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International Centre
for Technical and Vocational
Education and Training



World Youth Skills Day 2017

UNESCO-UNEVOC and WorldSkills International in action



WORLD YOUTH
SKILLS DAY
UNESCO  UNEVOC

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And

WorldSkills International

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World Youth Skills Day 2017

UNESCO-UNEVOC and WorldSkills International in action

World Youth Skills Day is an official United Nations Observance since 2015, and raises awareness about the importance of youth skills development.

This report gives an account of how members of the UNEVOC Network, the world's largest platform of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, as well as members of WorldSkills International, celebrated the day.



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

Since its establishment in 2002, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training has acted as a key component of UNESCO's international programme on TVET. The Centre assists Member States to develop policies and practices concerning education for the world of work and skills development for employability, to achieve:

- access for all
- high quality, relevant and effective programmes
- learning opportunities throughout life

The Centre carries out its work in collaboration with the UNEVOC Network, an international platform of TVET institutes worldwide. Through the UNEVOC Network, it promotes capacity building of TVET stakeholders on the ground, as well as intercontinental cooperation and experience sharing.

WorldSkills International

WorldSkills International is a not-for-profit organization whose members are leading national agencies and bodies that promote vocational education and training. It provides a platform for exchange and comparison of competency standards in industrial trades and service sectors.

As well as national skills competitions, WorldSkills International also organizes international WorldSkills competitions every two years. Competitors from all over the world display and inspire excellence in skills. The Competitions also provides leaders in industry, government and education the opportunity to exchange information and best practices regarding industry and professional education.

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Welcome message from



Shyamal Majumdar,
Head of UNESCO-
UNEVOC International
Centre for TVET

Never before has it been more important to call for access to quality technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for all young people than today.

The rising youth unemployment rate and increasing number of young people not in education, training or employment are but a few of the worrying trends observed when assessing the challenges young people are facing today. TVET bridges education with the world of work. It is an important tool to address youth unemployment and to empower young people to have decent and gainful employment.

It is for this reason that the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training is concerned that TVET often still stands at the bottom of education policy priorities and therefore has limited outreach and impact. This is contributing to the poor image of TVET that renders it non-attractive to young people. On 15 July, we organized an event, in cooperation with our partners including the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Education and Training and WorldSkills International, which brought these issues to the fore. It reinforced the message of World Youth Skills Day, which since 2015 has aimed to raise awareness about the importance of youth skills development.

We are also delighted that more than 50 UNEVOC Centres in over 40 countries joined us in recognizing this important day. As the largest network of TVET institutions around the globe, the UNEVOC Network fosters international collaboration and partnership among other TVET stakeholders, and shares promising practices and innovations in engaging young people in TVET. A particular highlight of the activities organized by the UNEVOC Centres was the involvement of students in the planning and implementation of the activities.

This report gives a snapshot of some of the many activities organized in all regions around the world to celebrate the 2017 World Youth Skills Day. We firmly believe that our joint efforts and partnerships with other international organizations, as well as the activities carried out by our UNEVOC Centres, have raised the profile of TVET in their countries. We thank all our UNEVOC Centres for their outstanding contributions in making the 2017 celebration a success.

We look forward to building on the momentum created this year, to celebrate World Youth Skills Day in an even bigger way together in 2018!



**David Hoey, Chief
Executive Director of
WorldSkills International**

Vocational skills are universal. The economic and social benefit that they bring applies to every country in the world. And so does the importance of nurturing them, promoting them, and providing the opportunities for young people to equip themselves with them.

As the global hub for skills excellence and development, WorldSkills seeks to give technical and vocational education and training a voice, and communicate its message to all corners of the globe. We recognize how essential skills are for empowering young professionals to be the best they can be, strengthening industry, and creating stronger societies. We aim to ensure that the world's youth, their parents, their teachers, their employers, and their nations recognize this just as much as we do.

That is why WorldSkills is delighted, and immensely proud, to have played our part in recognizing and promoting World Youth Skills Day, a global event whose goals mirror our own. We understood the power and the reach of this UN-designated day; its capacity to launch a worldwide conversation, and develop a worldwide appreciation, of how creating a pathway for young people to learn and hone skills that meet local and global market needs generates benefit for all.

