

Online conference on  
Bridging Africa and Europe:  
New Qualifications and Competencies in TVET

15-16 June 2021

Co-hosted by University of Cape Coast

# Conference Objectives

Coming six weeks after the bridging conference involving stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific and European regions, **Bridging Africa and Europe: New Qualifications and Competencies in TVET** is organized by the BILT project and co-hosted by University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

Created as a platform to explore the challenges and practical solutions related to new qualifications and competencies in the fields of digitalization, entrepreneurship, greening and migration in TVET, the conference encourages dialogue about the relevance, innovativeness, and applicability of the presented approaches to different contexts.

TVET stakeholders from Africa and Europe present and discuss successful practices around the identification of new qualifications and competencies, their integration into curricula and training regulations, and their implementation in teaching and training. Peer learning and the exchange of innovative ideas and experiences among TVET stakeholders are at the core of the conference.

# Expected outcomes

The Bridging Africa and Europe conference is one of several aspects of the BILT project that contribute to the following goals:

- **Improved knowledge:**

- » *Innovation and Learning Practices on new qualifications and competencies identified – as its own independent BILT theme, or in relation to digitalization, greening, entrepreneurship and migration.*
- » *Challenges and solutions related to the identification, integration and implementation of new qualifications and competencies in TVET specific to Africa are addressed.*

- **Stronger UNEVOC Network:**

- » *Increased exchange among TVET stakeholders from Africa and Europe is fostered.*

- **Engagement with BILT:**

- » *Stakeholders are aware of engagement opportunities with the BILT project in 2021.*

# Background

## Innovation and Learning Practices: initiatives that address current challenges to TVET systems

As part of the BILT project, UNESCO-UNEVOC and BIBB are calling for submissions of innovative practices that address current challenges related to global trends in TVET systems in Africa, Africa, and Europe. Selected initiatives will be made available to the global TVET community through their publication on the [BILT knowledge platform](#), the [UNESCO-UNEVOC database of Promising and Innovative practices in TVET](#), and their promotion via UNESCO-UNEVOC social media channels. Submitting institutions may present their Innovation and Learning Practices in upcoming BILT events, and some may be supported to convert their Innovation and Learning Practice into a project video published on the UNESCO-UNEVOC YouTube channel.

To learn more about the concept and to submit your initiative for assessment, please visit [BILT - Submit ILP \(unesco.org\)](#). Already published Innovation and Learning Practices are accessible in the [BILT Online Library \(unesco.org\)](#).

## Major outcomes of the study “Trends in New Qualifications and Competencies for TVET. Perspectives of the European UNEVOC Network”

This BILT study identifies trends in new qualifications and competencies as society, economies and labour markets evolve in ever-faster cycles. With relevant new qualifications and competencies **identified**, the Trends Mapping Study examines innovative strategies for their **integration** into curricula and training regulations. It further explores options for the **implementation** of new qualifications and competencies in teaching and training through the use of new methods and technologies, as well as adequate teacher and trainer training. Selected working examples of applied projects and initiatives offer a wide range of illustrations.

Read the full [Trends Mapping Study](#) on our website.

## About the BILT Project

The [BILT project](#) is a reference point for innovation and learning in TVET through UNEVOC Network collaboration within Europe, and in a bridging process with African and Asian partners, while developing a set of practically-oriented publications related to New Qualifications and Competencies. The project complements national developments to explore and support innovative, market-oriented and attractive modes of learning and cooperation in TVET.

Fundamentally, one overarching theme and four focus themes are defined within the BILT project:



### New Qualifications and Competencies

How can they be put into practice, ensuring future-oriented, attractive TVET career path?

- *Identification through suitable approaches and instruments;*
- *Integration into curricula and training regulations; and*
- *Implementing in teaching and training approaches.*



### Entrepreneurship

Unlocking the potential of innovative entrepreneurial activities and fostering entrepreneurial culture



### Digitalization

Providing a response to new skills demands, as technology has permeated the world of work and is changing the profile of jobs



### Greening

Responding to new development paradigms for sustainability and reduced environmental impact



### Migration

Accelerating the integration of migrants into their host communities, and allowing them to become productive members of the workforce

Having qualifications and competencies in view, the BILT Project supports collaboration activities that are targeted to better understand the state-of-play and enhance national as well as multi-national TVET capacities to generate new knowledge and to share information on TVET practices, e.g. through innovation and learning as well as implementation examples. In 2021, a structured exchange on the respective topic takes place between the European, African, and Asian and the Pacific UNEVOC Centres as well as other interested TVET stakeholders.

