



UNESCO-UNEVOC in brief



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International Centre
for Technical and Vocational
Education and Training

Promoting learning for the world of work

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Team work. Women are working together
in a community kitchen in India

© UNESCO-UNEVOC / Debashis Mukherjee

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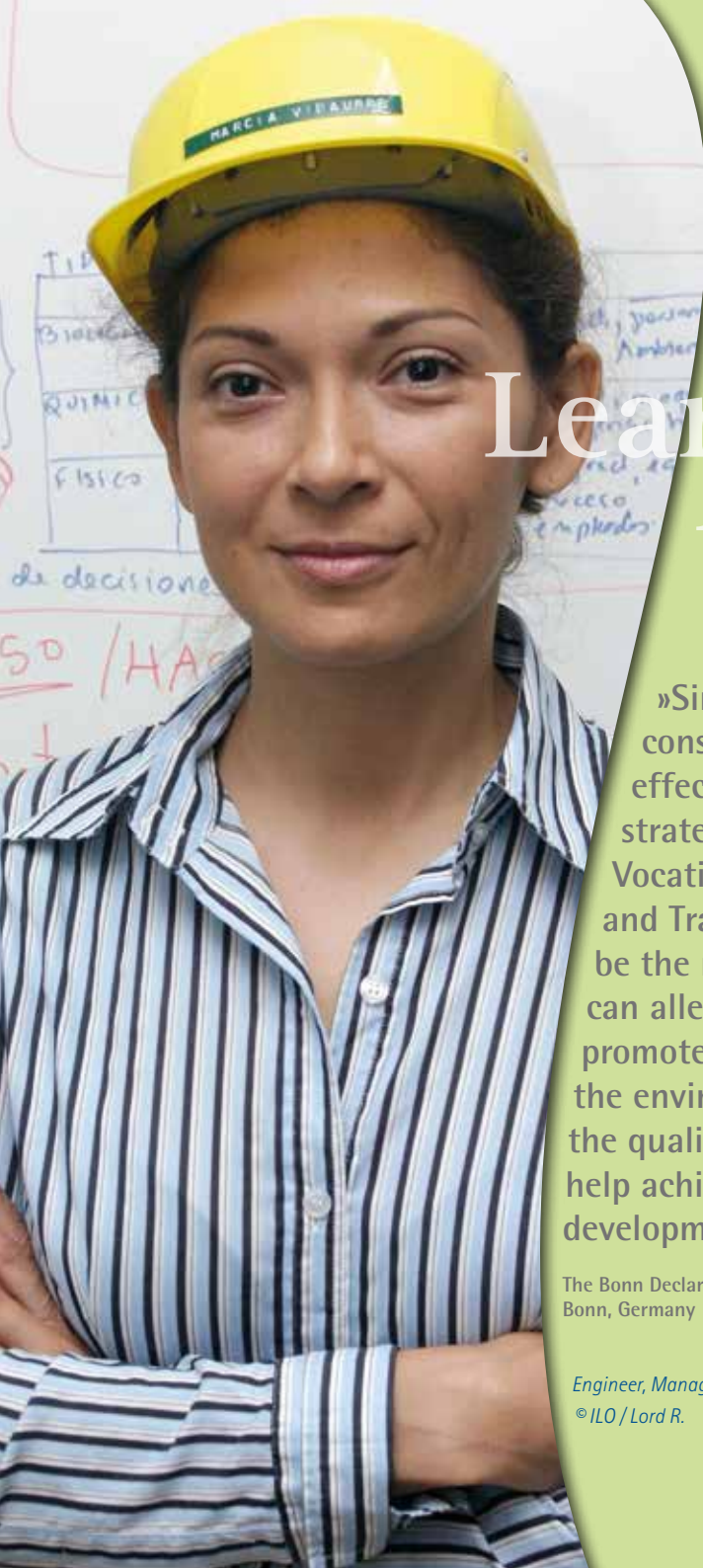
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Learning to do

»Since education is considered the key to effective development strategies, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) must be the master key that can alleviate poverty, promote peace, conserve the environment, improve the quality of life for all and help achieve sustainable development«

The Bonn Declaration, 2004,
Bonn, Germany

Engineer, Managua, Nicaragua.