World Youth Skills Day has highlighted again the critical problem of youth unemployment and underemployment around the world, and the pressing need for the skills young people learn to match the skills industry requires. It has raised awareness of the fact that enabling youth to develop skills has a multiplier effect that contributes to the prosperity of communities and countries. It has encouraged – and hopefully inspired - young people to realize how vocational skills allow them to unlock their potential and elevate their horizons. And it has sent out a unified, worldwide message that, as skills can benefit anyone, the opportunity to discover and develop them should be available to everyone.



**HE Mubarak Al-Shamsi,
Director General of
ACTVET, Abu Dhabi,
United Arab Emirates**

In the wake of globalization, dynamic industrial needs and challenges of productive employment, it is imperative to give the youth opportunities of acquiring quality skills that enable them to pursue productive employment and learning opportunities. Observing the World Youth Skills Day every year, reaffirms the global resolve on skilling the youth through education and training.

At ACTVET we have a firm belief that TVET systems need to keep abreast of the scientific and technological revolutions, new industries and market shifts. Our goal is not only to be responsive to the ever evolving economic environment, but to be capable of anticipating the future by preparing our students and today's workforce for future jobs as well. We remain firmly committed to enhancing training and educational opportunities of the youth, and enable a greater number of our trainees and students to acquire industry responsive skills that enable them to pursue rewarding professions and life-long learning opportunities.

This year, Abu Dhabi is also the host of the World Skills Competition which provides an opportunity to youth participants from more than 77 countries to showcase their skills. The event also includes a conference that brings together with leading figures from industry, governments, international organizations, and academia, to shape the global skills agenda.

ACTVET will continue to play its instrumental role in the UAE while also reaching out to international partners, and contribute to furthering the cause of skills and TVET in the international educational and policy discourse.

Executive summary

Students, teachers, policy-makers, families, and local communities around the world collectively raised their voice for youth employment at World Youth Skills Day 2017 celebrations.

More than
50

UNEVOC Centres in over 40 countries in all regions around the world celebrated World Youth Skills Day 2017



UNEVOC Network

The UNEVOC Network is the largest network of TVET institutions around the globe. It fosters international collaboration and partnership among TVET practitioners and other stakeholders, and shares promising practices and innovations in TVET through the promotion of research and evidence-based activities.

The institutions that make up the network include ministries, national bodies, higher education and training institutions carrying out TVET research or providing courses, and TVET institutions and training centres at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

More than 50 UNEVOC Centres from 40 countries and 29 WorldSkills International members held events that brought together different stakeholders.

World Youth Skills Day is a United Nations recognized observance that aims to raise awareness about the importance of ensuring all young people have access to quality technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

Skills competitions and exhibitions provided a platform for young people engaged in TVET to display their skills and demonstrate the benefit of skills development. Training programmes taught young people valuable skills in key sectors and thematic areas, including digital skills and promoting sustainability.

Lectures and workshops involved stakeholders in discussions about, among others, future skills needs and the importance of inclusive education and gender equality.

Awareness raising campaigns used a number of mediums including newspapers, radio channels, gatherings and social media to prompt questions how to support young people to succeed. Moreover, side-sessions at conferences also targeted large audiences to bring the topic to fore.

These events not only raised awareness and provided greater visibility for technical and vocational education and training, but also helped to boost the confidence, commitment, and self-esteem of young people.



H.E. Mr. Mubarak Al-Shamsi, Director General of ACTVET, Abu Dhabi, launches the WorldSkills Competition 2017 during a World Youth Skills Day event organized in Bonn, Germany.

Context

Skills development stakeholders around the world celebrated UN World Youth Skills Day for the third time on 15 July.

Training institutes and colleges, ministerial and national bodies, as well as regional and international organizations, joined hands to raise awareness about the importance of skills development for young people.

Almost three years since it was officially recognized as a United Nations Observance, campaigning for skills development for young people during World Youth Skills Day is more important than ever before.

