

Global TVET Forum 2025

28-30 October 2025

Berlin, Germany

Organized by UNESCO-UNEVOC, in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and with the support of ETF, ILO, OECD and BIBB

Venue: NH Collection Berlin Friedrichstrasse
Friedrichstrasse 96, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Tuesday, 28 October 2025 <i>Launch event: Towards a global TVET agenda</i> 9:00 – 18:00 All times are indicated in CET	
<i>Throughout the event</i>	- <i>Poster exhibition</i> - <i>Skills in Action photo exhibition</i>
8:00 – 9:00	Arrival and registration
9:00 – 9:10 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	<i>Moderator for the day: Ms Natalie Ax, Project Manager, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i> Opening remarks - Mr Friedrich Huebler, Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC
9:10 – 9:30 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Keynote <i>UNESCO will share its vision for advancing a global TVET agenda, highlighting how multilateral collaboration can strengthen skills systems worldwide.</i> - Mr Borhene Chakroun, Director, Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO
9:30 – 9:45 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Keynote ‘An EU perspective on global VET’ <i>This keynote will highlight the continuity of EU priorities in vocational education and training—from Osnabrück to Herning—while introducing the Union of Skills and the forthcoming EU VET Strategy expected in 2026. It will also underscore the growing importance of international collaboration beyond Europe in advancing vocational education and training.</i> - Ms Manuela Geleng, Director of Jobs and Skills, European Commission

9:45 – 10:00 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Introducing the initiative ‘Towards a global TVET agenda’ <i>This session outlines the objectives and vision of the initiative, launched by the German Ministry for Education with key multilateral and international partners. It frames TVET as a driver for skills, growth and global collaboration.</i> - Ms Catrin Hannken, Deputy Director General for VET, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), Germany
10:00 – 10:30 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Launch of the ‘Towards a global TVET agenda’ initiative <i>Statements by partners of the initiative:</i> - Mr Ashwani Aggarwal, Global Work Group Leader, International Labour Organization (ILO) - Ms El Iza Mohamedou, Head of the OECD Centre of Skills, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - Mr Georgios Zisimos, Head of Policy Advice and EU programming Unit, European Training Foundation (ETF) - Ms Laurence Gates, CEO, WorldSkills Europe - Ms Birgit Thomann, Head of VET International, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany <i>Joint unveiling of ‘Towards a global TVET agenda’ visual Group photos</i>
10:30 – 11:15	Coffee and networking break
11:15 – 12:00 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Presentation of pilot projects under the ‘Towards a global TVET agenda’ initiative <i>The objective of the following four sessions is to introduce the activities that each partner organization is implementing under the initiative and to outline opportunities for engagement. There is time for participants to comment and explore potential synergies with their own activities.</i> <i>Moderation: BIBB, Germany</i>
	ILO: Innovation and excellence in skills policy – enhancing capacity and engagement of stakeholders <i>The Strategic Skills Partnership Initiative for Innovation and Excellence in VET (SSPI) has the overall aim of enhancing the capacity and partnerships of social partners and policymakers to advance excellence and innovation in TVET. SSPI will deliver consolidated interactive Skills policy guidance, a hybrid Global Skills Policy Academy, a Global Skills Forum and a regional initiative to strengthen TVET networks.</i> - Mr Ashwani Aggarwal, ILO - Ms El-Iza Mohamedou, OECD - Mr Pablo Beltran, President, Higher Education Council, Ecuador - Mr Philipp Grollmann, Professor for education in the context of work and occupations, Technical University Dortmund, Germany

