

Learning Forum

Striving for excellence

Shaping skills development and
strengthening global collaboration in TVET

24-26 October 2023, Bonn, Germany and online



The BILT project is implemented by



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**UNESCO-UNEVOC International
Centre for Technical and Vocational
Education and Training**

UN Campus
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
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Germany

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Shaping skills development and strengthening global collaboration in TVET

Hybrid BILT Learning Forum

Organized by UNESCO-UNEVOC and the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, BIBB
UN Campus, Bonn, Germany, 24 – 26 October 2023

The global Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Learning Forum in Bonn concludes the two-year cycle of BILT Bridging Events in the three focus regions: Europe (Finland, June 2022), Africa (Kenya, November 2022) and Asia and the Pacific (Singapore, June 2023).

It builds on the momentum established during the current biennium and seeks to strengthen strategic partnerships and opportunities to advocate BILT topics and activities among policy-makers and TVET practitioners.

BACKGROUND

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is key to finding solutions to global challenges that arise due to technological, social, environmental and workplace changes.

Based on this understanding, the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) project seeks to **strengthen international policy dialogue and peer learning on innovation and excellence in TVET**, particularly in view of current challenges and opportunities related to greening and digitalization.

This mission is achieved through the BILT community, which comprises UNEVOC Network members and other TVET stakeholders contributing to the different activities. **Biannual Bridging Events** focus on each of the participating regions – Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Europe – and provide a platform for knowledge exchange, innovation transfer and networking at TVET policy and implementation level. Each two-year cycle concludes with a BILT Learning Forum. The BILT Bridging Events contribute to the implementation and development of regional and global TVET strategies and policies such as the European Commission's [Osnabrück Declaration on vocational education and training as an enabler of recovery and just transitions to digital and green economies](#), the African Union's [Continental Strategy for TVET to foster Youth Employment](#), the [ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing World of Work](#) and the [UNESCO Strategy for TVET 2022-2029](#).

BILT complements these regional strategies through its **BILT Agenda 2025**, which sets the goal of 'promoting modern and competitive qualifications and competencies in TVET through international bridging of innovation and learning'.

GOALS

The BILT Learning Forum will:

- Support the international BILT community composed of UNEVOC Centres and TVET stakeholders to establish and deepen innovation collaboration and policy learning;
- Present the **final results of the 2023 BILT Expert Group** on the dual transition of greening and digitalization in the hospitality and tourism sector;
- Take stock of BILT products of the biennium 2022-2023 and outline focus topics and activities for the following two years;
- **Conceptualize the 2024 BILT Expert Group** with a focus on the building and construction sector;
- Hold the annual meeting of the **BILT Advisory Committee (BAC)**; and
- Strengthen BILT partnerships with the African Union, the ASEAN TVET Council and the European Commission.

TARGET GROUP

In-person participants and speakers (by invitation):

- Members of the BILT Advisory Committee and the Expert Group on the dual transition in the hospitality and tourism sector;
- Subject matter experts on building and construction, as well as on the dual digital and green transition, as potential members of the 2024 BILT Expert Group;
- Private sector representatives, associations, unions; and
- TVET experts from UNEVOC Centres and from international organizations.

Online participants:

- TVET experts and stakeholders from ministries, national bodies, TVET providers and research institutes;
- Private sector representatives; and
- TVET teachers and trainers.

The 2023 BILT Learning Forum will bring together approximately 80 representatives of **African, Asian and European UNEVOC Centres**, as well as **members of the BILT community**.

During the three days, selected plenary sessions will be **streamed online**. Online participation is open to a **global audience**.

FORMAT OF THE EVENT

Duration: 24-26 October 2023 with the following objectives:

- **Day 1:**
 - Keynote and discussions with policy-makers and industry partners from Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Europe on current TVET trends and challenges. Focus topics will include *up-/reskilling of the workforce, skills intelligence and forecasting*, and *TVET excellence and attractiveness*.
 - Onsite: a study visit to interact with practitioners in the dual VET system in Germany (trainers and trainees) and to have a first-hand experience of on-the-job training.
- **Day 2:**
 - Presentation of the results of the BILT Expert Group on the dual transition in the hospitality and tourism sector.
 - Networking sessions to strengthen cooperation and thematic exchange among UNEVOC Centres and TVET institutions present at the event.
 - BILT matchmaking: Memorandum of Understanding - exchange ceremony
- **Day 3:**
 - Hybrid Learning Lab with a focus on micro-credentials.
 - **Annual Meeting of the BILT Advisory Committee.**
 - Conceptualization meeting for the new BILT expert group on the dual transition in the building and construction sector (in person and by invitation only).

Discussion among participants will be actively encouraged during the workshop sessions and at the marketplace. Interpretation into French will be provided for selected sessions.

AGENDA

DAY 1 - Tuesday, 24 October 2023 Global policies for excellent TVET 9:00 – 17:00 All times are indicated in CEST	
8:00 – 9:00	Arrival UN Campus, Platz der Vereinten Nationen, Bonn
9:00 – 9:20 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English-French interpretation</i>	Opening ceremony: Striving for excellence in TVET Moderator: Ms Priscilla Wanjiku Gatonye , Programme Officer, Inclusion and Youth, UNESCO-UNEVOC Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC - Mr Oliver Diehl, Deputy Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany
9:20 – 9:40 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English-French interpretation</i>	Keynote: Global agenda for skills development <i>A keynote on the global state of skills supply and demand forecast will set the thematic framework for the next three conference days.</i> <i>In his Keynote, Mr Borhene Chakroun will take stock of current challenges and introduce the concept of a 'global skills tracker' to document skilling, reskilling and upskilling programmes as well as training and work trajectories of young people.</i> Moderator: Ms Priscilla Wanjiku Gatonye , UNESCO-UNEVOC Speaker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO
9:40 – 10:10 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English-French interpretation</i>	Impulse talks: Regional excellence in TVET <i>This session will bring together policy-makers from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe. They will examine and compare global and regional TVET strategies and policies supporting vocational excellence through skills development and anticipation.</i> Moderator: Ms Priscilla Wanjiku Gatonye , UNESCO-UNEVOC Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Sophia Ndemutila Ashipala, Head of Education Division, African Union Commission - Ms Johanna Börsch-Supan, Director General for General Education, Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany - Ms Rosanna Urdaneta, Deputy Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines, former Chair of the ASEAN TVET Council (tbc)

<p>10:10 – 10:35 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English-French interpretation</i></p>	<p>Panel discussion with Q&A Moderator: Ms Priscilla Wanjiku Gatonye, UNESCO-UNEVOC</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Borhene Chakroun, UNESCO - Ms Sophia Ndemutilla Ashipala, African Union Commission - Ms Johanna Börsch-Supan, BMBF, Germany - Ms Rosanna Urdaneta, TESDA, Philippines (tbc)
<p>10:35 – 11:00</p>	<p>Coffee and networking break</p>
<p>11:00 – 12:30</p> <p>2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i></p> <p>2116</p> <p>2705</p>	<p>Round-table discussions <i>Three round tables will allow for a more in-depth discussion of important topics mentioned in the preceding keynote and impulse talks. A visual summary by Ms Stephanie Heckman will introduce these focus topics and set the scene for the round-table discussions.</i></p> <p><i>The objective is to stress the importance of inter-regional collaboration and to jointly outline priorities supporting the transformation and attractiveness of TVET worldwide.</i></p> <p>The future of TVET: Education for the future of work Moderator: Mr Yang Wenming, Professor and Coordinator of UNEVOC Centre, UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET, Shenzhen Polytechnic University, China</p> <p>Innovation in TVET for a sustainable future Moderator: Ms Kenneth Barrientos, Team Leader for SDGs and Greening TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC</p> <p>Inter-regional cooperation in TVET Moderator: Mr Michael Schwarz, Deputy Head of Division “International Advisory Services, Cooperation with Partner Institutions”, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany</p>
<p>12:30 – 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch break - Canteen on 29th floor of Langer Eugen</p>
<p>13:30 – 14:45 2312, Plenary</p>	<p>Vocational training ‘made in Germany’</p> <p><i>An introduction to the German Dual VET system will set the scene for the ensuing study visits. The focus will be on continuing VET and the permeability between vocational and academic education. In this regard, the InnoVET Project UpTrain, which brings together transport companies, universities and industry partners to jointly develop a holistic further training model, will be presented.</i></p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Michael Wiechert, Head of Division “International Advisory Services, Cooperation with Partner Institutions”, BIBB, Germany - Ms Cara Schmitt, BILT Project Officer, BIBB, Germany - Ms Maria Neuber, UpTrain, VDV Academy (Association of German Transport Companies), Germany