© ILO / Lord R.

The importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) refers to a range of learning experiences that are relevant to the world of work and take place in a variety of learning contexts, including in the formal, non-formal and informal sector. A fundamental purpose of TVET is to equip people with capabilities that can broaden their opportunities in life. TVET can play an important role in preparing young people for the world of work and provide them with the skills necessary to find decent (self-) employment.

Never before have skills development and TVET been so high on countries' policy agendas and central to international debates. A well-educated population is key to a country's competitiveness, prosperity and social inclusion. Conversely, a poorly-skilled population, skills mismatches and gaps are considered costly as they translate into economic disadvantages, political instability and high unemployment, particularly among youth.

TVET needs to be as dynamic as the economies and communities it serves. Regardless of specific issues, there is a need for the comprehensive enhancement of national capacity in TVET development. The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET has the unique mandate of promoting and supporting countries to implement TVET that is relevant, lifelong and accessible to all.

UNESCO's normative instruments regarding TVET

1. UNESCO Revised Recommendation concerning Technical and Vocational Education (2001). The Revised Recommendation defines TVET as *«a comprehensive term referring to those aspects of the educational process involving, in addition to general education, the study of technologies and related sciences, and the acquisition of practical skills, attitudes, understanding and knowledge relating to occupations in various sectors of economic and social life.»*
2. The UNESCO Convention on Technical and Vocational Education (adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1989). The Convention adds to the Recommendation that TVET *«applies to all forms and levels of technical and vocational education provided in educational institutions or through co-operative programmes organised jointly by educational institutions, on the one hand, and industrial, agricultural, commercial or any other undertaking related to the world of work, on the other.»*



UNESCO's Strategy for TVET

TVET has been defined as one of four priority areas of UNESCO's education programme, along with literacy, teachers and sector-wide education plans. TVET is considered an integral part of the Education for All (EFA) initiative, particularly in relation to goal 3 concerning the development of 'appropriate learning and life skills.' Through its orientation towards the world of work and the acquisition of skills, TVET can play an essential role in promoting a country's economic growth and contribute to poverty reduction.

All activities of the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre adhere to the UNESCO TVET Strategy, which was developed in 2009 and guides the organization's work during 2010-2015. Guided by this Strategy, UNESCO-UNEVOC is dedicated to promoting TVET and skills development for the world of work within the broader framework of lifelong learning. Based on the three core areas identified in the strategy, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre focuses its actions on:

1. provision of upstream policy advice and related capacity development;
2. clarification of the concept of skills development and improvement of monitoring; and
3. clearinghouse-related actions and informing the global TVET debate

*UNESCO-UNEVOC premises at
»Langer Eugen« UN Campus in
Bonn, Germany
© Presseamt Bundesstadt Bonn
/ Michael Sondermann*

About the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training assists UNESCO's Member States to strengthen and upgrade their TVET systems. It is a key component of UNESCO's international programme on TVET, and was established in 2000 and inaugurated in Bonn in 2002.

UNESCO-UNEVOC focuses particularly on contributing to the overarching UNESCO goals in TVET, namely the development of TVET worldwide, by assisting Member States to develop policies and practices concerning education for the world of work and skills development for employability and citizenship, to achieve:

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

The work of UNESCO-UNEVOC focuses on meeting the needs of developing countries, countries in transition and those in a post-conflict situation, especially for youth, girls and women, and the disadvantaged.

To achieve its aims, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre uses tools such as:

- advocacy and capacity development
- knowledge sharing and publications
- international collaboration and partnerships
- the worldwide UNEVOC Network.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre is also the hub of the UNEVOC Network, a worldwide network comprising TVET institutions serving as focal points in the provision of services and platforms for international and regional cooperation in TVET.

Greening TVET

The global rise of the green development agenda suggests there is a need for TVET to be geared towards the promotion of low-carbon and climate-resilient growth and development. In the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) (2005-2014), greening TVET is the foundation of a green economy, society and the environment, and is therefore a key priority of UNESCO-UNEVOC.

