathered from selected promising practices will be used as regional input to the UNESCO-UNEVOC plan of action for 2014-2015.

## **Objectives**

- To address contemporary challenges with regard to the quality of TVET delivery and demand driven approaches in advancing TVET and skills development for youth;
- To provide a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and promising practices in TVET, focusing on integrating sustainable development into TVET and skills development for youth in the Arab region;
- To reinforce and extend regional networks and partnerships for the advancement of TVET transformation towards regional and international harmonization and resource mobilization;
- To further strengthen the UNEVOC Network consolidation process in the Arab region.

In order to achieve set aims and objectives, the Expert Meeting will engage representatives from the UNEVOC Network, industries, inter-agencies and regional TVET institutions and networks (*subject to budget availability*).

### **Themes (Promising Practices and Expert Meeting)**

- Youth, employment and skills-business entrepreneurship;
- Entrepreneurship education and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs); and
- Interregional dialogue on transforming TVET for sustainable development.

### **Expected Results**

- Strengthened multi-stakeholders partnerships and cooperation in TVET and skills development;
- Importance of regional harmonization as a means to streamline TVET priorities is recognized and promoted through sharing of promising practices;
- Participating countries are enabled to better measure and act on TVET development issues in priority areas during 2014-2015;
- Contribution(s) to strengthen regional cooperation with focus on selected thematic priority areas between UNEVOC Centres in the Arab States within the Global UNEVOC Network.

### **Outputs**

- Regional Expert Meeting report as an input to the UNESCO-UNEVOC plan of action for 2014-2015;
- Compilation of promising practices from the Arab region and UNEVOC Centres; and
- Recommendations on prospective regional and international cooperation in selected thematic priority areas, including greening TVET and entrepreneurship education.

### **Participants**

UNEVOC Network Members, industries, Inter-agencies, regional partners and networks.

### **Support Documents and Forms**

*International Forum on the Role of the UNEVOC Network in Transforming TVET for a Sustainable Future (November 2012)*

[http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/docs/Anniversary\\_Meeting\\_Report\\_November\\_2012.pdf](http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/Anniversary_Meeting_Report_November_2012.pdf)

*Consultation Meeting of UNEVOC Cluster Coordinators (September 2012)*

[http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/docs/Finalized\\_Meeting\\_Report.pdf](http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/Finalized_Meeting_Report.pdf)

*Regional Capacity Building Workshop for UNEVOC Centres in the Arab Region (July 2012)*

[http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/docs/Amman\\_Statement\\_-\\_Final2.pdf](http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/Amman_Statement_-_Final2.pdf)

*Promising Practices submission form (A/E)*

[http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/up/promising\\_practices\\_form\\_arabic\\_june\\_2013.doc](http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/up/promising_practices_form_arabic_june_2013.doc)

[http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/up/promising\\_practices\\_form\\_eng\\_june\\_2013.doc](http://www.unevoc.unesco.org/fileadmin/up/promising_practices_form_eng_june_2013.doc)

*GMR 2012, Youth and Skills: Putting Education to Work, UNESCO HQ-Paris (A/E)*

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002180/218003A.pdf>

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002180/218003e.pdf>

### **Languages to be used during the Meeting**

The languages to be used during the TVET Expert Meeting are Arabic and English, with interpretation between the two languages.

## **Venue and Date**

The Regional Expert Meeting will be held in **Beirut, Lebanon (19-21 November 2013)**. Video Conference arrangement will facilitate interactive Sessions between the two venues. Name of hotel assigned for the participants' accommodation will be provided later.

## **Organizing Committee**

- Dr. Sulieman Sulieman, Programme Specialist: STV, UNESCO Regional Bureau-Beirut
- Dr. Sherif Elabdelwahab, CEO, National Entrepreneurship Institute (RIYADAH)-Riyadh
- Ms. Lisa Freiburg, Communications Focal Point, UNESCO-UNEVOC Int'l. Centre, Bonn
- Mr. Issam Abi Nadir, Director, Higher Industrial Technical Institute, Dekwaneh
- Mr. Oussama Ghneim, Head, Vocational and Technical Education, CERD

## **Contact Addresses**

For further information on the Meeting, you can contact one of the following addresses:

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