

Inauguration of Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador Technical and Technological Academic Unit as a new UNEVOC Centre

28 February 2024 - Quito, Ecuador and Online

In-Person: PUCE Cultural Centre, Quito, Ecuador

Online [YouTube]: <https://www.youtube.com/live/eUQwzeoos6o?si=HtKUALNLhgAH10rV>

Background

Launched in 1993, the UNEVOC Network is UNESCO's global network for institutions specialized in technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Its objectives are to facilitate cooperation and mutual assistance for institutional capacity development, as well as provide peer learning and knowledge sharing opportunities for its members, called UNEVOC Centres. As of 2024, there are 231 UNEVOC Centres in 150 countries.

The UNEVOC Network provides an environment for exchange, cooperation and mutual assistance for its members. A unique feature of the Network is the composition of its TVET institutions, which comprise four types of UNEVOC Centres: ministries, national bodies, training providers and research institutions. These entities work together with UNESCO-UNEVOC to achieve the Network's mission of improving the standards and quality of TVET globally. Through international collaboration and peer learning, UNEVOC Centres enhance the quality of TVET teaching and learning in their respective countries.

In June 2023, the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador Technical and Technological Academic Unit officially became a member of the UNEVOC Network. The Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, with over 75 years of experience, has launched PUCE TEC nationally to address the country's need for a specialized Unit on TVET Education. PUCE-TEC adopts a participatory and inclusive approach to designing innovative programmes that cater to both Ecuadorian and international market demands. Through collaborative efforts with the private sector and various civil society organizations, PUCE-TEC works to ensure programmes remain relevant and impactful quality TVET.

Furthermore, the institution has embraced hybrid learning, a contemporary educational model, to enhance student engagement and flexibility. This approach blends online live lessons with face-to-face sessions held outside working hours, enabling students to balance their studies with other commitments. The integration of hybrid learning into the curriculum reflects adaptability to the evolving educational landscape, particularly in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing role of digital technologies in society.

To celebrate PUCE TEC's admission to the UNEVOC Network, UNESCO-UNEVOC, UNESCO Quito and PUCE TEC are jointly organizing an inauguration ceremony on 28 February 2024. The event provides an opportunity to unify and forge new connections within the Network. The ceremony brings together key stakeholders to present their institution to global and strategic partners, propose collaboration opportunities, gain insights into PUCE TEC's future direction, and foster a sense of belonging and community within the UNEVOC Network.

Objectives

The event aims to:

- Formally launch and acknowledge PUCE TEC's membership in the UNEVOC Network, highlighting its commitment to excellence in TVET on a global scale.
- Share PUCE TEC's biennial workplan with potential collaborators, aiming to foster partnerships for implementing impactful initiatives and promoting UNESCO's Strategy for TVET and recommendations.
- Offer networking opportunities to attendees, facilitating knowledge exchange and collaboration among diverse stakeholders.
- Reinforce UNESCO's mission in TVET to key stakeholders, including government policymakers, industry leaders and educational institutions, fostering closer cooperation and partnerships for the advancement of TVET.
- Host a UNEVOC Network meeting and provide a platform for meaningful discussions and collaborations among UNEVOC Network members.

Organizers

- Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador Technical and Technological Academic Unit
- UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET
- UNESCO Quito Office

Target group

The event is targeted towards representatives from academia, government agencies, industry, civil society organizations and international development partners involved in TVET and education policy, mainly in Ecuador.

Date, place and working language

The event is targeted towards representatives from academia, government agencies, industry, civil society organizations and international development partners involved in TVET and education policy, mainly in Ecuador.

- Date: Wednesday, 28 February 2024
- Time: 10:00 AM - 12:45 PM – Ecuador Time (GMT-5)
- Event setup: Hybrid
- Venue (in-Person participation) : PUCE Cultural Centre, Quito
- Online participation: YouTube Streaming link - <https://www.youtube.com/live/eUQwzeoos6o?si=HtKUALNLhgAH10rV>

Please note for online participants:

- The event will begin at 10:20 am (UTC/GMT -5) and end at 11:00 am (UTC/GMT -5)
- Only the Opening Ceremony of the event will be streamed online.
- English to Spanish translation will be provided for the Opening Ceremony.

Format: Half-day event

- Opening remarks and keynote address
- Opening Ceremony: Inauguration – speakers from UNESCO Quito, UNESCO-UNEVOC, and PUCE TEC / PUCE (hybrid)

- Presentation of PUCE TEC's biennial plan as a UNEVOC Centre (hybrid)
- Coffee break and networking session
- Establishment of programmatic axes (in-person activity)
- Closing remarks (in-person activity)

Interactive Sessions – Programmatic Axes

The event will feature presentations on the role of PUCE TEC within the UNEVOC Network, followed by interactive sessions to define programmatic axes. Participants will engage in discussions and working groups to identify key areas for strategic intervention in TVET and discuss actionable plans for future collaboration in three different roundtables.

1st Roundtable: Exploring third level technical technological education

Analyse the specificities of third-level FTT (Formación Técnica Tecnológica) processes and structure.

- Participants: Directors and representatives from UFTT (TVET Providers), NGOs, Regulatory Organizations

2nd Roundtable: Connecting Paths - Technical High School and its journey to quality post-secondary education

Coordinate between Technical High School and post-secondary FTT educational pathways with the public sector (Ministries, Regulatory Organizations).

- Collaboration with Ministries, regulatory organizations, NGOs and UN System to ensure smooth transition from Technical High School to third-level FTT.

3rd Roundtable: Building Futures - Bridging the gap between the job market and technical technological education

Identify labour market demands from both public and private sectors.

Detect essential job profiles and their integration within technical technological education.

- Participants: Public and Private Sector Companies, NGOs, Ministries, TVET Providers

Expected outcomes

- Increased awareness of PUCE TEC's role in the UNEVOC Network.
- Enhanced collaboration and networking opportunities among TVET stakeholders.
- Defined programmatic axes to guide future initiatives in TVET development.
- Strengthened partnerships between PUCE and local, national and international organizations in the TVET sector.

Agenda

Wednesday, 28 February 2024 Inauguration Ceremony 10:00 –12:45 (Ecuador time – GMT-5)	
10:00-10:20	Arrival and registration
10:25-11:00	Opening Ceremony: Inauguration Moderator: Sebastián Luzuriaga, PUCE • UNESCO Quito (8-10 min) • UNESCO-UNEVOC (with translation) (8-10 min) • Pablo – PUCE TEC (10 min) • Head of University PUCE (5 min) Speakers: • Saadia Sanchez - Director in Charge of UNESCO Quito – UNESCO and its role in education • UNESCO-UNEVOC Representative - UNEVOC Network work and vision. • Pablo Plou - UNEVOC Centre Director – Presentation of the biennial workplan of PUCE TEC as a UNEVOC Centre • Fernando Ponce León S.J. – Rector of PUCE - Closure
11:00-11:20	Coffee Break – Networking session
11:20-12:15	Establishment of programmatic axes <i>3 different tables/sessions</i> • Exploring third level technical technological education • Connecting Paths - Technical High School and its journey to quality post-secondary education • Building Futures - Bridging the gap between the job market and technical technological education
12:15-12:30	Closing remarks on the programmatic axes
12:30-12:45	Official photos and interviews