UNESCO-UNEVOC initiated the Inter-Agency Working Group on Greening TVET and Skills Development in 2012. This working group brings together international agencies and relevant stakeholders to address the sustainable development challenges in TVET that require coordinated action, in particular with regard to post-2015 measures.



*Brick factory on the road
to Mangalore, India
© ILO / Crozet M.*

»The global
Network fosters
interaction and
learning through
international –
south-south
and north-
south-south –
cooperation.«

Access for all

The global UNEVOC Network

The UNEVOC Network is one of UNESCO-UNEVOC's flagship programmes and links institutions working in the area of TVET throughout the world and in all UNESCO regions. The Network is made up of UNEVOC Centres, which include TVET sections within ministries of education, national bodies dedicated to TVET policy development, TVET departments within universities, or TVET institutions at the secondary or post-secondary school level.

The global Network fosters interaction and learning through international – south-south and north-south-south – cooperation. With the Network, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre aims to improve TVET by providing an environment for exchange and mutual assistance among TVET experts and institutions faced with similar challenges in different parts of the world.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre acts as the hub of the UNEVOC Network and has three specific goals:

- to improve TVET by promoting and fostering international collaboration;
- to develop the capacities of UNEVOC Centres and associated TVET practitioners by providing various forms of assistance; and
- to share good practices and innovations in TVET.

The Network is instrumental in the production and dissemination of research and publications, and enables the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre to perform its function as a clearinghouse, especially using the International Centre's online services and publications. Through the Network, UNEVOC Centres can share knowledge and experiences related to all aspects of TVET.

For more information about the UNEVOC Network, please visit www.unevoc.unesco.org/network.



*Drawing a bucket of water
in Niger*
© ILO / Crozet M.



Developing capacities

»The International Centre advocates a holistic approach to TVET to overcome the fragmentation of many national TVET strategies by harmonizing interventions with key partners at the country level.«

*Student carpentry in
Cape Coast, Ghana
© Lisa Freiburg*

Advocacy and capacity development in TVET

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre is dedicated to strengthening national capacities and supporting Member States to develop and review their TVET policies in terms of relevance, quality, image, access, capacity, efficiency and effectiveness through the UNEVOC Network. UNESCO-UNEVOC does this as part of the UNESCO strategy for TVET, and its role to provide upstream policy advice and related capacity development. The International Centre advocates a holistic approach to TVET to overcome the fragmentation of many national TVET strategies by harmonizing interventions with key partners at the country level. Through its work in the area of capacity development and in close collaboration with its development partners, the International Centre supports the development of national normative frameworks and standards for TVET.

The capacity development programmes of the UNEVOC Network are implemented through a wide range of activities. In collaboration with its partners, the International Centre conducts training, consultations and conferences in the different areas of TVET and commissions research as a mechanism for capturing different perspectives, experiences, and promising practices to inform decision-making.

UNEVOC's capacity development programmes take place at different levels and through regional and international cooperation, in close collaboration with the UNEVOC Network members, focusing on two major thematic areas and cross-cutting themes:

- Education for All (EFA) with an emphasis on youth employment, school-to-work transition, entrepreneurship development, and ICTs in TVET.
- Greening TVET for sustainable development in the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD).



*UNESCO Headquarters
in Paris, France
© UNESCO / Michel Ravassard*



Initiating dialogue

»Through access to information, countries can learn from each other and consider the advantages and disadvantages of other countries' practices and systems.«

*Knowledge Management Centre
at premises in Bonn, Germany
© UNESCO-UNEVOC*

Knowledge management and resource development

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre recognizes the importance of improving TVET through the sharing of information, knowledge and experiences. UNESCO-UNEVOC believes that TVET can be improved by uniting strengths and initiating dialogue on TVET from all corners of the world.