Despite the youth employment rate increasing compared to previous years, the number of young people without a job remains on average over 10 per cent in many countries¹. Perhaps more alarming, the number of young people that are out-of-school and not in education, employment and training (NEET) is increasing.

At the same time, young people are also faced with the question how they will address their country's current and future challenges. The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* calls for a shift towards more sustainable and equitable economies and societies, which will no doubt result in changes in the world of work and education.

As two of the foremost organizations promoting skills development, UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre and WorldSkills International used the day to call for more to ensure young people all around the world have access to quality skills development.

This report gives an account of how members of the UNEVOC Network, an international platform of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, and members of WorldSkills International, celebrated the World Youth Skills Day in 2017.

¹ ILO (International Labour Organization). 2016. *World Employment and Social Outlook 2016: Trends for youth*. Geneva: ILO.



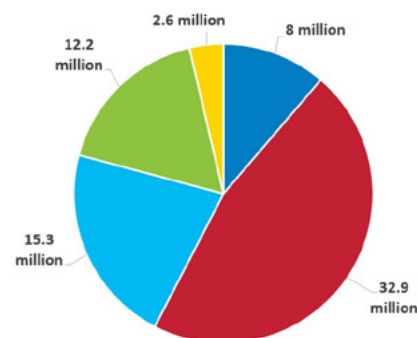
UNESCO-UNEVOC SkillsinAction Photo Competition

Photographer: World University Service of Canada's Sri Lanka/Lorenzo Moscia
Country: Sri Lanka

Youth unemployment at a glance

About 71 million young people around the world were unemployed in 2016. In addition, some 156 million employed youth, or 37.7% of working young people, in emerging and developing countries were living in extreme or moderate poverty, compared to 26% of working adults.

Source: ILO (2016)



Youth unemployment per region

- Asia and the Pacific
- Africa
- Arab States
- Europe and Central Asia
- North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: ILO (2016)

UNEVOC Centres and WorldSkills International partners

The following UNEVOC Centres informed UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre about their World Youth Skills Day celebrations..

	Country	UNEVOC Centre
	Armenia	Global Developments' Fund (GDF)
	Barbados	Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council
	Bhutan	Department of Technical Education, Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (MOLHR)
	Botswana	Human Resource Development Council (HRDC)
	Brazil	National Council for the Federal Network of Vocational, Scientific and Technological Education Institutions (CONIF)
	Cameroon	Technical School of Nkolbisson (LTN)
	Canada	Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan)
	China	Shenzhen Polytechnic (SZPT)
	Croatia	Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education (AVETAE)
	Ecuador	Technical Secretary of the National Qualifications and Vocational Training System (SETEC)
	Fiji	Fiji National University (FNU)
	Fiji	Ministry of Education, National Heritage, Culture and Arts
	Gabon	L'École Normale Supérieure d'Enseignement Technique de Libreville (ENSET)
	Ghana	Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET)
	Ghana	Department of Vocational and Technical Education, University of Cape Coast (VOTEC)
	India	Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE)
	India	National Skills Development Agency (NSDA)
	Iran	Shahid Rajaei Teacher Training University (SRTTU)
	Ireland	Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)
	Jamaica	HEART Trust / National Training Agency
	Jordan	Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance for TVET (CAQA)
	Kenya	Department of Technology Education, University of Eldoret
	Kenya	Rift Valley Technical Training Institute (RVTTI)
	Kenya	Ministry of Education /Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET)
	Liberia	Bureau of Science, Technology, Vocational and Special Education, Ministry of Education
	Madagascar	Higher Institute of Technology of Antsiranana (IST)
	Malta	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST)
	Mauritania	Higher Centre for Technical Education of NOUAKCHOTT (CSET)
	Mexico	National College of Technical Professional Education (CONALEP)
	Mongolia	Institute of Educational Research
	Morocco	College of Technical Education of Mohammed V Souissi University, Rabat (ENSET)

