Greening Technical Vocational Education and Training and Skills Development for the World of Work

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is the strategic entry point for ensuring a world of work that contributes to social cohesion and promotes environmentally sound sustainable development.

TVET and skills development initiatives play a significant role not only in developing human and social capital, but also in promoting necessary skills, knowledge and expertise needed for more sustainable societies and greener economies.

The transition to green economies and sustainable societies requires policy makers, employers and workers, economic, social and environmental actors, educational and training institutions and individual citizens to make the right choices. The shift to low-carbon economies requires not only new regulation, investment and institutional frameworks, but also TVET to engage more systematically in response to the changing job opportunities and skills needs that a green development agenda brings about.

The green transition will bring new employment opportunities but will also alter existing jobs. In order to avoid high social costs and, at the same time, to tap the employment potential of green jobs, TVET needs to anticipate and respond to skill changes needed for successful careers in low-carbon economies. TVET systems need to prepare their learners for being responsible and well-informed producers and consumers, and for being able to act competently, creatively and as agents for sustainability in their workplaces and in society at large.

Investment in TVET and skills development initiatives needed for the green transition enhances environmental awareness, competency, innovation and entrepreneurship, and thus opens new market opportunities for environmental goods and services, promotes green innovation and green growth, and puts our world on a more sustainable development path.

Interagency Cooperation for Greening TVET and Skills Development

The Interagency Working Group brings together expertise from a wide range of international organizations working in the field of TVET, skills development and the green transformation of the society and economy.

The Working Group is convinced that a collaborative effort is required for meeting the challenges involved in greening TVET and skills development.

The Working Group advocates international partnership and cooperation/collaboration for promoting the necessary capacities in TVET and skills development for allowing a rapid and equitable shift to greener economies and more sustainable societies.

The Working Group supports initiatives for greening TVET and skills development by raising awareness, providing advocacy, sharing and disseminating good practices, knowledge and expertise, and works under the umbrella of the Interagency Group on TVET.

Challenges and Opportunities

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The ILO is a specialized UN agency which promotes decent work for all women and men. It promotes and supports better accessibility to and quality of TVET to seize the employment potential that the transition entails. The ILO has built a large body of research to inform tripartite decision-making and provides policy advice, methodological guidance and technical assistance. The ILO has produced the following outputs:

- Skills for Green Jobs: European Report (2010-11)
- Green Skills and Environmental Awareness in VET (2012)
- Skills for a Low Carbon Europe (2012-13).

For more information: www.ilo.org/emea/europe

The ETF is a European Union agency and assists its 31 partner countries in developing the opportunities contained in the transformation to low-carbon economies. The ETF provides support in the following areas:

- Promotion of competence for sustainable development
- Provision of methods of identification, forecasting and support of skills for green jobs
- Capacity building and policy learning in green VET through indicators.

For more information: www.etf.europa.eu

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop): Contribution to a more resource-efficient and sustainable economy. Cedefop helps European Member States and the social partners to identify present and future skill needs and skill mismatches so that they can develop the right VET policies for Europe. This involves investigating the skills needed for the transition to a more resource efficient and sustainable economy. Cedefop does this by analysing the expected impact of environmental and climate change policies on the future demand for skills in and across sectors, in this way providing insights that will contribute to effective training and education policies. Key projects in this area are:

- Skills for Green Jobs: European Report (2010-11)
- Green Skills and Environmental Awareness in VET (2012)
- Skills for a Low Carbon Europe (2012-13).

For more information: www.cedefop.europa.eu

UNESCO-UNEVOC places an emphasis on integrating education for sustainable development. It is UNESCO’s specialized Centre for TVET and the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CETVET) supports the transformation of TVET towards sustainable development and advocates for and mobilizes multilateral and bilateral support to greening TVET. Through the network of 280 UNESCO Centres worldwide, UNESCO-UNEVOC promotes and supports better accessibility to and quality of TVET for the achievement of Education for All, supports the transformation of TVET towards sustainable development, and strengthens the capacity of the global TVET network to integrate and implement education for sustainable development.

For more information: www.unesco-unevoc.org

Asian Development Bank (ADB): Education and Skills for Inclusive Growth and Green Jobs

ADB is committed to support its Developing Member Countries achieve higher, sustainable and inclusive growth. The ADB’s Education by 2020 – a Sector Operations Plan, seeks to promote new and innovative approaches to improving the quality and relevance of education, particularly in the context of employability and jobs.

ADB will implement a research and development technical assistance project from 2013-14 to strengthen the men and women’s ability to respond effectively to green growth strategies and implementation of climate change commitments. The project will contribute to enhancing members’ human and institutional capabilities and will lead to improved knowledge and enhanced capacity in developing countries to mainstream an explicit focus to green growth. It will help to address the demand for skills and training for green occupations in selected industries and will lead to recommendations for policy and strategy options for governments to strengthen skilled training systems.

For more information: www.adb.org

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Green Growth Strategy

The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. The OECD Green Growth Strategy provides recommendations to help governments to make the transition from a high-carbon to a low-carbon economy. The OECD believe that a low-carbon, resource-efficient shift to greener growth, work on growing jobs and skills aims to help strengthen inter-country and inter-generational flows of innovation from developing the growing sectors and minimise skill bottlenecks. Key work:

- Measuring the local potential of Green Growth
- Fostering the Green Economy
- Improving the effectiveness of green local development initiatives
- Greening jobs and skills: labour market implications of addressing Climate Change

For more information: www.org/greengrowth/jobsandskills


The OECD-CEDEFOP Forum on Green Skills; Measuring the local potential of Green Growth; Greening Jobs and Skills: Labour Market Implications of Addressing Climate Change.

For more information: www.oecd.org/greengrowth/jobsandskills

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR): Investing in People and Learning for the Environment

UNITAR conducts research on knowledge systems and delivers innovative training to increase the capacity of its beneficiaries to respond to constantly evolving global challenges. UNITAR contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Framework and the implementation of the 2013-2023 UNECC: Learn, and delivers a learning courses on the Green Economy, together with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNECC: Learn is a one-stop initiative which leverages the Network of UNECC: Learn partners to deliver Knowledge-Sharing and Management; Development of a One UN Training Package on Climate Change; Country Pilot Projects to Strengthen Human Resources and Skills to Advance Green, Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development.

For more information: www.unitar.org and www.uncclearn.org

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