12:00 – 12:45 Madrid I, Plenary Streamed online	OECD: TVET Data Reporting <i>The VET Global Data Report will provide a comprehensive overview of the availability, quality, and comparability of TVET data worldwide. It will also identify innovative approaches to strengthen evidence for policy and support the development of a more coherent international TVET measurement agenda. Two case studies will be presented and an interactive part will explore which data sources are already accessible and how international collaboration can enhance the global evidence base for TVET.</i> - Ms El Iza Mohamedou, OECD - Mr Iván Bornacelly, Policy Analyst, OECD Centre of Skills - Mr Pedro Moreno da Fonseca, Lifelong Learning Specialist, ILO - Ms María Fernanda Prada, Education Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch break
14:15 – 15:00 Madrid I, Plenary Streamed online	ETF: Partnership for excellence <i>Partnership for Excellence aims to create a conducive environment for the ‘transmission of excellence’ in a wider global TVET agenda. Hereby facilitating the scaling from individual (CoVEs) experiences to the system level, while creating more transparency and connectivity of the different efforts and integration of policy pointers such as digital and green transitions within a global TVET agenda.</i> - Mr Georgios Zisimos, ETF - Ms Jolien van Uden, Senior Human Capital Development Expert – Coordinator for Vocational Excellence, ETF - Mr Ralf Hellrich, CEO, Chamber of Skilled Crafts, Koblenz - Mr Ahmad Mofleh Al-Gharaibeh, Director General, Vocational Training Corporation, Jordan - Mr Nicolae Porubin, Senior Consultant, VET Directorate of the Ministry of Education and Research, Moldova - Mr Goran Spasovski, DG VET, Center for development of vocational education and training, North Macedonia
15:00 – 15:45 Madrid I, Plenary Streamed online	UNESCO-UNEVOC: Global fora for knowledge exchange and innovation <i>The objective of this session is to introduce UNESCO-UNEVOC’s ‘Innovation and Excellence in TVET’ project, implemented as part of the ‘Towards a global TVET agenda’ initiative. The session highlights the role of UNESCO-UNEVOC as the lead institution among TGTA partners for the focus area ‘Global fora for knowledge exchange and innovation’.</i> - Mr Friedrich Huebler, UNESCO-UNEVOC - Mr Kenny Muscat, Programme Officer, Innovation and Excellence in TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC - Testimonials from beneficiaries of UNESCO-UNEVOC flagship activities

15:45 – 16:15	Coffee and networking break
16:15 – 17:30 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Panel discussion ‘Towards a global TVET agenda: regional perspectives and youth voices’ <i>This panel gathers regional TVET stakeholders and youth representatives to react to the launch of the initiative ‘Towards a global TVET agenda’. Speakers will highlight priorities and challenges from their regional contexts, while outlining how they can advance a global agenda within their own systems and networks.</i> Moderators: - Ms Isabelle Le Mouillour, Head of Division International VET Comparison, Research and Monitoring, BIBB, Germany - Ms Katharina Engel, Coordination „Excellence in VET”, BIBB, Germany Regional and youth perspectives: - Ms Shae White, WorldSkills Champion, Barbados - Mr Nicholas Ouma, Senior Youth Advisor, African Union Commission - Mr Balmyrson Valdez, Regional Director, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines. ASEAN Chair 2026 - Ms Elena Montobbio, Director, ILO/Cinterfor
17:30 – 17:45 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Closing <i>Visual summary</i> - Mr Julian Kuecklich, Graphic Recorder
19:00	Joint dinner Grand Bar, Oranienburger Str. 33, 10117 Berlin

Wednesday, 29 October 2025

Innovation and excellence in TVET

9:00 – 17:30

All times are indicated in CET

Throughout the event	- Poster exhibition - Skills in Action photo exhibition
8:00 – 9:00	Arrival
9:00 – 9:10 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	<i>Moderator for the day: Mr Kenny Muscat, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i> Welcome remarks - Mr Oliver Diehl, Deputy Head of Division ‘Continuing Vocational Training; European Vocational Education and Training Area’, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), Germany
9:10 – 10:00 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Panel ‘Collaborating for relevant, attractive TVET’ <i>This panel will showcase how UNESCO Chairs collaborate with institutions regionally and globally, highlighting South-South partnerships that have supported upgrading TVET systems. The panellists will explore how international networks can strengthen TVET leadership, data availability and usage, and the attractiveness of TVET. Finally, the panel will explore how UNESCO Chairs can contribute to the implementation of a global TVET agenda as proposed on Day 1.</i> Moderator: Ms Natalie Ax, UNESCO-UNEVOC Speakers: - Mr Demola Victor Akinyoade, Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), Nigeria; UNESCO Chair on Peace and Citizenship - Mr Michael Phillips, The University of Doha for Science and Technology, Qatar; UNESCO Chair on TVET and sustainable development - Mr Affero Ismail, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), Malaysia; UNESCO Chair on TVET Educator

