



## **Capacity Building Regional Workshop for UNEVOC Centres in the Arab States (Amman, Jordan, 2-4 July 2012)**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **Repositioning of UNESCO-UNEVOC in the Arab States**

In accordance with the new UNESCO strategy for TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC has repositioned its role and function as the UNESCO's lead agency for worldwide service in TVET development, with the unique mandate to promote and assist countries implement a holistic vision of TVET, which encompasses the notions of education and training in an equal manner, is lifelong, and accessible to all.

To achieve its aims, UNESCO-UNEVOC functions as a resource and capacity development centre by providing services in the area of capacity development, knowledge sharing, and global networking through its two flagship networks: UNEVOC network - a worldwide network of specialised TVET institutions and the e-Forum - a virtual community for TVET experts, so as to strengthen TVET systems in the member states.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre fosters the UNEVOC Network in UNESCO Member States. It is an international Network in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This Network is made up of UNEVOC centres, which are endorsed for registration as National Centres by the National Commissions through the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn.

#### **UNEVOC Achievement and present Status of the Network**

The UNEVOC Network has a threefold objective:

1. To encourage and promote the development of TVET policies and systems in Member States;
2. To develop the capacities of UNEVOC Centres and associated TVET practitioners; and
3. To share knowledge, know-how and competencies through good practices and innovation in TVET.

The UNEVOC Network is found on all continents and in most UNESCO Member States. In April 2012, the online UNEVOC Network Directory listed 288 UNEVOC Centres in over 167 UNESCO Member States. UNEVOC Centres have in common 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 in the institutions 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. The International Centre maintains regular and systematic contact with the Network through workshops, regular progress reports and updates.

Since its creation, the UNEVOC Network has become an exclusive global platform for TVET whereby UNESCO can pursue its integrated approach to further mainstream South-South and North-South. The Network has allowed for sharing knowledge and experiences regarding all aspects of TVET. The UNEVOC Network provides opportunities for Centres to collaborate with increased frequency amongst those with closer interests and concerns. At best regional clusters, thematic clusters and

online clusters are successfully promoted. A key purpose of these specialist clusters is the collection and dissemination of examples of innovation and best practice in TVET.

Another achievement of the Network is the access that the Network members have in order to undertake successful TVET reform. Regular and systematic contact, regular and systematic workshops, regular progress reports and updates provide the UNEVOC Network leaders with relevant and current information, not only through traditional (and new) forms of knowledge management, but also through face to face workshops with equivalent leaders from other countries. The UNESCO-UNEVOC Network is proud of the availability of high quality publications which are shared and used by the whole TVET community via the Network Centres.

### **A need to revamp the UNEVOC Network (Regional and International)**

However, in spite of these significant progresses, a review of listed UNEVOC Centres undertaken since the beginning of April 2011 shows another picture as well. Following a review form that was sent to all centres that are listed in the online directory, few updated information was received from the UNEVOC Centres.

We do not have updates or full information on UNEVOC Centres in few countries in the Arab States. There are many reasons for poor response to our survey: technological problems (the updates were done via email), language issues, change in personnel and inactivity in the Centres, etc.

Moreover, the activity level among centres is uneven, with some centres planning and organising activities and performing their role in different levels of development. Often the follow up activities are limited for many reasons. Obviously it is very difficult to manage a large formal Network of 285 centres from one Centre. As a result, collaboration is limited and partnership not always as fruitful as wished.

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

### **Objectives**

In this context UNESCO-UNEVOC Bonn, with the support of its UNEVOC Centres is planning to have a 3-day workshop (Amman, 2-4 July 2012). The workshop objectives are the following:

1. To consider the present roles and responsibilities of the UNEVOC centres in the priority intervention areas and the role UNEVOC centres should play in these areas as well as the capacity that is needed to achieve them;
2. To share experiences with participants from other countries on good practices in different parts of the Arab region; and
3. To consider the follow up that can be given to the Third International Congress on TVET (Shanghai, May 2012) and the TVET Regional Expert Meeting (Muscat, March 2012).

### **Expected Results**

The workshop will also consider the role of the UNEVOC Centres within the national policy framework and consider how they can be more directly involved in:

1. A national policy review and related policy development;
2. Establishing the required data base for TVET; and
3. The production of information and knowledge needed at national and sub-regional level.

The workshop will also provide an opportunity for UNEVOC Bonn to share with the UNEVOC Centres.

1. The repositioning of UNEVOC;
2. The new Network strategy; and
3. The online services available at UNEVOC International Centre, Bonn.

### **Participants**

Participants will be contact persons or the Heads of UNEVOC Centres. The UNESCO Regional Bureau -Beirut and other UNESCO Cluster Offices in the Arab region will be invited to participate in the workshop.

*Participants will be expected to prepare a report on the current challenges and good practices of TVET in their respective countries, as well as an evaluation of what has been achieved by the UNEVOC centre since its inception.*

### **Venue, Date and Language**

The Workshop will be held at the National Centre for Human Resource Development (UNEVOC Centre-Jordan). The date of the workshop is 2-4 July 2012. The Arabic and English languages will be used in the workshop, with interpretation between the two languages.

### **Organising Committee**

- Mr. Teeluck Bhuwanee, Head, UNEVOC Network, TVET Bonn Centre
- Mr. Sulieman Sulieman, Programme Specialist: STV, UNESCO-Beirut
- Dr. Sheren Hamed, Researcher, National Centre for HRD-Jordan
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### **Contact**

For further information on the Workshop, you may contact the following address:

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