## BILT: the UNEVOC Network in action

The BILT project is implemented with the support of the [UNEVOC Network](#). This support materializes throughout all project activities: For example, the [BILT expert group](#) currently developing a three-volume publication on new qualifications and competencies is comprised of representatives of UNEVOC Centres. Additional UNEVOC Centres are involved in the validation process of the draft publication. Furthermore, the project's publication series "[Innovation and Learning Practices](#)" showcases successful initiatives on the BILT themes that have been implemented and authored by UNEVOC Centres.

[BILT workshops and "bridging conferences"](#) are carried out with UNEVOC Centres hosting or co-hosting the events and contributing to their success by nominating or recommending speakers. Finally, project partner BIBB (German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training), UNEVOC Centre and Cluster Coordinator, continuously commits considerable resources to support the successful implementation of BILT.

Online conference on

**Bridging Africa and Europe:**

**New Qualifications and Competencies in TVET**

15-16 June 2021

10:30 - 15:00 CEST



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### Agenda Day 1

#### New Qualifications and Competencies in TVET

15 – 16 June 2021

10:30 – 11:00 <b>Entrance hall</b>	<b>Online arrival</b> Opportunity to explore the virtual venue, consult the info booth and visit the networking lounge.
11:00 – 11:15 <b>Plenary hall</b>	<b>Opening</b> <i>Mr Jens Liebe, Team Leader for Innovation and the Future of TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i>  <b>Welcome remarks</b> <i>Mr Yaw Osei Adutwum, Minister, Ministry of Education, Ghana (to be represented by)</i> <i>Mr John Ntim Fordjour, Deputy Minister Designate for Education, Ghana</i> <i>Ms Catrin Hannken, Deputy Director General for VET, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany</i> <i>Ms Soo-Hyang Choi, Director, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i>
11:15 – 11:30 <b>Plenary hall</b>	<b>Keynote</b>  The keynote speech elaborates on the key challenges and needs to further improve TVET in Africa as well as the relevant policies that explain the development targets. It reflects on how an exchange with European institutions could support these efforts.  <i>Ms Sarah Anyang Agbor, Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission</i>
11:30 – 11:45 <b>Plenary hall</b>	<b>Introduction to the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) project</b> <i>Ms Vera Hark, BILT Project Manager, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany</i> <i>Mr Wilson Lima Junior, BILT Project Manager, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i>
11:45 – 13:15 <b>Plenary hall</b>	<b>Creating future oriented TVET systems: New qualifications and competencies for entrepreneurship, migration, greening and digitalization</b>  Rapid changes in the world of work and education are presenting tough challenges for TVET systems around the world. Global trends and disruptions are drastically changing occupational profiles, which places an increased demand on TVET institutions to identify, integrate and implement new qualifications that accurately reflect new realities. Against this backdrop, the BILT project brings together four examples of innovative practices from the Africa region.