14:45 – 18:00	<p>Study visits <i>Three parallel study visits to TVET training companies in the Bonn area will be organized to offer participants a practical insight into training methodologies, infrastructure, industry partnerships and skills development approaches in the German Dual VET system.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Go Green Specialist Programme, Deutsche Post DHL Group</i> • <i>Dual training programmes in hospitality, Kameha Grand Hotel Bonn</i> • <i>Training in asphalt and road construction, A. Widdig, Bornheim</i>
18:00	<p>Joint dinner, Moby-Dick Landebrücke ‘Bundeshaus’, Stresemannufer (the pier near the UN Building)</p>

<p>DAY 2 - Wednesday, 25 October 2023</p> <p>TVET research and collaboration in action</p> <p>9:00 – 17:00</p> <p>All times are indicated in CEST</p>	
8:00 – 9:00	Arrival
9:00 – 9:10 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English-French interpretation</i>	<p>Opening Moderator: Mr Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Birgit Thomann, Head of Department ‘VET International’, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany
9:10 – 9:25 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English – French interpretation</i>	<p>Keynote: European Skills Policies <i>This keynote address will highlight European skills policies in the context of the green and digital transition. In his speech, Mr Koen Nomden will refer to the European Year of Skills with a special focus on digital credentials and labour mobility.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Koen Nomden, Team Leader Transparency and Recognition of Skills and Qualifications, European Commission
9:25 – 9:35 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English – French interpretation</i>	<p>Keynote: Perspectives for the hospitality and tourism industry 5.0 <i>This keynote address will offer insights into the future of the sector, focusing on emerging trends, challenges and opportunities, and emphasizing sustainability and advanced technology integration. It will set the scene for the ensuing presentation of the final research results by the BILT Expert Group on the dual transition in hospitality and tourism.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hon Soodesh Satkam Callichurn, Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training, Mauritius

<p>9:35 – 10:45 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English – French interpretation</i></p>	<p>BILT Expert Group on the dual transition in hospitality and tourism <i>Since March 2023, a BILT Expert Group has been investigating the implications of the green and digital transition on skills needs for the hospitality and tourism sector and the TVET system. In this session, the final research results will be presented by the Expert Group Leads and Co-Leads.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Ms Katharina Engel, BILT Project Manager, BIBB, Germany, and Mr Kenny Muscat, BILT Project Manager, UNESCO- UNEVOC</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Franziska Wettstein, Expert, Development of Occupations, and Mr Erik Swars, Head of International Affairs, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET), Switzerland (Expert Group Lead) - Mr Billy Wadongo, Head of Research, Innovation and Business, Boma International Hospitality College (BIHC), Kenya (Expert Group Co-Lead) - Mr Enrique Blanco, Projects and Communications Manager, École d’Hôtellerie et de Tourisme Paul Dubrulle (EHT), Cambodia (Expert Group Co-Lead)
<p>10:45 – 11:30</p>	<p>Coffee and networking break, group photo for on-site participants</p>
<p>10:45 – 13:00 Online only</p>	<p>Virtual poster gallery with introduction to poster session <i>The virtual poster gallery will display innovative TVET practices and provide an opportunity to connect with the implementing institutions for peer learning.</i></p>
<p>11:30 – 13:00 2312, Plenary</p> <p>2712</p>	<p>The BILT Community Poster Gallery <i>The BILT Community Poster Gallery is designed to exhibit innovative ideas and practices in TVET across BILT’s four thematic focus areas: Greening, Digitalization, Migration and Entrepreneurship. UNEVOC Centres and TVET stakeholders worldwide were invited to contribute a poster to the Gallery and to showcase current projects, initiatives, tools and research activities related to the aforementioned focus areas.</i></p> <p>Opening <i>The Gallery will be opened by the Director of Research and Vice President of the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Mr Hubert Ertl, who will also give an overview about BIBB’s research activities and projects targeting skills development in the BILT thematic focus areas.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms Cara Schmitt, BILT Project Officer, BIBB, Germany</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Hubert Ertl, Director of Research and Vice President, BIBB, Germany <p><i>During the Gallery Session, eight institutions will give a lightning talk on their chosen focus theme to foster discussions and inspire participants to implement new and innovative approaches within their own TVET context.</i></p> <p>Lightning talks I (2 parallel sessions)</p> <p>Migration and TVET</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Manal Stulgaitis, Education Officer, Division of Resilience and Solutions, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - Mr Nihat Sorgeç, Managing Director, BildungsWerk in Kreuzberg GmbH, Germany

2705	<p>Entrepreneurship and TVET Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Dana Stroie, Deputy Director, National Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training Development (NCTVETD), Romania - Ms Doreen Thotho Kokorwe, Manager, Workplace Planner, Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), Botswana
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break – Canteen on 29 th floor of Langer Eugen
14:00 – 15:30	Lightning talks II (2 parallel sessions)
2712	<p>Greening in TVET Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Louis Aquilina, Director, Partnerships and International Office, Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, Malta - Ms Evet Barrett, HEART National Service and Training Agency Trust (HEART NSTA), Jamaica
2705	<p>Digitalization in TVET Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Lynda Kasina, Nurisha Trust Project Manager and Principal, Kibondeni College, Kenya - Ms Phoossarapha Thongjumrool, Project Officer, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Thailand
14:00 – 15:30 2516	<p>Annual meeting of the BILT Advisory Committee (closed meeting) Chaired by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC - Mr Oliver Diehl, Deputy Head of Division ‘Initial and Continuing Vocational Education and Training Policy’, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee and networking break
16:00 – 17:00 2516	<p>MoU exchange ceremony and BILT matchmaking successes Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET), Switzerland; Temasek Polytechnic (TP), Singapore; Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Malta; Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD), Mauritius; and School Centre Nova Gorica (SCNG), Slovenia</p>
25 th floor	<p>BILT Poster Gallery <i>Participants will have the opportunity to browse the Poster Gallery on-site and online and to get in touch with the exhibiting institutions.</i></p>
2519	<p>BILT Cinema <i>The BILT cinema will showcase videos of Innovation and Learning Practices that have been produced in the last biennium.</i></p>

	<p>Focus on micro-credentials: <i>A video on ‘Microcredentials for VET and labour market learning’ by Ms Anastasia Pouliou, Expert in qualifications and credentials, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) will introduce the topic of the Hybrid Learning Lab on the following conference day.</i></p>
17:00 – 18:00 2705	<p>Future perspective talk (closed meeting)</p> <p><i>Continuing the cooperation of the BILT Expert Group 2023 on the dual transition in hospitality and tourism.</i></p>
18:30	<p>Joint dinner: Tuscolo – Gerhard-von-Are-Straße 8, Bonn</p>

DAY 3 - Wednesday, 26 October 2023
TVET making a difference
 9:00 – 16:30
 All times are indicated in CEST

8:00 – 9:00	Arrival
9:00 – 9:10 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English-French interpretation</i>	<p>Opening: Moderator: Ms Natalie Ax, BILT Project Officer, UNESCO-UNEVOC</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Peter Thiele, Head of Division ‘Continuing Vocational Training; European Vocational Education and Training Area’, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany
9:10 – 10:45 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English – French interpretation</i>	<p>Hybrid Learning Lab: Digital Micro-credentials</p> <p><i>The 2023 BILT Learning Forum will feature a hybrid Learning Lab that will take on the topic of micro-credentials. Its focus will be on how Tourism Training Australia has developed a micro-credential platform which is using AI to target potential students and their learning needs.</i></p> <p><i>The Learning Lab will be complemented by a regional panel discussion looking at the role of micro-credentials across the three BILT regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe) and examining how policy-makers and social partners can collaborate on this issue.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms Jessica Rosenfeld, BILT Project Assistant, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr John Hart, OAM, Executive Chairman, Australian Chamber - Tourism - Ms Venessa Barnes, Tourism Training Australia - Mr Jim Syrmas, Project Manager of the Workplace Training and Innovation Fund, Syrmas Consulting - Mr Suresh Manickam, Chief Executive Officer, Restaurant & Catering Australia