10:00 – 10:30 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Innovation and Excellence in TVET <i>This session will feature the launch of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Global Awards for Innovation in TVET.</i> Speakers: - Ms Katharina Engel, BIBB, Germany - Mr Matteo Sgarzi, Head of Mission, International Relations, Centre for Study and Research on Training and Qualifications (Cereq), France - Ms Priscilla Gatonye, Programme Officer, Inclusion and Youth Employability, UNESCO-UNEVOC - Mr Friedrich Huebler, UNESCO-UNEVOC
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee and networking break

11:00 – 12:15	Parallel sessions: ‘Let’s talk data’ <i>These sessions focus on the need for more and better data on TVET to inform policy and implementation and to better understand challenges and opportunities through TVET research.</i>	
	Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i> TVET data for evidence-based policy making and decision taking <i>This session will introduce the UNESCO Global Skills Tracker as a practical tool to analyse labour market trends across regions. It will introduce a use case for working with the Global Skills Tracker to understand labour market demands, national or regional trends and opportunities for TVET system’s response. The objective is to showcase how TVET stakeholders can use the Global Skills Tracker for their own planning and strategizing.</i> <i>Building on the project ‘Towards a Skills Strategy for Latin America’, this session will explore how robust TVET data can underpin evidence-based decision making and more effective policies. It will also draw on the OECD’s experience in supporting countries to design and implement skills strategies, highlighting key lessons learned on what makes these strategies successful and how they can provide a long-term, coordinated approach to skills development.</i> - Mr Friedrich Huebler, UNESCO-UNEVOC - Mr Iván Bornacelly, Policy Analyst, OECD Centre of Skills - Ms Claudia Pompa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO	Buenos Aires, Breakout Room Tools and resources to enhance centres of vocational excellence <i>ETF will provide insights into their work on TVET excellence and approaches to measure and compare excellence criteria.</i> <i>An introduction to ISATCOVE, the International self-assessment tool for centres of vocational excellence, will be provided. Some preliminary findings based on the data of the first two implementation waves will be discussed.</i> <i>The session will further include an introduction to the ‘Cookbook on Vocational Excellence’ and other resources developed as part of the EU funded ‘Internationalising Vocational Excellence’ initiative.</i> Moderators: - Mr Georgios Zisimos, ETF - Ms Jolien van Uden, ETF

12:15 – 13:15	Lunch break	
13:15 – 14:30	Parallel session: ‘Let’s talk TVET leadership’ <i>These sessions focus on the role of leaders and managers to drive and sustain innovation and excellence in TVET.</i>	
	Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i> TVET leaders as agents of change: UNESCO-UNEVOC’s TVET Leadership Programme <i>The TVET Leadership Programme (TLP) is a flagship programme of UNESCO-UNEVOC aimed at strengthening the capacities of leaders and managers of national TVET institutions. This session will introduce plans for the new editions of the UNESCO-UNEVOC TLP for 2026-2027 and outline opportunities for engagement. Testimonials from TLP alumni will be featured.</i> Moderators: Mr Alessandro Mele, President, Cometa, Italy Ms Priscilla Gatonye, UNESCO-UNEVOC Speakers: - Mr Janaka Jayalath, National Task Force on Digitalization of TVET; Coordinator of UC and Senior Lecturer, University of Vocational Technology (UNIVOTEC), Sri Lanka - Mr Ahmed Samy, Advisor, Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), United Arab Emirates - Ms Päivi Korhonen, Director of Public Affairs, Omnia, Finland - Ms Anna Beatriz Waehneltdt, Director VET, SENAC, Brazil - Ms Florence Touré, Vice President, CiCan, Canada	Buenos Aires, Breakout Room Capacitation of social partners, policy makers, TVET networks: ILO <i>This interactive session explores how to strengthen leadership and capacity development in TVET through global and regional initiatives. Participants will learn about the Global Skills Academy and the Africa network of master trainers, discussing priority capacity needs, target groups, and effective formats for stakeholder empowerment.</i> Moderator: Mr Pedro Moreno da Fonseca, ILO
14:30 – 14:40	Transition break	