	<p>Each example provides insights into new approaches that make TVET more relevant to economic, social and environmental needs. These examples address challenges in the process of identification, integration and implementation of new qualifications and competencies. They focus either on new qualifications and competencies as an independent theme, or in relation to the BILT themes of greening, digitalization, entrepreneurship or migration. Other TVET stakeholders can learn from each example and explore how key elements can be adapted and replicated in different settings.</p> <p>Each thematic presentation will be introduced by a short video and followed by a Q&amp;A session.</p> <p><b>Moderators:</b>  Ms Sarah Darkwa, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana  Ms Vera Hark, BIBB, Germany</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Entrepreneurship:</b> <i>Mr Kamau Gachigi, Executive Director, Gearbox, Kenya</i></li> <li>• <b>Migration:</b> <i>Mr Tetteh Padi, Ag. Executive Secretary, Ghana Refugee Board, Ghana</i></li> <li>• <b>Greening:</b> <i>Mr Koffi Fofié, Director of Initial Vocational Training, Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Côte d'Ivoire</i></li> <li>• <b>Digitalization:</b> <i>Mr Amadou Diawara, CEO and Founder, FAMIB Group, Mali</i></li> </ul>
<p>13:15 – 13:50  <b>Plenary hall</b></p>	<p><b>Learning from each other – Bridging regional perspectives on new qualifications and competencies</b></p> <p>This session synthesizes the main learnings from each of the four Innovation and Learning Practices showcased in the previous presentations and how they relate to identification, integration and implementation of new qualifications and competencies in TVET.</p> <p>Representatives from regional TVET institutions will discuss the main takeaways of the previous session and address the question of transferability: are the examples applicable to other contexts? How can European TVET systems learn and benefit from the approaches that are taken in Africa; and vice versa?</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Margherita Roiatti, Senior Research Fellow, Fondazione ADAPT, Italy</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr Nicholas Ouma, Senior Youth Advisor in the Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) Department, African Union Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Joao Santos, Senior Expert in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion, European Commission</i></li> </ul>
<p>13:50 – 14:10</p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p>14:10 – 14:55  <b>Breakout rooms</b></p>	<p><b>Social partner perspectives on new qualifications and competencies</b></p> <p>The process of identifying, integrating and implementing new qualifications and competencies has greatly evolved as a multi stakeholder endeavor. Social partners, including the private sector, have an active role in this process which goes beyond addressing skills shortages and immediate manpower needs. Companies, as members of business associations and the community, have been constantly adapting to the disruptions and contributing to the development of new qualifications and competencies. This session aims to look their perspective on preparing the workforce of the future.</p>

	<p><b>Blue Room, breakout session 1</b></p> <p>This session will walk you through examples on how public-private partnerships in TVET can contribute to quality assurance in the process of identification, integration and implementation of new qualifications and competencies.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Mr Wilson Lima Junior, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr Peter Kuroshi, Registrar and Secretary of Council, Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Louis van Huyssteen, National Director Training, Retail Motor Industry Organisation (RMI), South Africa</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Orange Room, breakout session 2</b></p> <p>Join this session to learn from ATTC's principal how collaboration with international companies helps to deliver relevant training. A representative from Knauf Ghana, seasoned ATTC partner, will bring the perspective of the private sector.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ms Vera Hark, BIBB, Germany</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr Arko Dometey, Principal, Accra Technical Training Centre (ATTC), Ghana</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Osafo Amakye, Training Manager, Knauf, Ghana</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Green Room, breakout session 3</b></p> <p><b>4IR Integration in the national curriculum: The Cisco Networking Academy in South Africa</b></p> <p>Join us to find out how the Department for Higher Education and Training (DHET) and Cisco collaborate to make South Africa's TVET system and the country's workforce fit for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ms Natalie Ax, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr Masilu David Modiba, Deputy Director for TVET Colleges Curriculum Development and Support, Department for Higher Education and Training, South Africa</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Alfie (Altaaf) Hamid, Manager: Global Partnerships, Cisco Corporate Affairs</i></li> </ul>
<p>15:05 – 15:15 <b>Plenary hall</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Day 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms Sarah Darkwa, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Michael Schwarz, Senior Technical Advisor, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany</i></li> </ul>
<p>15:15 – 15:30 <b>Entrance hall</b></p>	<p><b>Networking &amp; information</b></p> <p>Feel free to access the virtual space for networking and exploring project and event related information.</p>