	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms Zaahedah Vally, JET Education Services, South Africa - Mr Tuan Kee Aw, Deputy Principal/CEO, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore - Mr Anatooli Garmash, Senior Human Capital Development Expert - Qualification Systems, European Training Foundation (ETF)
10:45 – 11:30	Coffee and networking break
11:30 – 13:00 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online; English – French interpretation</i>	<p>Ready for the ‘three I’s process’</p> <p><i>This session will introduce the BILT Self-Reflection Tool, which aims to support TVET providers in anticipating and responding to emerging skills needs. The tool is co-developed with the active engagement of pilot providers selected from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe. In this session, they will discuss and share insights gained from the piloting of the tool, including their experiences and lessons learned, and anticipate the upcoming dissemination phase.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Ms Natalie Ax, UNESCO-UNEVOC, and Ms Cara Schmitt, BIBB, Germany</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Sayadaly Maudarbocus, Acting Director, and Ms Sadhna Juwaheer, Coordinator, Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD), Mauritius - Mr Yang Wenming, UNEVOC Centre Coordinator, and Ms Zhong Zhuo, Shenzhen Polytechnic University, China - Ms Adrijana Hodak, Head of Intercompany training centre, and Ms Tjaša Petelin Bačar, Project Coordinator, School Center Nova Gorica (SCNG), Slovenia
11:30 – 13:00 2705	<p>2024 BILT Expert Group on the dual transition in building and construction (closed meeting)</p> <p><i>This meeting aims to prepare the operational framework of the next BILT Expert Group on the green and digital transition in building and construction which will take up its work at the beginning of 2024.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Ms Katharina Engel, BILT Project Manager, BIBB, Germany, and Mr Kenny Muscat, BILT Project Manager, UNESCO- UNEVOC</p>
13:00 – 13:30 2312, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC - Mr Michael Schwarz, BIBB, Germany
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch break - Canteen on 29 th floor of ‘Langer Eugen’
14:30 – 16:30 2516	<p>UNEVOC Network meeting (closed meeting)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Olivier Pieume, Team Leader, Network Secretariat, UNESCO-UNEVOC</p>

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee and networking break

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHY

Day 1 Tuesday – Speakers and Moderators



Ms Priscilla Wanjiku Gatonye

Programme Officer, Inclusion and Youth, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET

Priscilla Gatonye supports the development and implementation of the UNEVOC Network strategy, with a particular focus on the thematic area of inclusion and youth, including the International Centre’s ongoing work on entrepreneurial skills development, and gender equality in TVET. She also acts as Regional Focal Point for Africa and in this capacity develops regional strategies to involve members of the UNEVOC Network in Africa in UNESCO-UNEVOC’s activities.

Previously, Ms Gatonye worked for 10+ years in various capacities within the TVET sector as well as in youth empowerment and employability advisory. Priscilla holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Nairobi, an M.Sc. in International Supply Chain Management from the University of Exeter and AEVO’s international master trainer qualifications in vocational and work pedagogical knowledge, skills and abilities.



Mr Friedrich Huebler

Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET

Mr Huebler is the Head of the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET. Prior to joining UNEVOC in November 2021, he was the Head of the Education Standards and Methodology Section at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. In that position, he contributed to the methodological development of the global monitoring framework for Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education. He also supervised the documentation of UIS indicator methodology, and the production of education statistics and analysis based on household survey and census data. Before he moved to the UIS, he worked as Statistics and Monitoring Specialist at UNICEF. Mr Huebler holds an MA in Business Studies and Economics from the University of Bremen and a PhD in Economics from the New School for Social Research.



Mr Oliver Diehl

Deputy Head of Division
Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany

Mr Diehl has a long-standing track record in national and international VET-policy making at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Most recently, he has coordinated the launch of a 120 Mio. EUR funding and support scheme for Vocational Training Centres within the German “Excellence Initiative for VET”. He joined the Ministry in 2002 and previously held positions in BMBF’s international cooperation with Latin America, the Mediterranean countries and Africa. In the past, he was also dedicated to BMBF research projects in the areas of sustainability, culture, environment and basic energies. Mr Diehl is a Fellow of the Bosch foundation and holds a PhD-degree in Applied Social Psychology from the Gutenberg-University of Mainz, Germany.



Mr Borhene Chakroun

Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO

Borhene Chakroun is the Director of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems Division at UNESCO-Headquarters and interim Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.

Mr Chakroun is an engineer with a PhD in Education Sciences from Bourgogne University in France. He has worked as a trainer, chief trainer, project manager, and short-term consultant for international organizations such as the EU and the World Bank. At the European Training Foundation, he served as Senior Human Capital Development specialist before joining UNESCO in 2010.

Mr Chakroun conducted a range of policy reviews and skills systems diagnosis in different contexts. He has authored and co-authored articles and books in the field of skills development and lifelong learning. Much of his recent work focuses on global trends in reforming education and training systems within a lifelong learning perspective and the global agenda for education and skills development in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



Mr Nicholas Ouma

Senior Youth Advisor in the Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) Department, African Union Commission

Mr Ouma is an Education and Skills Development professional at the African Union Commission - Department of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation where he serves as a Senior Youth Advisor. His experience spans cross-functional initiatives and outcomes within TVET, employment, youth development and empowerment spaces, with a focus on policies and programmes at both national and continental levels. Prior to his present role at the African Union, Mr Ouma served as a high school teacher, university lecturer and County Director of Youth Development in Kenya.



Ms Sophia Ndemutila Ashipala

Head of Education Division, African Union Commission

Sophia Ashipala, recently joined the African Union Commission as Head of Education Division. She is holder of a Master's Degree in Public Policy Management and has worked in the Education Sector for 23 years at different positions serving the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in Namibia. She has previously served as Deputy Director for Programme Quality Assurance for 5 years and Chief Education Planner for 5 years. She has also worked as School Principal for 3 years, Head of Department for Mathematics and Science for 3 years and a teacher for 6 years.



Ms Johanna Börsch-Supan

Director General for General Education, Vocational Training and Lifelong Learning, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany

Johanna Boersch-Supan is Director-General for General Education, Vocational Training and Life-Long Learning at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Previously, Johanna worked in civil society where she was managing director of the Vodafone Foundation Germany and Digital Education Research Lead to the Global Vodafone Foundation. Johanna studied politics, anthropology, economics and history at Dartmouth College, Heidelberg University and the University of Oxford.



Ms Rosanna Urdaneta

Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), former Chair of the
ASEAN TVET Council, Philippines

Time cannot bind Ms Rosanna Urdaneta’s exemplary career in the government. Her vast achievements and quintessential leadership are testaments that hard work and professionalism can propel one’s dream into reality. She currently holds the position of Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning with a rank of CESO II.

Starting at a very young age working as a rank-and-file employee, she earnestly honed her skills in the field of Community Enterprise System and Development, Training Technologies, Organizational Development, and Systems Thinking. She is well known for her exceptional competence in Project Development, Systems and Methodologies Designing, Project Management and Implementation, Staff and Institutional Capability – Building, and Project Evaluation.

As Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning, her leadership has driven TESDA into international prominence, especially with the establishment of the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC). She further facilitated the strengthening of industry participation and partnership in TVET through the formulation of a blueprint for the TVET sector in the country known as the National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan 2018 to 2022. Currently, she is the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Human Resources Development Working Group (HRDWG) Capacity Building Network (CBN) Coordinator for 2023 to 2024.

Her remarkable contributions to the then National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC), now TESDA, and towards the growing global recognition of the TVET system in the Philippines have been greatly valued and continue to manifest in TESDA’s successes.