	Mozambique	National Directorate for Professional Technical Education (DINET)
	Myanmar	Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Ministry of Education
	Namibia	Namibia Training Authority (NTA)
	Nigeria	Yaba College of Technology
	Nigeria	Centre for Technical Vocational Education, Training & Research, University of Nigeria (CETVETAR)
	Nigeria	National Board for Technical Education (NBTE)
	Paraguay	Fundación Paraguaya
	Philippines	Visayas Center and Iloilo Science and Technology University
	Poland	Kazimierz Wielki University, Bydgoszcz
	Russia	Bashkir Institute of Social Technologies (branch of) the Educational Institution of Trade Unions "Academy of Labour and Social Relations"
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Kitts and Nevis TVET Secretariat
	Saudi Arabia	Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC)
	Senegal	Fonds de Financement de la Formation Professionnelle (3FPT)
	Spain	Tknika
	Sri Lanka	Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training, Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC)
	Sri Lanka	University of Vocational Technology (UNIVOTEC)
	Sudan	National Council for Technical and Technological Education - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (NCTTE)
	Ukraine	Institute of Educational Content Modernization

The following WorldSkills International partners celebrated World Youth Skills Day 2017.

	Country	WorldSkills International partner
	Armenia	National Centre for Vocational Education and Training Development (NCVETD)
	Australia	WorldSkills Australia
	Barbados	Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council
	Belgium	WorldSkills Belgium
	Canada	Skills/Compétences Canada
	China	Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
	Denmark	SkillsDenmark
	Finland	Skills Finland
	Germany	WorldSkills Germany
	Hungary	Magyar Kereskedelmi és Iparkamara

	India	National Skill Development Corporation
	Ireland	Department of Education and Science, National Skills Competition
	Jamaica	Vocational Training Development Institute
	Japan	JAVADA
	Korea	Human Resources Development Services
	Namibia	Namibia Training Authority
	Netherlands	WorldSkills Netherlands
	New Zealand	WorldSkills New Zealand
	Palestine	Management Team for TVET & Labour Market
	Romania	
	Russia	WorldSkills Russia
	South Africa	WorldSkills South Africa
	Sweden	WorldSkills Sweden
	Switzerland	SwissSkills
	Thailand	Department of Skills Development
	United Arab Emirates	Emirates Skills
	United Kingdom	WorldSkills UK
	United States of America	SkillsUSA

Celebrating World Youth Skills Day 2017

More than 50 UNEVOC Centres in over 40 countries celebrated World Youth Skills Day in 2017. They organized events that brought together stakeholders to raise awareness about the benefits of skills development for young people.

Ministries, national bodies, and higher education and training institutions organized a range of activities, including skills competitions, exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and training courses. Correspondingly, these activities engaged students, teachers, decision-makers and the local community.

Skills competitions and exhibitions, for example, helped expose young people to a variety of skills and careers, and equipped them with the tools and resources they need to succeed. Family and friends play an important role in guiding a young person's career development and education choices, and the events convened key stakeholders and communicated the benefits of skills development to the local community.

Training programmes, lectures and workshops organized on World Youth Skills Days focused on teaching entrepreneurial skills, as well as introducing young people to new technologies. They also helped inform stakeholders about the latest trends and issues in skills development, and initiated discussions between stakeholders.

Mobilizing young people to showcase and learn new skills

Despite the benefits of TVET on personal, professional and national development, a recurring issue has been the relative unattractiveness of vocational education and training as compared to academic education for students. Part of this



The Yaba College of Technology in Nigeria mobilized young people and the local community with colourful posters and matching shirts.

is due to the limited awareness of the communities about the benefits of acquiring skills training on specific vocations and trades, and how these skills are valued in the labour market. UNEVOC Centres recognized that an important part of successfully raising awareness was having students involved in planning campaigns and activities that concern them.

The Centre for Technical Vocational Education, Training and Research in **Nigeria** organized a workshop and rally to raise awareness about the importance of technical and vocational skills acquisition for young people. Students presented their crafts and staff informed visitors about the various programmes of the institution. Over 300 people attended a lecture on the role of TVET in addressing the rising youth unemployment in Nigeria. For greater public outreach, the centre also collaborated with a local radio station to broadcast about World Youth Skills Day to over 4 million listeners in southeastern Nigeria.