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Agenda Day 2</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Day 2   10:30 – 14:00 CEST</p>	
<p>10:30 – 10:55 <b>Entrance hall, Breakout rooms</b></p>	<p><b>Online Arrival, parallel information sessions</b></p> <p>Opportunity to explore the virtual venue, consult the info booth and visit the networking lounge. Opportunity to join one of the information sessions.</p> <p><b>Blue Room, Info session 1</b> <b>BILT “Innovation and Learning Practices”</b> <i>Ms Alexandra Filippova, Programme Assistant, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i></p> <p><b>Orange Room, Info session 2</b> <b>UNESCO-UNEVOC's online tools and services</b> <i>Mr Max Ehlers, Team Leader for Knowledge Management and IT, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i></p> <p><b>Green Room, Info session 3</b> <b>International cooperation at University of Cape Coast</b> <i>Mr Kwaku A. Boaky, Dean of International Education, University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana</i></p>
<p>11:00 – 11:15 <b>Plenary hall</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Day 2</b> <i>Mr Johnson Nyarko Boampong, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Coast, Ghana</i></p> <p><b>Keynote: New qualifications and competencies – a continuous challenge &amp; opportunity for TVET systems</b> <i>Mr Oliver Diehl, Deputy Head of Division 'Innovation in Vocational Training' at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany</i></p>
<p>11:15 – 11:25 <b>Plenary hall</b></p>	<p><b>Introducing the “three I’s”</b></p> <p>The introduction aims to develop a deeper understanding of the conditions for the “three I’s” process developed by the BILT expert group: identification, integration and implementation of new qualifications and competencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms Vera Hark, BIBB, Germany</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Wilson Lima Junior, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i></li> </ul>
<p>11:35 – 12:50 <b>Breakout rooms</b></p>	<p><b>Parallel Breakout Sessions</b></p> <p>Continuing on the “three I’s”, three parallel breakout sessions delve deeper into the processes of identifying, integrating and implementing new qualifications and competencies. Each session – conducted in parallel – explores essential elements of the process and presents examples from TVET systems that can serve as a starting point and inspiration for stakeholders in other contexts.</p> <p><b>Blue Room, Breakout session 1</b></p> <p><b>Identifying NQC - suitable approaches and instruments</b></p> <p>TVET systems worldwide face an ongoing challenge in the identification of future-oriented qualifications and competencies. The issue cannot be tackled alone; it is a multi-stakeholder endeavour of great importance as it ensures the continued relevance of TVET for the world of work and contributes to the attractiveness of TVET for students and learners. The challenge is in ensuring that qualifications and competencies serve market needs, respond to socio-political economic demands and lead to promising career paths for young people.</p> <p>In addition to the identification of new qualifications and competencies, this session addresses approaches, institutional arrangements and stakeholder involvement. What are the characteristics of a flexible TVET system that can adopt relevant and future-oriented qualifications and competencies in the midst of a fast-evolving technology environment?</p>

**Moderator:** *Ms Christina Hong, President, Technological and Higher Education Institute (THEi), Hong Kong, China*

**Panelists:**

- *Ms Inga Schad-Dankwart, Senior Researcher, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany*
- *Ms Ellah Matshediso, Director, Human Resource Development Planning-Demand, Botswana-Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), Botswana*
- *Mr Konstantinos Pouliakas, Senior Expert, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)*

**Orange Room, Breakout session 2**

**Integrating NQC into curricula and training regulations**

Efficient integration of new qualifications and competencies into occupational profiles, curricula, and training regulations is a major hurdle for TVET systems. TVET needs to remain responsive to emerging trends and industry demands; doing so requires flexible curricula that offer individual learning pathways, intermediary exits to the labour market and some degree of convergence to general education.

The complex mix of stakeholders (such as social partners, private sector players, and state actors) reflects the complexity of integrating new qualifications and competencies in TVET. Moreover, organizing curricular development is not confined to a single administrative level: depending on the context, the responsibility can fall to national, regional or local authorities. This session seeks a better understanding of the existing interfaces within the processes of integration and addresses development standards.

**Moderator:** *Ms Verena Schneider, Senior Researcher, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany*

**Panelists:**

- *Mr Samuel Thompson, Coordinator, Policy and Planning, Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (COTVET), Ghana*
- *Mr Longino Dingli, Deputy Director, Automotive Engineering & IET Foundation, and*
- *Mr Roberto Tiscio, Deputy Director of the Institute of Engineering and Transport Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Malta*

**Green Room, Breakout session 3**

**Implementing NQC through new teaching and training approaches**

The implementation of new qualifications and competencies is another major challenge for TVET systems. New teaching and learning methods, such as distance learning, the use of technology and new pedagogical approaches, need to be introduced to teachers and trainers as professional development opportunities. Moreover, classrooms and workshops need to be adequately furnished to keep pace with rapid changes occurring in the teaching and learning experience.