Ms Stephanie Heckman

Graphic Recorder and Visual Facilitator

As a graphic recorder, Stéphanie Heckman translates collective conversations into real-time visual summaries that distil down the essence of both content and atmosphere of an event. These visual summaries are a live collective sensemaking tool, become a tangible memory aide after the event, and can help to on-board those who could not be present.

Stéphanie has an academic liberal arts background in psychology, anthropology and linguistics, and an MSc in sustainable development leadership. Originally from the Dutch coast, she now lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland. From here she has worked internationally for the last six years with a wide range of organizations and sectors, specializing in visualizing complex content in climate action, peace and reconciliation, and leadership development.



Mr Yang Wenming

Professor and Coordinator of UNEVOC Centre, UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET,
Shenzhen Polytechnic University, China

YANG Wenming has a Ph.D in Education and is a Professor, Coordinator of UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET and UNEVOC Centre, Shenzhen Polytechnic University, China, a visiting researcher at the University of Michigan, and a consultant for different international organizations or research programmes such as UNESCO China Funds-in-Trust (CFIT), Regional Association of Vocational and Technical Education in Asia, CDRI, etc. He boasts rich experiences in UNESCO and other research projects, with more than 60 publications and National Education Awards. Now he is mainly engaging in international TVET research and academic exchange, making academic presentations in different international seminars, forums and workshops.



Ms Kenneth Barrientos

Programme Officer, Team Leader for SDGs and Greening TVET
UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET

Ms Barrientos joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in 2013 as a Programme Officer. She is responsible for assisting the Head of Office in programme management and new project development, medium-term strategic planning and monitoring programmes. As of 2020, she leads and coordinates UNEVOC's SDGs and Greening TVET programme, aimed at strengthening TVET institutional capacities; developing normative guidance, practical implementation tools and learning resources; and facilitating knowledge sharing and network exchange on the topic.

For the past 15 years, Ms Barrientos has worked in the education and TVET sector, including in UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Education for Innovation and Development (APEID) Programme at its Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, Thailand; Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education (CPSC) in Manila, Philippines; and the International Coral Reef Initiative Secretariat - Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Philippines. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration.



Mr Michael Schwarz

Senior Technical Advisor, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany

Mr Schwarz is the Deputy Head of the Division 'International Advisory Services / Cooperation with Partner Institutions' and Senior Technical Advisor at the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) in Bonn, Germany.

His responsibilities at BIBB include the management of VET projects and advisory services in Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and Africa in cooperation with Ministries, government agencies, partner institutions and social partners to improve work-based learning systems. Furthermore, he is in charge of the cooperation with multilateral organizations like UNESCO-UNEVOC and is the UNEVOC Centre Coordinator for BIBB. Currently, he is Team Leader for the BILT (Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET) Project, which is carried out in cooperation with UNESCO-UNEVOC and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education.

Furthermore, he is heading an advisory project for the Vietnamese government in establishing a monitoring system for TVET (VET Report Vietnam) and in the development of a TVET strategy 2021-2030 and he is in charge of advising the Mongolian government on the new education law. In recent years, he has been conducting many short-term missions advising on steering mechanisms and TVET laws, on cost-benefit relations in TVET, on monitoring of TVET systems and on the development of occupational standards.



Mr Michael Wiechert

Head of Division "International Advisory Services, Cooperation with Partner Institutions", Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) Germany

Mr Wiechert joined BIBB in 1994 when he served as Director of the BIBB Liaison Office for the implementation of the World Bank Project "Occupational Standards, Testing and Certification" in Ankara, Turkey, until 2003. Since then, he has been working as senior expert and advisor in VET projects in more than 30 countries around the world. Since 2009, he additionally serves as Head of Division "International Advisory Services, Cooperation with Partner Institutions". Mr Wiechert holds an M.A in Adult Education and Vocational Training as well as an M.A in Economics from the University of Freiburg.



Ms Cara Schmitt

Project Officer

Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany

Ms Schmitt joined the BILT Team in January 2022 as Project Officer at the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB). She is responsible for the “Bridging Line” of the project and, in this context, for organizing the BILT Bridging events as well as consolidating the network community to enable peer learning.

Prior to joining the project team, Cara worked at the National Agency “Education for Europe” at BIBB, which implements the Erasmus+ programme in Germany in the field of VET and adult education. She has several years of experience in monitoring and evaluating Erasmus+ projects. In this regard, she contributed to providing transnational mobility and learning opportunities for VET students as well as supporting internationalization and institutional development of VET providers. Cara holds joint degrees in Franco-German Studies: Cross border Communication and Cooperation from France, Luxembourg and Germany.



Ms Maria Neuber

UpTrain, VDV Academy (Association of German Transport Companies), Germany

Maria Neuber works as an education officer in the VDV-Academy’s project “UpTrain – Trial Vocational Education: transparent, digital”. Prior to this, she taught at Hildesheim University as a research fellow in the field of English literary and cultural studies.

Day 2 Wednesday – Speakers and Moderators



Ms Birgit Thomann

Head of Department ‘VET International’, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany

Birgit Thomann, political and social scientist with an additional Master in adult education, heads BIBB’s international department, which carries out tasks in the field of research and development as well as consultancy services. The department strengthens the international commitment of BIBB by developing worldwide partnerships and networks and addresses issues relating to international and European developments in vocational education and training.

After gaining international experience in France and the Middle East, Ms Thomann worked as a senior advisor for VET, project manager and team leader of a bilateral VET project in the Western Balkans. She is an appointed member in an expert committee on education at the German Commission for UNESCO and lecturer at the University (TU) of Darmstadt.



Mr Koen Nomden

Team Leader, Transparency and Recognition of Skills and Qualifications, European Commission

He is currently Team Leader for, within the Skills Agenda Unit of the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion). He entered the European Commission in 2003 and has been working on topics like qualifications frameworks, digital credentials, validation of non-formal and informal learning, career guidance and career guidance. Other positions he held within the European Commission were that of Erasmus Mundus Programme Manager and of policy officer in charge of setting up a European Executive Agency in charge of implementing programmes in education, training, culture and media.



Mr Soodesh Satkam Callichurn

Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training, Mauritius

The Hon. Soodesh Satkam Callichurn is a Member of Parliament of the Mouvement Socialiste Militant (MSM) party in Mauritius with a distinguished career in law and politics.

He began his professional journey as a Barrister at Law from 2005 to 2008, followed by a role as an Assessor at the Industry Property Tribunal and Environment Appeal Tribunal from 2006 to 2008. From 2008 to 2014, he served as a Magistrate.

In 2014, he was elected as the 1st Member for Constituency No.5 Pamplemousses and Triolet in the Parliament, marking the start of his political career. From December 2014 to January 2017, he held the position of Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment & Training. He continued in this role from January 2017 to November 2019.

In November 2019, he was re-elected as the 1st Member for Constituency No.5 Pamplemousses and Triolet and assumed the role of Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development, and Training. From February 2021 to August 2023, he served as the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

The Hon. Soodesh Satkam Callichurn's career reflects his dedication to serving the people of Mauritius and contributing to the betterment of his country.



Ms Katharina Engel

Project Manager, BILT Project

Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany

Prior to joining BIBB in 2022, Katharina worked at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) on several EU-funded projects with a focus on digital education and global exchange. Most recently, she contributed to the development of a community of practice of digital education stakeholders in Europe and beyond as coordinator of the consortium implementing the European Commission's Digital Education Hub. Katharina holds a Master's degree in English Literatures and Cultures.



Mr Kenny Muscat

BILT Project Manager, UNESCO UNEVOC International Centre for TVET

Kenny Muscat joined the Innovation and Future of TVET team at UNESCO-UNEVOC in April 2023. He serves as Project Manager in the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Project, where he oversees the three main lines of the project.

After graduating from university, Mr Muscat started working as a Process Engineer and eventually moved to the Malta College of Arts, Science (MCAST) as a Lecturer. During his fourteen years at MCAST, he held various leadership positions and also managed different Erasmus+ projects.

Mr Muscat holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Master's degrees in Integrated Product Development and in Business Administration, and Postgraduate Certificates in Vocational Education and Training and in Research Methods. He is currently a PhD student at the University of Malta where the research focus is the professional development of vocational teachers.