Over 4 million listeners tuned in to a radio station broadcast about World Youth Skills Day

Similarly, under the theme 'My youth, my power', the Yaba College of Technology, also in Nigeria, organized a public event, skills exhibition and panel discussion that attracted over 2000 young people. These events were used as a platform for young people to showcase their skills, and the panel discussion discussed the role of technical and vocational education and training in empowering young Nigerians. Visibility was raised through the presence of leading figures from the State of Lagos and the college. The event also provided career guidance to young people who wanted to learn more about TVET.

In **Ghana**, the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training brought together over 10,000 people at events organized across the country over a three-day period from 13 to 15 July. Different departments under technical universities and polytechnics organized skills exhibitions that gave an opportunity to their students to display their skills and products to their families and local community. The event also targeted fellow students and policy-makers, and offered career guidance to young people interested in learning more.





skills **in** action

PHOTO COMPETITION 2017

Female aircraft engineer

Photographer: Eytayo Oyelowo

Country: Nigeria

"This image was taken at the aviation college in Kwara State, Nigeria. It illustrates inclusiveness in the aviation workplace. Women have started standing up for equal opportunities, a lot have had to break barriers and build careers in male dominated industries thereby paving the way for others to follow."



A banner promoting a skills exhibition at the Accra Technical University in Ghana. The Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training organized the skills exhibitions across Ghana.

The activities organized by the Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training were complemented by a three-week training workshop organized by the Department of Vocational and Technical Education of the University of Cape Coast. The programme was open to all young people, regardless of their education background, and generated a lot of interest in the local community. Courses taught students in batik production, food preparation and sugar farming, and at the end of the training workshop, students presented their products.

Over 10,000 people attended skills exhibitions and workshops organized in Ghana

In **Fiji**, the Ministry of Education, National Heritage, Culture and Arts was instrumental in mobilizing secondary schools to organize World Youth Skills Day activities. Several departments that include industrial arts, home economics, computer studies, and agriculture science from 170 schools and 13 technical colleges across the country engaged their students and organized skills competitions, exhibitions, essay writing competitions and panel discussions. Career mentoring and motivational speeches raised students and the community's awareness about TVET and corresponding career and job possibilities. In addition to the activities held in secondary schools, 42 TVET students, teachers and trainers, and members of the local community also engaged in workshop activities under the auspices of the Fiji National University on July 12, under the motto 'Youth Empowerment through TVET'.

In **Kenya**, the Department of Technology Education of the University of Eldoret also mobilized students to engage in awareness-raising activities. Specifically, the UNEVOC Centre in Kenya raised the interest of students to take to social media to present their skills using photographs. Posters and

postcards were also used in the different campuses to spread information across different departments about TVET and its potential benefits to alleviate youth unemployment and support sustainable development.

In **Jamaica**, more than 180 students and teachers participated in a skills competition organized by the HEART Trust / National Training Agency. The celebrations brought together young and promising entrepreneurs who showcased their skills in producing new products using natural resources, which they hoped to transform into marketable and profitable goods and services. Skills in several vocational areas were showcased such as apiculture (beekeeping), the production of steel bands, and organic herbicide and skin care products. Two young entrepreneurs also took the time to give advice to participants who wanted to start up their own business.

About 100 young people took part in a month-long training workshop organized by the Technical School of Nkolbisson in **Cameroon**. The courses were split into four modules, focusing on entrepreneurial and digital skills. The workshop not only trained young people, but also made students appreciate possible career pathways in their fields of interest, including the possibility of starting up their own companies. A key component of the training was to show young people how their skills could contribute to achieving the goals laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals.

In **Jordan** the Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance for TVET engaged about 60 students in a training programme and skills competition organized in the lead up to the World Youth Skills Day. Students were trained for two months on air-conditioning and electrical work, which are a reflection of the two priority sectors in Jordanian labour market. An innovative element of the training was to make students showcase their skills after the first month of training was completed. 16 trainees were then selected for further training.