The session also draws on different institutional settings in Africa and Europe and explores the impact of evolving teaching and learning practices in classrooms and workshops.

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ms Kelly Shiohira, Specialist manager, JET Education Services, South Africa</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms Christina Boateng, Senior Lecturer, Department of VOTEC, University of Cape Coast, Ghana</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms Adrijana Hodak, Head of Intercompany training centre, School Center Nova Gorica, Slovenia</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Edson Mendes, Deputy General Director, Training and Metrology Department, Center for Renewable Energies and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI &amp; CdC 3C), Cape Verde</i></li> </ul>
<p>13:00 – 13:40 <b>Plenary hall</b></p>	<p><b>Connecting the three I's: main learnings from the breakout sessions</b></p> <p>Conference participants return to the plenary chamber for an assessment of the main takeaways from each breakout session. In addition to an overview of the key points, this session is an opportunity to understand the interplay between the identification, integration and implementation of new qualifications and competencies that focuses on the importance of a comprehensive approach to the process.</p> <p>Participants have the opportunity to discuss the most urgent challenges and enabling elements related to the identification, integration and implementation of new qualifications and competencies.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Mr Wilson Lima Junior, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms Christina Hong, THEi, Hong Kong, China</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms Verena Schneider, BIBB, Germany</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms Kelly Shiohira, JET Education Services, South Africa</i></li> </ul>
<p>13:40 – 14:00 <b>Plenary hall</b></p>	<p><b>Closing of the conference</b></p> <p>The conference concludes by sharing the BILT project's next steps on the way to the BILT Learning Summit in December 2021. The final session highlights existing opportunities for TVET institutions from across the globe to engage in the project's activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms Sarah Darkwa, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr Jens Liebe, Team Leader for Innovation and the Future of TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>The space remains open for accessing recordings and documents for one month after the event.</b></p>	

## Speakers and moderators biographies



**Mr Yaw Osei Adutwum**  
**Minister, Ministry of Education, Ghana**

Mr Adutwum is Minister of Education and a Member of Parliament of the Republic of Ghana representing the people of Bosomtwe Constituency in the Ashanti Region. Please visit [The Minister – Ministry of Education \(moe.gov.gh\)](https://www.moe.gov.gh).



**John Ntim Fordjour**  
**Deputy Minister Designate for Education in Ghana**

Mr. Fordjour, the second term Member of Parliament for Assin South Constituency, has a multifaceted academic background in Mineral Engineering, Economic Policy Management and Foreign Policy. He has creditably acquitted himself as a legislator with a prior record of sterling mining career and entrepreneurship.

He has a Master of Arts Degree (MA) in Economic Policy Management from University of Ghana, Legon and Postgraduate Certificate in Governance and Anti-Corruption Methods from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. He is currently at the concluding stage of his PhD in Political Science (Foreign Policy Specialisation) with University of Ghana.

In the 8th Parliament of Ghana, he serves on the Appointments Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee. In the 7th Parliament, he was Chairman for Ghana-Canada Parliamentary Friendship Association and served as the Vice Chairman of Parliament's Standing Committee on Members Holding Offices of Profit, as well as Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

He is a minister of the gospel and serves as Senior Pastor of VBCI Higher Heights Sanctuary, East Legon-Ghana and also an ardent advocate for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.



**Ms Catrin Hannken**  
**Deputy Director-General for Vocational Training, Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany**

Ms Hannken works as Deputy Director-General for Vocational Training in the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

In the past years, she has been responsible for national and international projects and programmes in various education areas. Since last year, she has been the Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Project



**Ms Sarah Anyang Agbor**  
**Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission**

Ms Agbor, from Cameroon, is the Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, ESTI. She was elected in 2017 as the Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission (HRST-AUC). She provided guidance and vision to the HRST Mandate – Education, Science and Technology, Youth and Human Resources from 2017 to January 2021 until the name of the Department was changed under the ongoing Institutional reform to Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. H.E. Professor Anyang Agbor has over Twenty (20) years’ experience in the field of Academia. She is a Professor of African and Commonwealth Literature, Department of English. Previously she was the Deputy Vice Chancellor in Charge of Research, Cooperation and Relations with the Business World (DVC-RCB) in the University of Bamenda, North West Region, Cameroon. Commissioner Anyang Agbor has written a number of academic Books and Publications to contribute to scholarship.