Ms Franziska Wettstein

Project Manager, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET), Switzerland

Ms Wettstein has been with the Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET) since 2018. As a project manager at the Centre for the Development of Occupations she works closely with professional organizations and industry representatives, VET providers as well as federal and cantonal government, in project related to the development of professions and VET in general. In addition to that, she conducts training of examination experts and offers tailor-made courses in competency-based training for VET teachers.

SFUVET is Switzerland's expert organization for VET and offers basic and continuing training to VET professionals, conducts VET research, contributes to the development of occupations and supports international cooperation in vocational and professional education and training. SFUVET's Centre for the Development of Occupations guides professional organizations in all stages of the development of professions within the VET sector (basic training and further education): from the review of the need for curricula revision across the analysis of the necessary professional competencies as well as their integration into curricula up to the implementation on the VET provider level.



Mr Erik Swars

Head of International Affairs, Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET), Switzerland

Mr Swars is Head of International Affairs at the Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training (SFUVET) since 2013. SFUVET is Switzerland's expert organization for VET and offers basic and continuing training to VET professionals, conducts VET research, contributes to the development of occupations and supports international cooperation in vocational and professional education and training. His department contributes with its expertise to various international cooperation projects in skills development all over the world.

In his role, Mr Swars works closely together with international organizations like the ILO or as a UNEVOC Network member. Previously, he worked at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) and at Swiss Post. He holds a degree in Economics from the University of Tübingen and an MBA from the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. Mr Swars is author of several articles and publications, among others co-author of the book "Vocational and Professional Education and Training in Switzerland", published in 2016 in English and 2021 in Chinese.



Mr Billy Wadongo

Head of Research, Innovation and Business, Boma International Hospitality College (BIHC), Kenya

Mr Wadongo is The Head of Research, Innovation and Business at Boma International Hospitality College. He holds a Ph.D. in performance management and evaluation from University of Bedfordshire, UK, M.Sc. (Hospitality management) and a B.Sc. (Hotel & Institution Management) from Maseno University, Kenya as well as a Diploma in Community Development and Project Planning and Management.

He previously worked as Chair of the Academic Department at Maseno University, Research Assistant at Lord Ashcroft International Business School, Anglia Ruskin University, UK, and a Graduate Research Assistant at Maseno University. During his career, he has delivered programmes on leadership, teaching, and examination of undergraduate/postgraduate courses.

Over the years, he has gained relevant and practical research and data analysis experience in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods research designs and systematic literature. He has worked with private, public, and non-profit organizations as trainer and consultant in performance measurement, monitoring and evaluation, and data analysis. Mr Wadongo has published 21 papers in refereed journals, co-authored two peer-reviewed books and book chapters and presented 20 papers at international conferences and workshops from various research activities. He is an experienced training organizer and leader, training facilitator, training fundraiser/bidder, and training consultant in core courses curriculum, short courses, professional hospitality development programmes and masterclass programmes.



Mr Enrique Blanco

Projects and Communications Manager, École d'Hôtellerie et de Tourisme Paul Dubrule (EHT), Cambodia

Mr Blanco is a versatile curious individual, passionate about driving positive change through skills development, capacity-building, and multilateral partnerships. His genuine vocation to service allows him to connect with people, work with cross-functional teams, and lead complex intrapreneurial projects.

As a project manager at École d'Hôtellerie et de Tourisme Paul Dubrule, he designs and implements several initiatives related to digital transformation, green transition, and entrepreneurship, encouraging sustainable development at local and regional levels. Those experiences aim to build resilience and shape capacity-building opportunities for the future labor force, trainers, and workers, in particular for the tourism sector. In 2022, Mr Blanco participated as a speaker at the Skills Experts' Meeting - Extended Lifelong Learning Realities organized by the International Training Center of the ILO and the European Training Foundation.

Mr Blanco holds a bachelor's in international hospitality management from the world-renowned EHL Hospitality Business School and various professional certificates related to digital and green TVET from the International Labour Organization and UNESCO-UNEVOC. "Share your knowledge, learn from others" is the tagline that defines him.



Mr Hubert Ertl

Director of Research and Vice President, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany

Prof. Dr. Hubert Ertl has been Vice President and Director of Research at BIBB since September 2017.

He studied business education in Munich and conducted his doctoral research on European Union policies in the area of vocational education. He was a lecturer and researcher at the Universities of Munich and Paderborn before working as an Associate Professor of Higher Education at the Department of Education, University of Oxford from 2004 to 2017. At BIBB he is working on issues relating to the permeability between vocational education and training and higher education as well as on the challenges for vocational education and training arising from the process of digitalization.



Ms Manal Stulgaitis

Education Officer, Division of Resilience and Solutions, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Manal Stulgaitis is Education Officer leading on higher education for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark. Holding a professional degree in Law and a master's degree in International Law and Economic Development, she is currently focused on the 15by30 roadmap for inclusive higher education for refugees, specifically including transition from secondary education, the role of higher education in the context of fragility and development, and student mobilization.

Manal Stulgaitis has over 15 years of experience in refugee protection, with expertise in durable solutions, higher education, urban protection, risk management, coordination, and humanitarian-development planning.



Mr Nihat Sorgeç

Managing Director, BildungsWerk in Kreuzberg GmbH, Germany

Nihat Sorgeç is managing partner director of BWK BildungsWerk in Kreuzberg GmbH. Born in 1958 on the Mediterranean coast in Antakya/Turkey, he has lived in Germany since 1972. After studying mechanical engineering in Berlin, he took on tasks as a product manager and sales engineer in the private sector. He has been working in the education industry since 1988. Since 1997, Sorgeç has been managing director of the BWK BildungsWerk in Kreuzberg with three locations in Berlin, whose motto is "Integration through qualification".

He is in various boards, among others in the board of the "Windows on America" association, which was founded on the initiative of former US Ambassador William R. Timken. Under the patronage of the Federal Chancellor, its aim is to offer young people from immigrant families educational and qualification opportunities in order to make the best possible use of their existing talents to develop and mobilize their potential.

Mr Sorgeç is very committed to fostering further learning, active citizenship and intercultural dialogue. He was awarded for his contributions to friendship and understanding between Germans and Turks as well as his exemplary commitment to promoting the education and integration of immigrant children.



Ms Dana Stroie

Deputy Director, National Centre for TVET Development, Ministry of National Education, Romania

Ms Dana Stroie is an experienced professional with key strengths in formulating strategies for education and training and in initiating and delivering successful high-scale projects to improve the education and training systems. She has spent most of her career working in the field of vocational education and training

At European level, she is a member of EC groups of Directors General for VET, of Advisory Committee for VET and of the Steering Committee of the European Network for Quality Assurance in VET (EQAVET). At the national level, she is involved in the development of the initial VET in Romania, including the coordination of the elaboration and implementation of the national TVET strategies, coordinates the modernization of the initial VET curriculum, competence-based assessment, teachers' training, development of learning materials. She has extensive experience in developing and implementing quality assurance mechanisms, at both system and provider level and is a founding member of the National Group for Quality Assurance in Education and Training (GNAC). She is the director of numerous teachers' training programmes accredited by the Romanian Ministry of Education

Ms Stroie is the coordinator of the Romanian UNEVOC Centre set up within the National Centre for TVET Development.



Ms Doreen Thotho Kokorwe

Manager, Workplace Planner, Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), Botswana

Ms Kokorwe has a Bachelor of Education in Humanities and a post-graduate diploma in Counselor Education. She has further continued her education and holds a Master of Science in Education (MSEd) and has undergone numerous training programmes both in Botswana and abroad. Some of the highlights of these experiences are Recognition of Prior Learning Course and Entrepreneurial Development workshop, both in Botswana in 2011; Leadership, Innovation and Change Management strategic thinking and execution for growth programmes in South Africa in 2018, Work Skills Planning Masterclass in South Africa in 2019 and the UNEVOC TVET Leadership Programme in Germany during the year 2019. Ms Kokorwe currently holds the position of manager, workplace planner in the Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), Botswana.