Fundación Paraguaya in **Paraguay** held a workshop that targeted about 20 students from the San Francisco de Asís School, a local agricultural school close to the capital, Asunción. The workshop invited students, aged 15 to 19, to reflect on and discuss topics linked to World Youth Skills Day



© Ministry of Education, National Heritage, Culture and Arts of Fiji

The Ministry of Education, National Heritage, Culture and Arts of Fiji encouraged all TVET institutions to highlight the importance of skills development for young people during their open days. Carpentry students showcase their skills at one of the events.



Students learning their trade during the training programme organized by the Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance for TVET in Jordan.

and the comparative advantages of technical and vocational education and training over academic education. The workshop was blended with a practical component whereby students were introduced to the TVET Academy, an online platform which was developed to carry curriculum modules and training video materials. Students were encouraged to test the online platform, which not only exposed the students to different ways of learning and training, but also helped them take part in a discussion on the use of such platforms for teaching. The interactive daylong workshop concluded with a discussion on career choices and future possibilities.

In **China**, the Shenzhen Polytechnic organized a number of activities in June and July to celebrate World Youth Skills Day and acknowledge the accomplishments of their students for the academic year. For example, an observance was a feature in the polytechnic's annual graduation ceremony which saw 7500 students complete their studies. This ceremony was capped-off with a panel discussion organized between students and teachers to discuss about TVET and generate ideas for improving courses at the polytechnic. The UNEVOC Centre also hosted a national skills competition in the field of technology. More than 240 competitors from 31 provinces and cities across China participated in the event. The skills competition focused on the development of cloud platforms and big data analysis. Other events included a public event and a formal ceremony to send off students for their summer social service in the neighboring communities.

WYSD inspired over
7500 students
at the Shenzhen Polytechnic

Over 3500 participants and 500 officials took part in regional and national skills competitions organized across **Sri Lanka** by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission under the Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training. All TVET institutions under the Ministry took part in the competitions, and 33 students were chosen as winners. A similar approach for celebrating skills was observed in

Myanmar. The Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training, under the Ministry of Education, organized a skills competition that attracted more than 75 participants from over 30 technical high schools from across the country. The skills competition successfully helped raise awareness on the profile of TVET in Myanmar.

Raising awareness through collaboration and partnerships

As well as mobilizing the active engagement and interest of students, teachers and the local community, a number of UNEVOC Centres also used the occasion to collaborate with other UNEVOC Centres and institutions. Together, they raised awareness on the many faces of TVET and skills development, which helped strengthen the case for the young people to consider learning new vocational skills and trades to increase their employability.

Colleges and Institutes Canada, a national organization representing over 135 colleges and institutes in **Canada**, and the National Directorate for Professional Technical Education in **Mozambique**, collaborated to organize a skills exhibition and panel discussion. It was the first time that Mozambique celebrated World Youth Skills Day on such a scale. More than 80 participants attended the event, which was organized in collaboration with the Instituto Industrial de Maputo, a local TVET institute. As well as discuss about the importance of youth skills development for employability, better job opportunities, and entrepreneurship in Mozambique, the skills exhibition also gave students the opportunity to showcase acquired skills in different fields such as mechanics, tourism and hospitality, ICT, chemistry and renewable energy, and arts.

World Youth Skills Day celebrated in Mozambique for the first time

The National Skills Development Agency in **India** organized, together with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, an event to celebrate the second anniversary of the SKILLS India initiative. The initiative was launched in 2015 when World Youth Skills Day was first



One of the 33 winners of a skills competition organized by the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission in Sri Lanka receives her prize from a representative of the ministry.

celebrated in India, and brings together stakeholders from across India to promote and strengthen skills development for young people. Delegates from numerous ministries attended the event, as well as leading national partners and stakeholders. Over 250 TVET institutions were inaugurated at the event, and more than 32 thousand companies pledged to support apprenticeship training. The event also launched a number of apprenticeship programmes and initiatives.