**Ms Soo-Hyang Choi**  
**Director, UNESCO-UNEVOC**

Ms Soo-Hyang Choi was appointed as Director of the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training in January 2020. With a BA in Psychology (Chung-Ang University, Seoul, Korea) and an M.Ed and a Ph.D in Educational Psychology (Univ. of Alberta, Canada), Ms. Choi worked in the Korean Educational Development Institute (Seoul, Korea) and joined UNESCO Headquarters as Chief of the Early Childhood and Family Education Section in 1998.

Subsequently, she held various chief positions at UNESCO Headquarters in the areas of inclusive education, field support and coordination, and technical, vocational and secondary education. In the field, she worked in Pakistan and Zimbabwe, and served as the UNESCO representative to Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe as well as to the Southern African Development Community. From 2012 to 2019, she was the Director of the Division for Peace and Sustainable Development within the Education Sector of UNESCO. The Division covered, among others, education for sustainable development, global citizenship education, human rights and peace education, prevention of violent extremism, genocide, sexuality and HIV education, school violence and bullying, school health, and the UNESCO Associated Schools Network with 11000 schools around the world.



**Mr Jens Liebe**  
**Team Leader for Innovation and the Future of TVET, UNESCO-UNEVOC**

Mr Liebe leads the team on ‘Innovation and the Future of TVET’, which includes the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) project and i-hubs initiative. He leads the UNEVOC TVET Leadership Programme, a UNESCO flagship programme for mid- to senior-level TVET experts, serves as Regional Focal Point for ‘Europe, CIS and North America’, and advises the Director on the global UNEVOC Network development strategy. Previous responsibilities at UNESCO-UNEVOC include leading the UNEVOC Network Secretariat and providing the Head of Office with strategic and management support.

Prior to joining UNESCO-UNEVOC, Mr Liebe held positions as Assistant Director and Programme Officer of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), as a Senior Scientist at the Centre for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn, where he served as Scientific Coordinator of the interdisciplinary “GLOWA Volta Project”, and with the German Technical Cooperation in Zambia.



**Ms Vera Hark**  
**BILT Project Manager, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany**

Ms Hark is the Project Manager/Technical advisor for BILT at the German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB). Prior to joining BIBB, Vera worked on EU-funded projects in international education cooperation with a focus on VET in European border regions. She further contributed to European cooperation as a researcher for the University of Maastricht and as coordinator of a Franco-German exchange platform that facilitates international relations between professionals. Vera holds joint degrees in Franco-German and European Studies from France and Germany.



**Mr Wilson Lima Júnior**  
**BILT Project Manager, UNESCO-UNEVOC**

Mr Lima Júnior serves as a Project Manager at UNESCO-UNEVOC, where he is part of the Innovation and Future of TVET team, managing the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Project.

He has authored articles on a variety of topics, including TVET, technical cooperation and offsets. He is a TVET graduate from the Brazilian National Service for Industrial Training (SENAI) and has received his Masters of Business Administration from the FEAD – Centro de Gestao Empreendedora, Belo Horizonte. His Diploma in Countertrade and Offsets has been awarded by the École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales - ESSEC, Paris.

Prior to his current assignment, he served as an Industrial Development Specialist in SENAI, where he participated in the implementation of the Innovation Institutes Network and was in charge of managing the provision of TVET services for Brazilian companies operating abroad. He has also held positions in international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund.