Mr Louis Aquilina

Director, Erasmus+ Projects and Mobility Office, MCAST, Malta
Coordinator, UNEVOC Centre in Malta

Mr Aquilina is a Warranted Engineer and possesses a Master's in Engineering as well as a Post Graduate Certificate in Vocational Education and Training (PGC in VET).

He has worked in industry (Microelectronics industry and Beverage industry) for 22 years, occupying various engineering and higher management positions. He is also experienced in Manufacturing and Process Engineering, Quality Assurance, Problem Solving techniques.

Mr Aquilina joined the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) in 2009 as Senior Lecturer in Engineering (Electrical Engineering, Control Engineering, Robotics). He was promoted to Director in 2014, responsible for the commercial operations of MCAST and the Partnerships Office. In 2017, he was assigned the role of Coordinator of the UNEVOC Centre at MCAST and appointed Director of the Erasmus+ Projects and Mobility Office. Mr Aquilina is currently leading, managing and coordinating 32 active EU Erasmus+ projects, including Centres of Vocational Excellence (COVE) projects, EU Capacity Building Projects and the European Universities Alliance EU4DUAL. He was one of the main drivers and contributors in launching the MCAST Globalization Strategy 2021-2024.

Mr Aquilina is highly interested in greening and sustainability, currently sitting on the MCAST Greening Committee, which has the function to implement greening and sustainability principles at the College. He has led and coordinated the Erasmus+ Project Green VET for the SDG and is currently leading the new 3-year Erasmus+ project Green Labs 4 VET.



Ms Evet Barrett

Special Project and Partnership Specialist, HEART National Service and Training Agency Trust (HEART NSTA), Jamaica

Ms Evet Barrett is a dedicated professional serving as a Special Project and Partnership Specialist at the Human Employment and Resource Training, National Service Training Agency Trust, (HEART/NSTA Trust), which stands as Jamaica's national training agency. In this role, Ms Barrett has successfully overseen multiple projects that span across various industries and sectors within Jamaica's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) landscape.

Despite her initial academic foundation in Business Administration with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Certification in Project Management and PROSCI Change Management, in Ms Barrett's heart belongs to the realm of education and training. Her commitment to this passion is evident through the completion of postgraduate studies in Training, Development and Assessment.

With a wealth of experience spanning both the private and public sectors, Ms Barrett is also skilled in Leadership, recruitment, and training. Her multifaceted background and unwavering dedication position her as an invaluable asset in the field of human capital development.



Ms Lynda Kasina

Nurisha Trust Project Manager and Principal, Kibonden College Kenya

Ms Kasina is a Project Manager of Nurisha Trust, a Kenyan NGO committed to raising the standards of living of young women by empowering them with technical skills, especially in the hospitality sector. She oversees a diverse range of educational projects in Kibonden College in partnership with Belgian NGO (ACTEC), the Swiss Foundation, Limmat Stiftung, the English Wonder Foundation, the Spanish NGO, Harambee and the Maite Iglesias Foundation, the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce for Eastern Africa, Safaricom Foundation, the Tim Wanyonyi Foundation, KCB Tujiajiri, Mama Twende, ISBI, Wake kwa Wake among others. She holds a Masters' in Education Management from the University of Villanueva, Madrid, a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the University of Nairobi and a Bachilleratto from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome. She is passionate about Philosophical Anthropology and in particular the integral development of the human person and human service.

She is a member of the TVET Advisory Committee of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce for Eastern Africa and the Safaricom Foundation Board.



Ms Phoossarapha Thongjumrool

Project Officer, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Thailand

Ms Phoossarapha Thongjumrool joined GIZ in 2017, engaging in various projects focused on climate change and vocational education and training. In her current role as a project officer for the 'Regional Cooperation Programme for TVET in ASEAN', she has actively played a key role in the strengthening of TVET systems in the region. Her contributions include the management of training initiatives, "Advisory Skills for Change Agents in Digital Transformation" and "Master Trainer Training for In-Company Training", aimed at elevating the digital-era competencies of personnel from both TVET institutions and businesses.



Ms Anastasia Pouliou

Expert in qualifications and credentials, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

Anastasia Pouliou is a Cedefop Expert. Working in the Department for VET and Qualifications, she is responsible for qualifications and synergies between EU tools and learning outcomes. She has peer reviewed the study on the application of learning outcomes approaches in European countries and was the co-author of the 2017 and 2022 (second edition) of the European handbook on defining, writing and applying learning outcomes for IVET qualifications.

Anastasia Pouliou is currently leading the research conducted under Cedefop's project on Microcredentials for labour market education and training and the project on learning outcomes. She is involved in other Cedefop activities (including the Future of VET and the coordination of developments on national qualifications frameworks). Before joining Cedefop she worked as an educational consultant in the Ministry of Education and Religious affairs and as a head of the European Affairs Unit in the Organisation for Vocational Education and Training (Greece). She has performed senior management and national coordination on Europass and Leonardo da Vinci projects and has published articles in academic journals. She is a certified PM² project manager and has a Master's degree in education in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).

Day 3 Thursday – Speakers and Moderators



Ms Natalie Ax

BILT Project Officer, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET

Ms Ax joined the Innovation and Future of TVET team at UNESCO-UNEVOC in November 2020. She serves as Project Officer in the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Project, where she leads the 'Bridging line' of BILT. In that context, she is responsible for the organization of BILT Bridging events and the renewal of the BILT online platform with the aim of strengthening the community and peer learning component of the project.

Ms Ax has more than ten years of experience working on digital transformation projects, both in the private sector and at the UN. Before joining UNESCO-UNEVOC, she worked for six years in IT consulting with a focus on change management and communication in large digital workplace projects. Prior to that, she served as Associate Expert at the Convention on Migratory Species under the UN Environment Programme and at the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs. Some of her responsibilities were to establish collaboration, knowledge and learning platforms, facilitate communities of practice, and conceptualize and carry out training sessions and workshops. Ms Ax holds a Master's degree in Political Science, English and Spanish.



Mr Peter Thiele

Head of Division 'Continuing Vocational Training; European Vocational Education and Training Area', Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany

He represents Germany in several international, European and national VET strategy and programme committees, and heads the BMBF Division for Vocational Continuing Training Policy, covering basic policy issues, skills strategy, innovation and digitalisation in VET and several innovation programmes. He was responsible for VET policy in Apprenticeship and initial VET in the dual system for many years. He also headed the division for European cooperation in Education and Training in the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.




Mr Thiele has extensive experience in national and international cooperation in VET. His responsibilities cover policy strategies like the National Skills Strategy and the Alliance for VET in Germany and their respective decision making and advisory bodies.





He was and is responsible for the strategy and creation, funding and implementation of nationwide and systematically relevant VET innovation, excellence and digitalisation initiatives and programmes (i.E. Jobstarter, INNOVET, INVITE, VET 4.0, Valikom, Education Chains) and the respective negotiation and cooperation with German stakeholders in VET (in particular employers-, unions- and chambers associations, Länder/regions, Federal Employment Service, Federal institute for VET).



Finally, Mr. Thiele is responsible for international cooperation in VET. This includes international VET competitions and memberships in respective committees (Worldskills, i.E. Abu Dhabi, Worldskills Conference Coalition, organization/host of Worldskills Leipzig/Germany; funding of Worldskills Germany and the German competition teams, Euroskills, host bid Euroskills 2027 in Germany,), international partnerships and cooperations with OECD (latest projects: VET-Pisa, CVET-Report, OECD-Report on VET-integration of migrants in Germany; member of OECD-committees), UNESCO (UNEVOC Bonn) and the EU (responsible for German EU presidency in VET 2020, negotiation of EU VET Recommendation and EU Minister Declaration of Osnabruck in VET 2020, EU Skills Agenda, Europass, ESCO; member of several political and technical European VET committees incl. the European Center for VET CEDEFOP and EU Advisory Committee Vocational Training).




He has worked in the Directorate for International Affairs of the Federal Ministry of Education and Science and with the International Labour Organization in Geneva and Turin. He was also responsible for the development and co-financing of UNESCO-UNEVOC in cooperation with UNESCO.