In **Kenya**, the Directorate of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and the Rift Valley Technical Training Institute organized a joint-event on 13 and 14 July addressing youth employment. More than 50 people attended the lectures and workshops over the two days. Young people from technical training institutes also joined the celebrations and shared their perspectives on how skills development had influenced their lives, and how the attractiveness of TVET could be further enhanced going forward. The event also offered ideas to the young people for developing enterprises by mobilizing funds.

Mobilizing stakeholders to re-think quality and inclusive education

The celebrations not only commemorated young people's achievements and skills, but also helped start discussions to rethink education to improve opportunities for the young people and access quality and inclusive education and training.

In **Russia**, more than 220 experts, representatives of governmental bodies, as well as teachers and students attended a workshop on the topic of gender equality in TVET. The event, organized by the Bashkir Institute of Social Technologies (branch of) the Educational Institution of Trade Unions "Academy of Labour and Social Relations" addressed two key areas. First, the prospects and opportunities for

achieving gender equality in Russia, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to gender equality, including SDG5. Second, the problems facing females in the labour market, including differences in wage / salary and job opportunities. Young people between 14 to 18 years old took an active role in leading discussions on topics such as gender equality through the eyes of the young, and startups and state support for youth initiatives.

Under the theme 'Growth for professional development', the **Malta** College of Arts, Science and Technology organized a workshop that addressed promoting entrepreneurship and apprenticeship programmes to young people. Participants from 40 major stakeholders attended the conference, including the various ministries, chambers and other TVET institutions. The conference discussed the importance of skills and competences in the professional development of young people in Malta, how to better promote apprenticeships for youth, and the ways to apply entrepreneurship education in TVET institutions.

Mid- to senior-level personnel of the National College of Technical and Professional Education in **Mexico** met from 27 to 30 June to discuss about the potential of TVET to contribute to sustainable development in Latin America. The workshop convened TVET institutions from four Latin America countries, as well as key training providers in Mexico. The national college also used the event to raise awareness and discuss about the importance of skills development for young people, as well as ways to green their institutions with student participation. This included involving students in research on topics linked to sustainability, and the role of students in promoting a greener culture. In addition, the National College of Technical Professional Education also launched a social media campaign that targeted the wider community, students and teachers, and other networks of TVET institutions in Latin America.



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UNESCO-UNEVOC SkillsinAction Photo Competition

Photographer: Charity Thebuho
Country: Namibia

More than
29
 WorldSkills members
 celebrated World Youth Skills
 Day 2017

#SkillsForAll video contest

Sixty-nine videos from 24 countries were submitted to WorldSkills' video contest centred around #SkillsForAll. The video contest asked participants to show how skills are and should be available for all, and in the process demonstrate how they can improve the lives of anyone willing to commit to their craft and pursue excellence.

The winner of the contest received an invitation to WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 as the official vlogger.

WorldSkills International members campaign for youth skills development

More than 29 WorldSkills International members promoted World Youth Skills Day through their social media activities and events.

In **Ireland**, the day officially launched Team Ireland for the WorldSkills competition in Abu Dhabi, and promoted a new programme designed to widen participation from non-traditional entry to apprenticeship programmes. In **China**, there was a celebration in Kunming City, the capital of Yunnan province, with high level officials and supporters. In **Finland**, WorldSkills members organized a stand at SuomiAreena, the largest annual meeting place for politicians and organizations in Finland. In **Palestine**, the Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Palestine Skills celebrated the day and officially introduced to the media the WorldSkills Palestine Team for WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017. In Abu Dhabi, the **United Arab Emirates**, members hosted a youth circle to discuss the major water challenges facing their communities, and WorldSkills **Russia** used the occasion to launch the official names of their Mascots for the upcoming WorldSkills competition to be held in Kazan in 2019.

In addition to the activities organized by WorldSkills members, eight teams around the world also launched the start of BeChangeMaker, a programme focused on addressing social, cultural, economic, health, educational, and environmental problems.

Initiated by WorldSkills and the HP Foundation, BeChangeMaker is a series of online social entrepreneurial training projects that help youth explore their career potential as a social entrepreneur. Participants have teamed up with other talented and like-minded young people from their community to co-learn virtually and co-create locally. The groups representing Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and South Africa, will complete three stages within the BeChangeMaker programme.