Experience shows that educational ideas and reforms have broad global value, and that approaches that work in one country or setting may also work elsewhere, if adapted appropriately. Through access to information, countries can learn from each other and consider the advantages and disadvantages of other countries' practices and systems. Together with the wider UNEVOC Network, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre acts as a clearinghouse for TVET. In line with UNESCO's Strategy for TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC plays an important role in promoting good and innovative research and practices amongst countries and informing the global TVET debate. The knowledge management and resource development activities of the International Centre facilitate north-south, south-south, and north-south-south cooperation and foster the exchange of good practices, innovative ideas and success stories. To this end, UNESCO-UNEVOC operates in synergy with national, regional and international TVET institutions.

A Knowledge Management Centre is located at the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre's premises in Bonn, Germany. The Centre provides access to all UNEVOC publications and over 4,000 other TVET-related publications.

Publications programme

UNESCO-UNEVOC's publications programme aims to contribute to the international debate on skills development for the world of work. UNESCO-UNEVOC's handbooks, book series, case studies, promising practices, discussion papers and information materials seek to create a bridge between research, policy and practice and acquaint education decision- and policy-makers with innovations, good practices and developments in TVET worldwide.

Many publications are free of charge and can be accessed and downloaded from the UNESCO-UNEVOC website at www.unevoc.unesco.org/publications

Bulletin

The UNESCO-UNEVOC Bulletin is the newsletter of the International Centre and provides information about recent activities and events organized by the International Centre and the UNEVOC Network. The Bulletin is published online, in all six official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The Bulletin can also be accessed on the UNESCO-UNEVOC website at www.unevoc.unesco.org/bulletin.

Online services

UNESCO-UNEVOC's online services are one of the central means of the International Centre to disseminate announcements, materials and references throughout the UNEVOC Network and the wider TVET community. UNESCO-UNEVOC offers online tools to enable technical and vocational education and training (TVET) policy makers, researchers and practitioners from around the globe to access valuable information and connect with each other.

Get involved!

Would you like to join the global TVET debate, share your views and exchange experiences on learning for the world of work? Are you looking for information about upcoming events?

Join us by creating a UNEVOC account at www.unevoc.unesco.org/subscribe

A UNEVOC account provides you with full access to the e-Forum. You can also subscribe to our Newsletter and keep up-to-date with upcoming activities and events.

e-Forum

UNESCO-UNEVOC hosts an online discussion board that directly links individual TVET experts around the world. The e-Forum brings together educators, researchers and other interested individuals to share TVET information on a non-commercial basis. It is an excellent way for those working on skills development and employability issues to cooperate and communicate with partners around the world.

In the e-Forum, participants have the opportunity to:

- discuss relevant issues for TVET policy-makers, researchers and practitioners
- announce upcoming events
- inform colleagues on publications
- inquire about materials
- find partners for international cooperation in TVET research and development.

Over 2500 TVET experts from more than 170 countries, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations working in the area of TVET, are members of the e-Forum, and membership is constantly increasing. UNESCO-UNEVOC regularly hosts moderated discussions on the e-Forum on topics such as women and TVET, TVET teacher education or TVET in post-conflict and emergency situations.

The e-Forum can be accessed at www.unevoc.unesco.org/forum

Providing information

UNEVOC Network Portal

Specifically designed for members of the UNEVOC Network, the UNEVOC Network Portal facilitates effective knowledge sharing and collaboration. The Portal features news about the UNEVOC Network and offers an interactive online version of the Network's Directory, where detailed information can be found about individual UNEVOC Centres and their activities. The Portal provides Network members the opportunity to update their profiles, share news and events and contribute promising practices in TVET.

For more information about the UNEVOC Network Portal, please visit www.unevoc.unesco.org/network



*Microsoft Leaders Forum
during 3rd International TVET
Congress in Shanghai, China
© Microsoft*

World TVET Database

The online World TVET Database is UNESCO-UNEVOC's endeavour to provide concise, reliable and up-to-date information on technical and vocational education and training systems around the world, in one single place. The country reports intend to enable students and researchers of TVET as well as policy makers and TVET professionals around the world to identify trends, challenges and information gaps in TVET, and to encourage comparative studies of different countries' TVET systems.

The Database features information on a country's mission for TVET, legislation and national policy or strategy, structure of the TVET system: formal, non-formal and informal TVET systems, governance and financing, TVET teachers and trainers, qualifications, qualification frameworks and quality assurance, and current and ongoing reforms, projects and challenges.