Mr Thiele is a qualified lawyer specializing in public law.




	<p>Ms Jessica Rosenfeld BILT Project Assistant Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) Germany</p> <p>Ms Rosenfeld joined the BILT Team in March 2022 at the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB). In her capacity as a Project Assistant, she supports the ‘Learning Line’. More specifically, she is responsible for organizing the BILT Learning Labs, helping to further develop the Self-Reflection Tool, and supporting public outreach and editing work in English.</p> <p>Ms Rosenfeld has over fifteen years of experience working in higher education both within the private sector as well as at an international level. Previously Jessica worked for several years at the United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). During this time she managed and co-developed several educational programmes in the field of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, such as, an intensive training workshop, an international master, and young professionals’ visiting programmes. She also has experience managing partnership networks and has worked as an educator and facilitator. Since 2016 Ms Rosenfeld has been a doctoral research candidate at the University of Bonn and a guest researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPIMMG). Her research focuses on digital inequalities among migrants and its impact on life chances within Germany. Ms Rosenfeld holds a Master’s degree in International Policy Studies with a focus on Conflict Resolution.</p>
	<p>Mr John Hart OAM, Executive Chairman, Australian Chamber – Tourism</p> <p>John Hart is currently the Executive Chair for the Australian Chamber – Tourism, the peak national body of tourism organizations in Australia. John has spent over 30 years working in the tourism and hospitality industry in operational, human resources and industrial relations roles. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Business Law and a Master of Business Law and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to tourism in 2021 He is Chair of Australian Grape & Wine and the National Tourism Industry Training Committee and a board member of the Australian Business Register, the Angus Knight Group, Food Standards Australia and New Zealand, and Rangelands NRM. Mr Hart joined Tourism Australia’s Board in November 2018 and remains a director.</p>
	<p>Ms Venessa Barnes Marketing Lead, Tourism Training Australia Australia</p> <p>From her beginnings as a chef, Ms Barnes has successfully transitioned into influential senior business development and marketing roles with industry-leading companies such as Top Cut, Simplot, and Game Farm. In 2016, Ms Barnes was appointed as Business Development Manager – Foodservice Marketing for the producer-owned industry body, Australian Pork. With a focus on enhancing menu placement within the high-volume foodservice sector, she collaborated closely with chefs and major buyers for nearly four years, ensuring the success of products and programs. As a dedicated advocate for the foodservice industry, Ms Barnes contributes her expertise to various boards and committees. She currently serves and advises prominent organizations such as World Chefs, Tourism Task Force, and the Royal Agricultural Society.</p>

	<p>Mr Jim Syrmias Project Manager of the Workplace Training and Innovation Fund Syrmias Consulting, Australia</p> <p>Jim Syrmias has worked at senior levels within the Australian and South Australian Governments and has extensive experience in VET matters with a particular interest in the transition of young people from school to work. This has included - senior manager within the Department of Education and Training in South Australia of vocational education in schools' sector; executive level position with the C/W Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) responsible for the establishment of a national career and transition strategy.</p>
	<p>Mr Suresh Manickam Chief Executive Officer, <i>Restaurant & Catering</i> Australia</p> <p>Mr Manickam has strong association experience, previously serving as Secretary and CEO for the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) and Executive Officer for Strata Community Australia (NSW). He has also held senior leadership roles with the Housing Industry Association, Group Training Australia and the NSW Minerals Council, been an industry appointee to different federal and state government panels and a former advisor to Senator the Hon. Marise Payne.</p>
	<p>Ms Zaahedah Vally Research Officer, JET Education Services South Africa</p> <p>Zaahedah Vally is an experienced researcher with JET Education Services. Her areas of expertise include skills recognition in the labour market, micro-credentials and digitalisation in TVETs. Ms Vally has experience in research and project planning as well as implementation, and has worked in a number of countries including Ethiopia, Seychelles, Burundi, Uganda, Ghana, and Kenya. Her recent publications include Skills recognition mechanisms for selected occupational profiles of migrant workers in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa (ILO, 2022), and her current work includes a project with UNICEF on the recognition of non-formal and informal skills for young people in Eastern and Southern Africa through the innovation of micro-credentials. Ms Vally is currently enrolled in a master's with specialisation in Development and Economics at the University of Witwatersrand.</p>
	<p>Mr Tuan Kee Aw Deputy Principal/CEO, Temasek Polytechnic (TP) Singapore</p> <p>Mr Tuan Kee Aw serves as Deputy Principal/CEO at Temasek Polytechnic (TP), an Institute of Higher Learning under the Ministry of Education (MOE), Government of Singapore. He currently oversees a cluster comprising Industry Partnerships, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Research & Technology, International Relations, Center for Transcultural Studies (CTS) and Enterprise Singapore's Aquaculture Innovation Centre. He has also been tasked to oversee and spearhead TP's ICT & Digital Transformation Roadmap, which supports the Government of Singapore's Digital Government Blueprint (DGB). He previously served as Director at the Ministry of National Development (MND) Centre for Liveable Cities (CLC), a nexus and knowledge centre for liveable and sustainable cities, where he oversaw capability development programmes, initiatives, collaborations and advisory work.</p> <p>Prior to joining the MND-CLC, Mr Aw was Director of Higher Education Finance at the Ministry of Education (MOE), where he oversaw the budget, funding and financing</p>

	<p>policies for the higher education sector, which includes the Institutes of Education (ITE), Polytechnics, Universities and other publicly-funded institutions under Higher Education Division (HED).</p> <p>Mr Aw has also served as Deputy Director of Resource Division (RD) at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, where he oversaw industrial land related policies and policy desk-head role for JTC Corporation (JTC).</p> <p>His earlier career and experience span real estate development with a major real estate developer and in academia/management roles at one of the institutes of higher learning. Outside his professional career, Mr Aw served in a range of portfolios and committees, some of which include as Deputy Registrar of Marriages; Resource Panel Member for the Government Parliamentary Committees (GPC) for National Development, Environment and Education; Council and Audit Committee Member for the Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF). His current appointments include serving as a Review Board member (Children and Young Persons Home) and as a Board of Visitor (BOV) member under the Children and Young Persons Act and Women’s Charter. For his work with the community and grassroots organizations, he was awarded the Youth Service Medal, Long Service Award from the People’s Association and the Ministry of Social and Family Development.</p> <p>Mr Aw graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a Master of Science (SM) degree from the School of Architecture and Planning. During his time in Massachusetts, he was a SPURS fellow at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (MIT) and has completed the Internet Law Programme at Berkman Centre for Internet and Society at Harvard University. His prior academic training was in civil engineering and real estate/property development. In 2022, he completed the Advanced Management Programme (AMP202) at Harvard Business School and was also awarded the Public Administration Medal (Silver) and Long Service Medal by the President of Republic of Singapore.</p>
	<p>Mr Anatolii Garmash Senior Human Capital Development Expert - Qualification Systems, European Training Foundation (ETF)</p> <p>Mr Garmash is a senior expert in qualifications systems at the European Training Foundation. He is following the development of micro-credentials and digitalization of qualification systems in the ETF Qualifications Team.</p> <p>Before joining the ETF in 2020, he has been involved in the qualification system reform in Ukraine providing support to the development of the national qualifications framework, establishment of the national qualifications agency, creation of the national qualifications register and the implementation of independent assessment.</p>
	<p>Mr Sayadaly Maudarbocus Acting Director, Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) Mauritius</p> <p>Mr Maudarbocus is currently acting as a Director at the Mauritius Institute of Training & Development (MITD). He holds a degree in Civil Engineering and an Msc in Engineering Project Management. He is a Certified Quality Manager from the Indian Institute of Quality Management. Has been in the field of Technical and Vocational Education & Training for past 30 years.</p> <p>He has co-organized the TVET Workshop for the UNESCO World conference on Education for Sustainable Development in 2014 in Japan and presented a paper on Greening of TVET programmes at the MITD at the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in May 2021. He is also the country expert on the Inter-Country Quality Node for Technical and Vocational Skills Development (ICQN/TVSD) in Africa.</p>