**Mr Kamau Gachigi**  
**Executive Director, Gearbox, Kenya**

Mr Gachigi is the Founding Executive Director of Gearbox, a hardware accelerator that provides access to modern machines for prototyping and low volume manufacture, including electronics PCB fabrication. In a partnership with The MasterCard Foundation and the Kenya Commercial Bank Foundation, Gearbox is training over 28,000 youth as part of the Young Africa Works project. He previously was a member of the Global Council on the Future of Production under the World Economic Forum, and additionally served as a member of the Consultative Advisory Group for the Partnership for Skills in the Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) under the African Union, with support from the World Bank. Mr Kamau also Chairs the Board of the National Industrial Training Authority in Kenya, and previously founded the Fab Lab at the University of Nairobi where he taught engineering for 14 years. He attained his Ph.D. in Solid State Science from the Pennsylvania State University (USA), and holds a US patent. He worked in Japan for TDK in R&D for over two years after earning his doctorate. He has published 10 peer-reviewed academic papers during his years in academia, and many more papers on technology uptake in Africa



**Mr Tetteh Padi**  
**Executive Secretary, Ghana Refugee Board, Ghana**

Mr Padi is the Head of the Ghana Refugee Board. He has previously worked with the Social Services at Bexley Council, in the United Kingdom (UK). He was the Programme Coordinator with the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) and has worked with the refugees for close to 13 years. He holds master's degree in Migration Studies from the University of Ghana and is passionate about the rights and protection of the underprivileged naturally with a bias towards refugees and asylum seekers.



**Mr Koffi Fofié**  
**Director of Initial Vocational Training, Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Côte d'Ivoire**



**Mr Amadou Diawara**  
**CEO and Founder, FAMIB, Mali**

Mr Diawara has had a long career in various large French and international companies (Olivetti, Bull, and HP, among others). He is the CEO of the FAMIB Group present in Mali, France, New York, London, and several African countries, which employs more than 200 people. He is currently pursuing his career in Mali in the field of computer engineering. Mr. Diawara is the Editor of Kingui solutions (more than 250 software from the Kingui suite), Head of the FAMIB Labs online incubator, President of Digital Africa Cluster and of the Center for Innovation, Technological Research, and Creative Industry as part of the FAMIB Group).

He currently serves as: President and Founder of the UPPKINGUI Virtual Universities network; Vice-president of the Internet Governance Forum in Mali; CEO of XAALISI SAS; Member of the Training and ICT Commission at the Council of European Investors in Mali (CIEM) and Member of the Union of Franco-Malian Ambassadors (UDA-FM); Member of ASIM (Association des Societies Informatique du Mali); Representative of Mali in CINVU (COMSTech Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities); Member of CAUDEV (African University Consortium for the Development of Virtual Education); and Member of AUNEGe (Association of Universities for the Development of Digital Education in Economics and Management) in France.



**Ms Margherita Roiatti**  
**Senior Research Fellow, Fondazione ADAPT, Italy**

Ms Roiatti is Senior Research Fellow at Fondazione ADAPT and holds a Ph.D in Human Capital Formation and Labour Market Relations (University of Bergamo, Italy). Her areas of specialization cover: regional development policies, project management, evaluation, and coordination of initiatives for preventing and addressing skills mismatches phenomena at sectoral and territorial level, initial and continuing vocational training and occupational transitions and gender equality. She is experienced in labour market analysis (gathering and interpreting LMI) and regarding skills needs assessment and anticipation. She coordinates two regional labour market observatories in Italy in cooperation with trade unions and employers' organisations. She is involved in several national and international projects, among which: "Skills, innovation and training", promoted by BusinessEurope, SGI Europe, SMEUnited and ETUC and "Green Skills in VET" promoted by SGI Europe and EFEE. She is a member of the Editorial Board of ADAPT International Bulletin (coordinator) and in charge of managing the @ADAPT\_bulletin institutional Twitter account. She has carried out several lectures and teaching activities for national trade unionists and employers' organisations regarding lifelong learning and adult learning issues.



**Mr Nicholas Ouma**  
**Senior Youth Advisor in the Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) Department,**  
**African Union Commission**  
[ouman@africa-union.org](mailto:ouman@africa-union.org)

Mr Ouma is an Education and Skills Development professional at the African Union Commission - Department of Education Science Technology and Innovation where he serves as a Senior Youth Advisor. His experience spans cross functional initiatives and outcomes within TVET, Employment, Youth Development and Empowerment spaces, with a focus on policies and programmes at both National and Continental Levels. Prior to his present role at the African Union, Nicholas previously served as a high school teacher, university lecturer and County Director of Youth Development in Kenya."