The Database features statistical information, links to TVET institutions and UNEVOC Centres in the country, as well as links to relevant documents and sources.

For more information about the World TVET Database, please visit www.unevoc.unesco.org/worldTVETdatabase



Knowledge sharing

»The UNESCO-
UNEVOC
International
Centre seeks to
maximize the
potential of
international
cooperation and
partnerships to carry
out its activities and
improve policy-
making capacity and
institutional capacity
development in UNESCO
Member States.«

*Reintegration of youth through
skills training in Bukavu, Democratic
Republic of the Congo*

© ILO / Crozet M.

International collaboration and partnerships

Improvement of TVET worldwide can be most effectively achieved if institutions work closely together. The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre seeks to maximize the potential of international cooperation and partnerships to carry out its activities and improve policy-making capacity and institutional capacity development in UNESCO Member States.

In particular, the Centre's activities are implemented in collaboration with key partners within UNESCO (Headquarters, Field Offices, Institutes and National Commissions for UNESCO) and the global UNEVOC Network.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre also has close ties with many other relevant institutions, such as key international players in TVET from within and outside the UN system, bilateral and multilateral development partners, national institutions, universities and non-governmental organizations.

Development partners are closely involved in the work of UNESCO-UNEVOC. Many partners support the Centre's efforts primarily the host country Germany, and in particular the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBWF) and the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The Centre has also developed close cooperation with the private sector in several

areas of its work. Private companies have contributed substantially to the activities of the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre appreciates the continuing support offered by its partners towards the development and strengthening of TVET.

UNEVOC and inter-agency working groups

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre is strongly committed to coordinating its activities with those UN agencies, International Organizations and regional agencies that are also active in the field of TVET. Benefiting from each other's experiences by sharing knowledge and good practices, and agreeing on common positions on key TVET themes are important factors that can help UN agencies to better serve member countries and provide unified and stronger policy recommendations.

Visiting UNESCO-UNEVOC



The UNESCO UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn regularly welcomes representatives from TVET institutions and other related organizations from all over the world.

*UNESCO-UNEVOC team at
premises in Bonn, Germany
© UNESCO-UNEVOC*

If you or your organization is interested in visiting our Centre, we would love to hear from you. Please send us an email at unevoc@unesco.org.