	<p>Ms Sadhna Juwaheer Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD)</p> <p>Ms Juwaheer has 25 years of continuous management experience in education, training, marketing and communication. She began her career within the education and training sector as a teacher in 1982, and since then she has held leadership positions in three major institutions starting with Lois Lagesse Trust Fund where she has overseen the center’s overall operations ; United Way where she served as the lead ; and Fashion Design Institute where she served for 3 years from 2012 until 2015 where she oversaw the Board’s policies and the daily operations of the institution.</p> <p>Ms Juwaheer is currently the manager of two training centers under the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development, while she also supervises the institution’s public relations department. She prides on having built her work ethics and reputation on her transformative leadership approach and resolute dedication to realizing strategic goals through the application of innovative techniques.</p>
	<p>Ms Zhuoya Zhong Programme Officer of UNEVOC Centre, Shenzhen Polytechnic University China,</p> <p>Ms Zhuoya Zhong is a programme officer at the UNEVOC Centre in Shenzhen Polytechnic University (SZPU), China. She obtained a Master’s Degree of Education with Distinction from the University of Hong Kong (China) in 2017. She joined SZPU in 2018. Her duties include research in higher TVET and facilitating partnership with the global TVET community, involving UNESCO, UNESCO-UNEVOC, ILO, TVET research institutions and institutions such as KRIVET, CDRI, VETP and SENATI, and also the private sector. She engaged in international TVET projects such as UNESCO-UNEVOC Skills for Innovation Hubs (i-hubs) Project from 2019 to 2020, UNESCO-UNEVOC Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Project in 2022, the ETF project “The International Dimension of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)” in 2022, and the UNEVOC Network Coaction Initiative 2023 led by SZPU. Moreover, she coordinates research projects, workshops and events under the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET (SZPU).</p>
	<p>Ms Adrijana Hodak Head of Intercompany Training Centre, School Centre Nova Gorica (SCNG) Slovenia</p> <p>Ms Hodak is the Project leader of Talentjourney, a Platform of IoT vocational excellence. She is also a VET ambassador and project leader of Munera 3, a five-year ESF funded project that aims at training approximately 17,400 employees according to the needs of the modern labour market, industry 4.0 in tight collaboration with companies and smart specialization chains.</p> <p>She has worked at the School Centre Nova Gorica for 22 years where she has served as teacher of German Language and coordinator for international projects. Since 2007, she holds the position as the Head of Intercompany Training Centre. She is an active member of Consortium of Slovenian School Centres since 2004, and the representative of the Consortium in EUproVET, a representational platform for European Vet providers for the last five years.</p>

	<p>Ms Tjaša Petelin Bačar Project Coordinator, School Centre Nova Gorica (SCNG) Slovenia</p> <p>Tjaša Petelin Bačar is a Project Manager for International Projects at the School Centre Nova Gorica. With a degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Ljubljana, she brings a solid academic foundation to her role. Tjaša is recognized for her role as coordinator of major international projects at School Centre Nova Gorica, where she excels in strategic planning and team coordination.</p>
	<p>Mr Olivier Pieume Chief of the Technical Cooperation Unit/Team Leader for the Network Secretariat UNESCO-UNEVOC</p> <p>Olivier Pieume joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in August 2022 as Chief of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Technical Cooperation Unit. The Unit coordinates UNESCO-UNEVOC’s work related to technical assistance and capacity building. The Unit also leads technical cooperation and collaborations with partners willing to work in synergy with UNESCO-UNEVOC to provide support to UNESCO’s Member States in the field of TVET and skills development. Olivier Pieume also assumes the role of Team Leader for the UNEVOC Network Secretariat.</p> <p>Before joining UNESCO-UNEVOC, Mr Pieume was the UNESCO TVET Regional Advisor for Africa, cumulatively with the function of Head of the “Skills for life and the world of work cluster” at the UNESCO Regional Office at Dakar. He was managing four teams working respectively on TVET, STEM, Higher Education, and Literacy and Non-formal Education. In addition to these responsibilities, he was Chief of the Secretariat of the Pan African Initiative for Digital Transformation of TVET and Skills Development Systems in Africa.</p> <p>Prior to his position at the UNESCO Regional Office at Dakar, Mr Pieume was the TVET and Labour Market Specialist at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (Africa Office) for more than six years. He started his career as a lecturer at the University of Yaoundé I and later as an education and skills economist at the Cameroonian Ministry in charge of Economy and Planning.</p> <p>Olivier Pieume holds a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Paris Est and the Université de Montréal (cotutelle). He is also a statistician economist engineer. Mr Pieume has so far supported more than thirty countries in the review or development of their national TVET and skills development policies. He also has to his credit a dozen scientific articles in international journals.</p>
<p>BILT staff</p>	
	<p>Ms Alexandra Filippova BILT Assistant Programme Officer, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET</p> <p>Ms Filippova joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in June 2019 to support the implementation of the flagship BILT project, which provides TVET institutions with a platform for peer learning and addressing the impact of current global transformations including climate change, digitalization, and social and workplace changes.</p> <p>Prior to joining UNESCO-UNEVOC, Ms Filippova worked as a teacher in public education in France, both in general and vocational pathways. Ms Filippova holds a Master’s degree in International Relations and Strategic Cultures from INALCO (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations — Paris), and a Master’s degree in French Literature and Linguistics from Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3.</p>

	<p>Ms Anne Maletjane BILT Assistant Administrative Officer, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET</p> <p>Anne Maletjane joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in November 2020 in the 'Innovation and the Future of TVET' team. As part of the IFT team, she is responsible for providing administrative and financial management support to the BILT Project and other UNESCO-UNEVOC programmes. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Business Studies.</p> <p>Ms Maletjane has a keen interest in business administration, management, and development disciplines. Prior to joining UNESCO-UNEVOC, she had the opportunity to work with various UN organizations in Bonn, Germany. Her experience includes coordinating and managing projects, partnership development, resource mobilization for projects and events, providing administrative and logistical support to high-profile events, and supporting work related to volunteerism and policy coherence for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>
	<p>Ms Felister Munyi BILT Programme Assistant, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET</p> <p>Felister Munyi joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in July 2023 as a Programme Assistant for the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) project. She supports the implementation of the BILT project ranging from planning, coordination, researching and analysing best practices in TVET innovation, organizing workshops and training programmes, and supporting the development of educational resources and publications.</p> <p>Ms Munyi has more than 10 years' experience in TVET. Prior to joining UNESCO-UNEVOC, she was working at the Kenya School of TVET, serving as the Head of National Open Distance and eLearning (ODEL) in TVET.</p> <p>Felister holds a master's degree in Information Technology, a bachelor's degree in Education and has done professional courses in project management, quality assurance and flexible and blended TVET.</p>
	<p>Ms Nadja Bornscheuer BILT Project Assistant, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany</p> <p>Nadja joined the BILT Team at the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) in April 2022 as a Project Assistant. She supports the "Bridging Line" of the project and is also responsible for PR including the BILT project website at BIBB.</p> <p>Prior to joining the BILT Team, she was active in the field of international vocational training and human resources development. Her focus was the German-American Exchange where she was active in the organization and implementation of transatlantic advanced training and continuing education programmes for young executives. She was involved in the supervision and implementation of a scholarship programme of the German Bundestag and U.S. Congress; among her responsibilities were the recruitment and monitoring of participants and the development and conducting of seminars and workshops. Nadja holds an advanced degree in Sociology and Political Science.</p>

	<p>Ms Valbona Makovci BILT Project Student Assistant, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany</p> <p>Ms Makovci initially joined the BILT team at the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) in September 2022 as an intern, returning in April 2023 as a student assistant.</p> <p>She holds a BA with first-grade honours in International Relations from the American College of Thessaloniki and is currently pursuing her Master's degree in International Education Management at the University of Ludwigsburg Germany and Helwan University in Cairo. Prior to joining BIBB, she worked in the development and civil society sector with a focus on education primarily in Kosovo. Her previous work experience spans several organizations and international development agencies, such as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Save the Children, OSCE Kosovo, USAID, Peer Educators Network (PEN) local NGO and YEU International based in Brussels.</p>