14:40 – 16:40 Barcelona, Breakout room	Technical meeting ‘Towards a global TVET agenda’ focus areas (closed meeting)	
14:40 – 15:55	Parallel sessions: ‘Let’s talk internationalization’ <i>These sessions focus on the benefits of internationalization for peer and policy learning to foster innovation and excellence in TVET. They will highlight innovative practices identified through the BILT project and selected UNEVOC Coaction Initiative projects.</i>	
	Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i> The role of AI in vocational excellence <i>Artificial intelligence is reshaping how we work, learn, and collaborate across borders. This session explores how AI can be embedded into curricula, teaching practices, and workplace processes to strengthen innovation, enhance learning, and prepare students with future-ready skills. Participants will gain insights into how international exchange accelerates the adoption of AI in vocational education and training, fostering both excellence and global collaboration.</i> Moderator: Ms Cara Schmitt, BIBB Speakers: - Mr Peter Lam, Principal and CEO, Temasek Polytechnic (TP), Singapore: ‘<i>Harnessing AI for teaching and learning in applied sciences</i>’ - Ms Maribel Illig, Managing Director, Chamber of Skilled Crafts Ostwestfalen-Lippe zu Bielefeld, Germany: ‘<i>ASSET – AI for skills, sustainability and training</i>’	Buenos Aires, Breakout Room From training to employment: TVET-industry alignment <i>Strong collaboration between TVET institutions and industry is essential to align training with labour market needs. This session explores international initiatives that build effective partnerships, co-design learning opportunities, and integrate innovation into vocational systems.</i> Moderator: Ms Felister Munyi, UNESCO UNEVOC Speakers: - Ms Adrijana Hodak, Head of Intercompany Training Centre, School Centre Nova Gorica (SCNG), Slovenia: ‘<i>Innovating TVET for regional development: Fostering regional excellence through makerspaces</i>’ - Ms Vanessa Canhete, Specialist in industrial development and vocational and higher education, Brazilian Service for Industrial Training (SENAI), Brazil: ‘<i>Upskilling for industrial workforce development: A case study from Brazil’s food manufacturing sector</i>’ - Mr Volker Wedekind, Head of School, School of Education, University of Nottingham, UK: ‘<i>Mapping the TVET industry ecosystem: A methodology for identifying innovative partnerships between TVET institutions and workplaces</i>’

15:55 – 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 – 17:30 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	A pathway of choice: attractive and relevant TVET <i>This session explores how TVET can be a pathway of choice by combining quality, relevance, and accessibility with an inclusive approach. Spotlighting youth voices, it highlights the role of global citizenship education in shaping future-ready learners.</i> Moderator: Ms Kenneth Barrientos, UNESCO-UNEVOC Speakers: - Mr Alessandro Di Miceli, Board Member, Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) - Ms Hannah Siebertz, Event Management trainee, BIBB, Germany - Ms Lisa Kubitschek, Event Management Training Coordinator, BIBB, Germany - Ms Christine Howling, Executive Dean, Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), United Arab Emirates
17:30 – 17:45 Madrid I, Plenary <i>Streamed online</i>	Closing - Mr Nils Klagge, Head of Division ‘Continuing Vocational Training; European Vocational Education and Training Area’, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR), Germany - Mr Friedrich Huebler, UNESCO-UNEVOC

Thursday, 30 October 2025 <i>TVET in practice</i> 9:00 – 17:00 All times are indicated in CET	
8:00 – 8:30	Arrival
8:30 – 10:00 Buenos Aires, Breakout Room	UNEVOC Network meeting (closed meeting) Moderator: Mr Kenny Muscat, Regional Focal Point for Europe, UNESCO-UNEVOC
10:30 – 13:00	Study visits: Insights into the German dual VET system 1 <i>All participants</i> <i>The study visits provide a first-hand look at Germany’s dual vocational education and training system. By engaging with training providers, companies, apprentices, and trainers, participants will explore how</i>

	<i>cooperation between state, schools, and industry ensures high quality and labour market relevance.</i> - Helmut Ziegner Berufsbildung GmbH (<i>Helmut Ziegner Vocational Education and Training</i>) - Innung SHK-Kompetenzzentrum Berlin (<i>Competence Center of the Guild for HVAC and Plumbing</i>) - Bildungs- und Technologiezentrum (BTZ) der Handwerkskammer Berlin (<i>Education and Technology Centre of the Berlin Chamber of Skilled Crafts, Berlin</i>) - BildungsWerk in Kreuzberg GmbH (BWK) (<i>Educational institute in Kreuzberg</i>)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 17:00	Study Visits: Insights into the German dual VET system 2 <i>All participants</i> - Berliner Senat (<i>Senate of Berlin</i>) - Lehrbauhof Berlin (<i>Vocational Training Center of the Berlin and Brandenburg Construction Association</i>), two groups