

**Draft**  
**Concept Note**  
**Meeting of UNEVOC Cluster Coordinators, Bonn 12- 14 September 2012**

**The UNEVOC Network**

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn provides leadership and coordinates the UNEVOC Network among UNESCO Member States in relation with the International TVET Agenda and in line with UNESCO TVET Strategy, and the EFA and MDG goals. The UNEVOC Network is an inclusive world-wide learning network, made up of UNEVOC Centres that are established by Member States in institutions involved in TVET, on the recommendation of UNESCO–UNEVOC International Centre and the endorsement of the country's UNESCO National Commission. The aim of the Network is to promote international cooperation among UNEVOC Centres worldwide and contribute to TVET reform in member states by sharing good and innovative practices. The International Centre maintains contact with the members of the Network through meetings, regular progress reports and updates.

The UNEVOC Network has the following goals:

1. To promote the development of TVET systems in UNESCO Member States;
2. To develop the capacities of UNEVOC Centres and associated TVET practitioners; and
3. To become an inclusive and learning network and share good practices and innovation in TVET.

The UNEVOC Network is found on all continents and in most UNESCO Member States. In July 2012, the online UNEVOC Network Directory listed 290 UNEVOC Centres in 168 UNESCO Member States. UNEVOC Centres are TVET institutions. What they have in common is a position within their country that allows them to cooperate with other TVET stakeholders, both nationally and internationally. The UNEVOC Network covers a number of important TVET roles due to the considerable institutional diversity among the UNEVOC Centres. This diversity covers government departments, statutory authorities, public and private vocational education and training institutions, quasi-public institutions, tertiary institutions providing advanced technological education and/or skills development centres, and TVET pre-service and in-service teacher training institutions. Almost every member state has a UNEVOC Centre nominated by their respective National Commission for UNESCO and some countries have more than one UNEVOC Centre.

The UNEVOC Centres are well poised at national levels to make major contributions in TVET development. In this connection, the Network has influenced policymaking at national level and has engaged in regional and inter-regional cooperation. Using this broad base, the Network has been instrumental in the production and dissemination of research, case studies, databases, publications, and enabled the International Centre to perform its clearinghouse function, especially using the Bonn International Centre's online services. The Network has thus capitalised on its potential to serve the TVET community and the different TVET stakeholders. Since its creation, the UNEVOC Network is an exclusive global platform for TVET whereby UNESCO can pursue its integrated approach to further mainstream South-South and North-South-South cooperation. The Network has allowed the sharing of knowledge and experiences related to all aspects of TVET, for example in Africa, Asia or Europe, where Centres share with each other country experiences, discussing issues of common relevance in meetings organised by themselves, by the Bonn International Centre or in the UNEVOC e-Forum.

In spite of significant progress made by UNEVOC, the management of the Network remains very complex due to its large size and complexities in uneven development of the centres. The Centres' details are not regularly updated, thus limiting communication within the Network. There is an absence of regular activities in the UNEVOC Centres and there is no optimum use of the facilities offered by the Network. A few Centres are planning and organising activities and performing their role at different levels of development, but the activity level among Centres remains uneven. They do not always function in a collaborative manner and have not yet developed a culture of interaction. While South-South and North-South-South dialogue involving UNEVOC Centres is developing slowly, partnership is not always as fruitful as wished.

Clearly, the Network's potential has not been fully exploited. With a better coordination and a clearer definition of roles and responsibilities, the Network can contribute to increased opportunities for productive work, sustainable livelihoods, personal empowerment and socio-economic development, especially for youth, girls, women and the disadvantaged.

Recognizing this potential, the participants present at the UNESCO Third International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) entitled *Building Skills for Work and Life* hosted by the Government of the People's Republic of China in Shanghai between 13 and 16 May 2012 invited the Director-General of UNESCO to seek to implement the following actions with regards to UNESCO UNEVOC:

- Collect and disseminate evidence demonstrating the multiple and diverse policy approaches for transforming and expanding TVET, using the UNESCO-UNEVOC Network and UNESCO Chairs active in the field
- 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

### **The UNEVOC Network Working Plan**

A new Working Plan has been developed in order to make the UNEVOC Network more effective so that the UNEVOC Centres can be better harnessed to further improve national, regional and global policy processes through better information use and by marshalling evidence and increasing the influence of good-quality evidence in the policy process, thereby fostering links between researchers and policymakers, in line with the Shanghai Consensus. The Working Plan takes into consideration the causes of the Network's present situation and proposes four specific action principles so that the Network can be more effectively reorganised. These principles are:

1. Strengthen the capacities and clearly define the roles of the International Centre, of the Network and the national Centres,
2. Revamp the Network for better coordination and increased effectiveness
3. Active engagement of the Network in the resource and knowledge management and online services
4. Scale up South-South and North-South-South collaboration Centres and other partners

To achieve these objectives, different sub-clusters have been created in all regions to allow for a better interface with all the UNEVOC Centres. Each of the 5 regions (Africa region, Arab region, Asia and the Pacific region, Latin America and the Caribbean region and the Europe and America region) has been divided in sub-clusters of countries on a geographical, linguistic or economic basis, on a

case to case basis, so that one UNEVOC Centre in each sub-cluster can more effectively manage and coordinate a certain number of UNEVOC Centres in those countries of the sub-cluster.

