

BILT Bridging Event Europe 2024

Towards inclusive excellence in TVET

Hosted by La Cometa Società Cooperativa Sociale

Organized by the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET
and the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB)

22-24 April 2024
Como, Italy

20 February 2024

Purpose of the BILT Bridging Event Europe

BILT Bridging Events are organized consecutively in each of the three focus regions of the '[Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET](#)' (BILT) project – Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Europe – and hosted by a UNEVOC Centre that is an active networking node for TVET stakeholders in the region and beyond. BILT Bridging Events provide a platform for international policy learning, knowledge exchange, innovation transfer and networking among TVET policymakers, practitioners and researchers.

The 2024-2025 cycle of Bridging Events kicks off with the conference in Europe, hosted by **La Cometa Società Cooperativa Sociale (Cometa)**, with a thematic focus on **inclusive excellence in TVET**.

Context

Excellence in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is multifaceted and defined in diverse ways. Although there is no single universally accepted definition of vocational excellence, most conceptual frameworks incorporate two important components: the delivery of **high-quality TVET**, and the impartation of skills and competencies that **enhance the employability of all people** striving to find decent work.

In this regard, excellence and inclusion in TVET are mutually reinforcing. Inclusive excellence in TVET is a commitment to meet the needs of all learners, regardless of their social and educational background, gender, ethnicity, disability, or migration status.

Based on this understanding, the BILT Bridging Event *Towards inclusive excellence in TVET* seeks to **explore various approaches to inclusive excellence** in TVET systems **across Europe, Africa, and Asia-Pacific**. Taking European perspectives as a starting point, the event will promote **interregional policy dialogue and cooperation** to support inclusive TVET systems that provide high-quality TVET delivery.

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The BILT Bridging Event aims to contribute to the implementation of the **Education 2030 Agenda** and its 17 **Sustainable Development Goals**, in particular SDG 4, “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. The [UNESCO Strategy for TVET 2022-2029](#) is fully aligned with SDG 4 and underlines UNESCO’s goal to unlock the potential of youth and adults by transforming TVET for successful and just transitions.

With its thematic focus on inclusive excellence, the event will also support the implementation of the [Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European education area and beyond \(ET 2030\)](#), particularly its first priority, “Improving quality, equity, inclusion and success for all in education and training”; the African Union’s Year of Education on the theme “[Educate an Africa fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa](#)”; and the [ASEAN Declaration on Human Resources Development for the Changing Worlds of Work](#).

Goals

The BILT Bridging Event *Towards inclusive excellence in TVET* enhances the visibility of BILT in Europe and beyond. It aims to:

- ✓ **Promote policy learning** between TVET stakeholders in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe. Taking lessons from Europe as a starting point, the focus is on
 - Discussing policy **approaches to inclusive excellence**;
 - Re-orienting current **TVET policy towards inclusion and excellence** and promoting TVET as an attractive career path.
- ✓ **Support peer learning** among BILT community members **on concrete innovative approaches to**
 - **Foster international collaboration** between TVET institutions striving for inclusive excellence in TVET delivery and TVET research;
 - **Implement inclusive TVET**, integrating migrants and disadvantaged youth, and targeting NEETs (persons not in employment, education or training).
- ✓ **Invite the TVET community in Europe and beyond to collaborate with BILT**
 - In the context of the sectoral **BILT Expert Groups** on new qualifications and competencies in building and construction (new in 2024–2025) and in hospitality and tourism (continued from 2023);
 - As **contributors** of transferable Innovation and Learning Practices (ILPs), or partners for future BILT events.

Target group

In-person participants and speakers (by invitation):

- TVET decision makers and TVET research agencies advising policymakers;
- TVET experts from UNEVOC Centres and from international organizations;
- Selected members of the BILT Expert Groups;
- Subject matter experts on the focus sectors or focus themes; and

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- Private sector representatives, associations, and unions.

Online participants:

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

The BILT Bridging Event Europe in Como, Italy, will bring together approximately 60 representatives of primarily European, as well as African and Asian UNEVOC Centres and 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 BILT Bridging Event

Duration: 22-24 April 2024 with the following objectives:

- **Day 1: Promoting inclusive excellence**
 - Keynote and discussions with policy-makers, industry partners, and TVET role models from Europe, Africa and Asia-Pacific on the intersection of ‘excellence’ and ‘inclusion’ and how inclusion contributes to overall excellence.
 - Breakout sessions to deepen the exchange between high-level speakers and the BILT community on the central challenges addressed in the keynotes.
 - On-site study visits to interact with practitioners in the TVET system in Italy (trainers and trainees) and to have a first-hand experience of on-the-job training.
- **Day 2: Collaborating for TVET excellence**
 - Networking sessions are organized to strengthen cooperation and thematic exchange among UNEVOC Centres and TVET institutions present at the event.
 - Closed-door working session of the BILT Expert Group on new qualifications and competencies in the building and construction sector.
- **Day 3: Empowering learners at risk of exclusion through TVET**
 - Hybrid Learning Lab with a focus on inclusive TVET approaches in the hospitality and tourism sector.
 - Live demonstrations to showcase European innovation and excellence in TVET.
 - *UNEVOC Network meeting for UNEVOC Centres.*

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