BeChangeMaker

World Youth Skills Day in Bonn

UNESCO-UNEVOC organized, in collaboration with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Education and Training (Cedefop) and WorldSkills International, a workshop on 18 July to discuss ways to enhance the attractiveness of TVET as a meaningful career pathway for young people.

The workshop convened more than 50 representatives from TVET institutions and industry, policy makers, and young people in Bonn, Germany. The workshop also provided a platform for two WorldSkills Champions to share their story, experience and motivations for choosing their trades.

Students, teachers, and other TVET stakeholders from around the world also followed the discussions via live stream.

TVET bridges education with the world of work. Because of this, it is an important tool to alleviate youth unemployment and empower young people to have decent and gainful employment. Despite this, technical and vocational education and training is often still perceived as second best when compared to academic education.

The workshop helped facilitate an international discourse on re-thinking the image of TVET using multiple lenses. In this framework, researchers from Cedefop presented a study that showed the perception of TVET in European countries. These views were compared and contrasted with views from TVET practitioners from Africa, the Arab States, Asia, and Latin America. The discussion also led to unpacking the role of stakeholders, the influence of cultural traditions, and the need for more investigation in this topic.



**Richard Roolvink,
WorldSkills Champion**

“Follow your passion, don’t hesitate and 100% go for that. If you really go for your goal, in your own profession, you will be really happy”



© UNESCO-UNEVOC

Young WorldSkills Champions shared their experiences at the World Youth Skills Day event in Bonn, Germany.



European Centre for the Development of Vocational Education and Training (Cedefop)

Cedefop supports the European Commission, EU Member States and social partners to develop European vocational education and training policies and contributes to their implementation. It carries out its activities by providing policy advice, conducting research and networking.



**Tobias Becher,
WorldSkills Champion**

"We are one family coming together, we are sitting in the same boat. Let's celebrate this day, and bring it to the entire world"

Representatives from Brazil, Egypt, Germany, South Africa and South Korea also presented on the challenges and opportunities for education and training in their countries. Specifically, the discussions focused on promoting more mobility for students across learning pathways, and engaging social partners in policy development and implementation.

The daylong event also announced the winners of the UNESCO-UNEVOC SkillsinAction Competition, and launched the WorldSkills Competition 2017 by the Abu Dhabi Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training, United Arab Emirates

The workshop is expected to lead in conceptualizing the framework for a joint research initiative on this topic.

Cedefop's project on 'the changing nature and role of vocational education and training in Europe'

The project aims to improve the understanding of how TVET is changing in European countries. The work is separated into six separate but interlinked assignments: (i) the changing definition of TVET; (ii) external drivers influencing TVET developments; (iii) the role of TVET at the upper secondary level; (iv) TVET from a lifelong perspective; (v) the role of TVET at the higher education levels; and (vi) scenarios outlining alternative development paths for TVET in Europe in the 21st century.

The workshop brought together researchers and practitioners in a highly engaging environment.



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SkillsinAction Photo Competition



UNESCO-UNEVOC organized a photo competition as part of this year's World Youth Skills Day celebrations.

Whether acquired at school or in the workplace, every day people across the globe use their skills to make the world a better place. The competition called on amateur and professional photographers to capture young people using their skills 'in action'.

More than 250 people from all around the world submitted pictures that showed how technical and vocational education and training (TVET) was:

- encouraging youth employment and entrepreneurship
- promoting equity and gender equality
- promoting sustainable development in their communities

Find out more at unevoc.unesco.org/wysd



SkillsinAction Photo Competition 2nd place

Photographer: Bishoka Mulmi
Country: Nepal

"This heritage skill has been passed from many generations but is now endangered of being lost. There is a need to promote and encourage youth to take on these traditional skills so this skill won't be lost forever."



SkillsinAction Photo Competition social media prize

Photographer: Nduwayezu Emmanuel
Country: Rwanda

"The TVET mission is to improve skills for sustainable progress, especially targeting the youth."

Stay in touch

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