The Coordinating UNEVOC Centre of the sub-cluster will thus be responsible for regularly informing the International Centre about relevant activities organised by the Centres and facilitate the information flow between the International Centre and the sub-regions. The Coordinating Centre will also develop a strategic relationship with the other Centres in the sub-cluster and the UNESCO Regional and Field Offices.

### **Meeting of UNEVOC Cluster Coordinators, Bonn 12- 14 September 2012**

In this connection, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn is organizing a consultation meeting of Cluster Coordinating UNEVOC Centres to take place in Bonn, Germany from 12 to 14 September 2012. The aim of the meeting is to discuss the role of Coordinating Centres in order to enable a better coordination of the UNEVOC Global Network. This important consultation meeting will bring together some 30 UNEVOC centres to discuss better modalities to organise activities at the sub-regional level, mechanisms to facilitate updates of information on Centres, and more effective ways to contribute to a more efficient information flow regarding the activities of the Centres, as well as efficient organisational structures and practices to be put in place and a proper clarification of roles.

The main goals of the meeting are to

- Provide information on the Third International Congress on TVET and the way Bonn International Centre is repositioning itself to respond to the TVET priorities in line with UNESCO's TVET Strategy, and the related activities for the revamping the UNEVOC Centres.
- Discuss the new UNEVOC Network Working Plan in order to revamp the UNEVOC Network so that it has a more sustainable management structure and can promote the development of TVET systems in UNESCO Member States
- Review and clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the National UNEVOC Coordinating Centres as part of the Global UNEVOC Network and their respective roles in their region
- Present the new Network Portal and how to use the web for better communication
- Build on the major achievements, good lessons and problems/challenges faced by UNEVOC Centres and how the coordinating Centres can work with Centres in their respective cluster to bring TVET high on the national agenda from a national/regional perspective and in the context of the 3<sup>rd</sup> TVET Congress recommendations and the identified priority areas of all 5 regions in preparation of the November UNEVOC meeting

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## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING**

### **Outputs (immediate results):**

- Finalisation of the Network Working Plan and dissemination to all UNEVOC Centres
- Concrete activities to be carried out in the Cluster in preparation of the future UNEVOC November meeting and activities to be implemented in the course of next year in the perspective of regional cooperation and networking
- Concrete Resolutions/Recommendations to be submitted to the UNEVOC Network Centres Leaders for implementation at national and regional levels
- Plenary discussions on the priorities of the regions in view of the November 2012 meeting, preparatory roles and tasks of Coordinators in the following areas:
  - Regional Cooperation and Networking
  - Youth Employment
  - Greening TVET
  - TVET teachers
- Coordinating Centres are able to understand and use networking tools to help facilitate communication between Network members, e.g., website, searching and indexing tools, chat and discussion rooms, etc

### **Outcomes (impacts):**

- UNEVOC Coordinating Centres able to take the lead in region with regards to priorities and policy programmes regarding the preparation of TVET teachers, the development of green skills and development programs at National and Regional levels
- UNEVOC Coordinating Centres better able to provide information on the UNEVOC Centres and their activities in the cluster
- The Network in the regions is revamped and the UNEVOC Centres re-dynamised and UNEVOC Coordinating Centres are able to collect and disseminate evidence demonstrating the multiple and diverse policy approaches for transforming and expanding TVET, using the Centres in the field
- The UNEVOC Network able to play a key role in developing the capacities of decision-makers and practitioners, and facilitate the involvement of all stakeholders
- Regional and Field Offices better prepared to engage in or even organise UNEVOC activities in their region and are able to create a relationship with the UNEVOC Centres located in their region and mobilise them for the activities of the Network.

Following the Coordinators' meeting, the UNEVOC Network will be able to have more efficient and effective leadership and direction. The wealth of experience and expertise within the Network will be tapped to a greater extent than has happened so far. Mechanisms will be put in place and managed in order to make the best use of available capacities. Partnership practices will thus be fostered and nurtured. Diversity will be respected and taken into account. The desired roles and responsibilities of the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre, the devolvement of responsibilities to key member institutions, and the importance of information management systems will be further clarified and the meeting will lay the groundwork for a more productive consultative meeting of UNEVOC Centres to be held in November 2012 and a more efficient and effective UNEVOC Network.