*UNESCO Headquarters
in Paris, France
© UNESCO / Michel Ravassard*



Working at UNESCO-UNEVOC

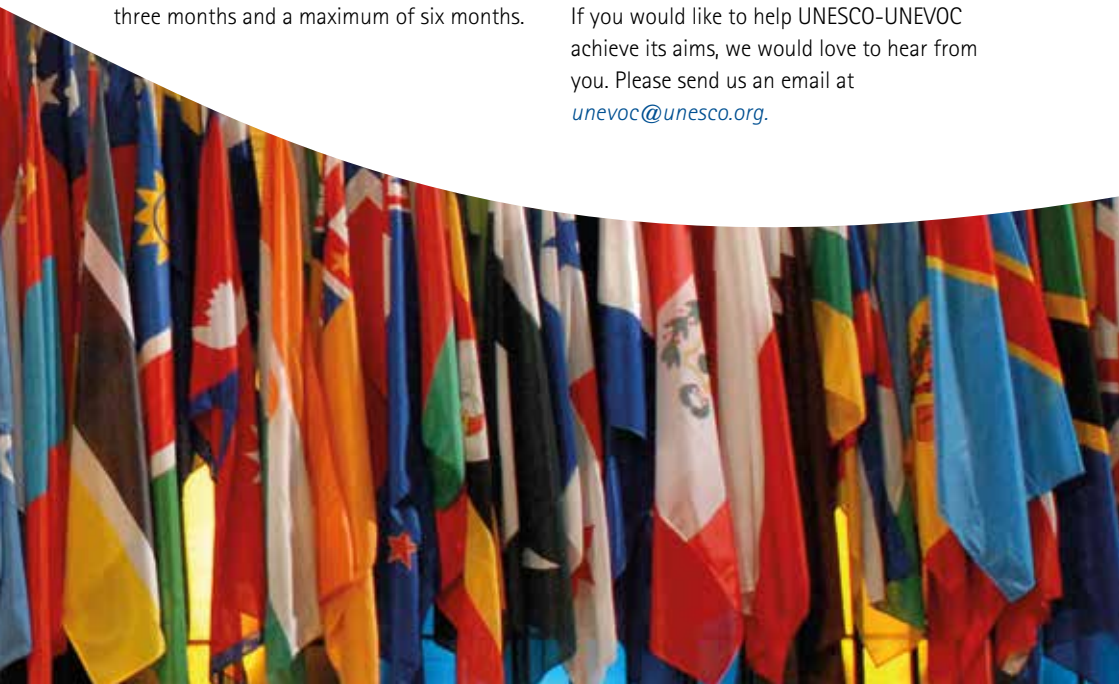
Internships

Internships can be arranged for individuals who typically are at a late stage of their education and training; having already completed a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) and completing at least a Master's degree at the time of application. Such internships provide the interns with an opportunity to gain general work experience and to be exposed to the work environment of an international organization. In many cases it is also the first exposure to working and living abroad. For the Centre, the main purpose is to broaden the scope of its international team, and to obtain support for the performance of its ongoing work. Internships have a minimum duration of three months and a maximum of six months.

Loans

The purpose of loans is to make special expertise or specially skilled personnel available to UNESCO. It is possible for a government or another organization to 'loan' specially skilled personnel to the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre. This loaned personnel works with UNESCO-UNEVOC and its staff at its offices in Bonn. Loaned personnel agreements usually cover a period of one to three years. The organization who loans the personnel to UNEVOC pay the person's salary directly, which is the major difference to personnel which is directly engaged by UNESCO-UNEVOC.

If you would like to help UNESCO-UNEVOC achieve its aims, we would love to hear from you. Please send us an email at unevoc@unesco.org.



Sources of further information

Many institutions worldwide are working in the field of TVET. The following list is a selection.

UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has its Headquarters in Paris, France. It works in the area of TVET at its Headquarters in Paris, France, at the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET in Bonn, Germany, and in its various Field Offices and Institutes.

UNESCO Headquarters

Section for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
www.unesco.org/en/tvet

UNESCO Institutes

UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)
www.unesco.org/uil

UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)
www.ibe.unesco.org

UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)
www.iiep.unesco.org

UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE)
www.iite.unesco.org

UNESCO Institute for Statistics
www.uis.unesco.org

UNESCO Regional Offices

UNESCO has a number of regional offices for education that provide expertise in TVET.

For the Arab States: UNESCO Office Beirut
www.unesco.org/en/beirut

For Africa: UNESCO Office Dakar
www.unesco.org/dakar

For Asia and the Pacific: UNESCO Office Bangkok
www.unescobkk.org

For Latin America and the Caribbean: UNESCO Office Santiago
www.unesco.org/santiago

National Commissions for UNESCO

Further information about all matters relating to UNESCO's work can be addressed to the National Commissions for UNESCO. A list of all National Commissions for UNESCO is available at

www.unesco.org

Other UN Agencies

Apart from UNESCO, several other UN organizations are involved in TVET, including:

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO),
Rome, Italy

www.fao.org

International Labour Organization (ILO),
Geneva, Switzerland

www.ilo.org

International Labour Organization (ILO)
Training Centre, Turin, Italy

www.itcilo.it

World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva,
Switzerland

www.who.int

International and Regional Organizations

Apart from UN Agencies, there are a large number of other international organizations and NGOs working on the development and strengthening of TVET, including:

Colombo Plan Staff College for Technician Education (CPSC), Manila, Philippines

www.cpsctech.org

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Thessaloniki, Greece

www.cedefop.europa.eu

European Training Foundation (ETF), Turin, Italy

www.etf.europa.eu

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris, France

www.oecd.org

SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (VOCTECH), Brunei Darussalam

www.voctech.org

World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA

www.worldbank.org



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International Centre
for Technical and Vocational
Education and Training