**Mr Joao Santos**  
**Senior expert, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion at the**  
**European Commission, Belgium**

Mr Santos is a Senior expert in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion at the European Commission in Brussels. The Unit is responsible for Vocational Education and Training as well as for the policy orientation of the Erasmus+ programme in this sector. He previously worked as the coordinator of a geographical desk and was involved in the negotiations on the EU structural policies supported by the European Social Fund. His responsibilities included Employment, Skills, Social Protection and Social inclusion. He also worked on international relations covering the employment and social affairs dimension of the EU bilateral cooperation with China, the USA, and Canada, as well as on multilateral cooperation within the United Nations framework, on issues related to the Social Dimension of Globalization and the Decent work Agenda. From 2009 to 2013, he worked at the EU Delegation to China and Mongolia as a diplomatic Counsellor dealing with bilateral trade and investment issues, as well as people-to-people dialogue.



**Mr Peter Kuroshi**  
**Registrar/CEO, Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON), Nigeria**

Mr Kuroshi is an Academic and Technocrat with over 25 years of working experience in the academics and construction industry. He obtained a bachelor's degree in building from the University of Jos – Nigeria in 1992, a Master's Degree in Construction Management (1997) and Doctorate Degree in Construction Management from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria - Nigeria (2004).

Mr Kuroshi is currently the Registrar/CEO of the Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON). Until his appointment in October 2013, he was an Associate Professor of Construction Management. He lectured at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, the University of Jos, Covenant University, Ota, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, and Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola. He is a regular attendee and resource person in leading International conferences and workshops in housing and construction; this enabled him to impact the built environment significantly, primarily through consultancy services to multilateral and local organisations in Nigeria.

As Registrar of CORBON, he is a critical personality in implementing a novel Nigeria's National Capacity Building programme in Construction Trades. The programme was designed to deliver accelerated training and certification for 75,000 unemployed youths between the ages of 18-35 years (to be trained, tooled and transitioned, to take up jobs in various skill trades). He effectively managed the establishment of the Sector Skills Council (Construction) by CORBON.



**Mr Louis van Huyssteen**  
**National Director, Training of the Retail Motor Industry Organisation, South Africa**

Mr Huyssteen is currently National Director Training of the Retail Motor Industry Organisation. He is a graduate of the University of Pretoria. He has held numerous positions and roles, including South African project lead for a merSETA-commissioned research for Online Return on Investment Apprenticeship Calculator; Strategic team member for RMI and German Chamber of Craft Handwerkskammer Erfurt on TVET partnership project Eastern Cape, South Africa; merSETA Accounting Authority; Motor chamber -, and Automotive Components chamber member.

Mr Huyssteen is also a member of the Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) Sub-committee Education and Training; of the Motor Industry Bargaining Council Job Grading and Training Committee; of the National Artisan Advisory Board (NADAB) and the international working group on Occupational Qualifications Sub Framework Quality Assurance consisting of representatives of the ILO, ITC, Department Higher Education and Training.

He is a national convener of the DHET Trade Test Task Team (of Occupational Certificates for 13 priority trades) resulting in South African QCTO certification and an Occupational Team Convener for Centres of Specialization (CoS): Automotive Motor Mechanic working with two identified TVET colleges, namely College of Cape Town and Port Elizabeth College.



**Mr Arko Dometey**  
**Deputy Director of Education, Accra Technical Training Centre, Ghana**

Mr Dometey, is the Deputy Director of Education to Accra Technical Training Centre and a former Principal of Abetifi Technical Institute. He holds an MBA degree in Project Management and a Postgraduate in Architecture. He previously served as a Teaching Assistant at the College of Architecture and Planning, became the Vocational Coordinator and Vice Principal Academics in Accra Technical Training Centre, and was appointed as the Electoral Commissioner in 2002 – 2006 as well as the Head of Department for the Architectural Draughtmanship Department. He was sworn-in by the Minister of Education as member of the Governing Body of National Board for Professional and Technical Examination (NABPTEX) in 4th July 2017 to date. He is an Audit Committee member, representing the Council – NABPTEX; Finance and Administration Committee member NABPTEX; Innovation and implementation Committee member (NABPTEX) .

He has also served as the Board Secretary (ATTC) in 2017- January 2019, Chief Examiner for Architectural Drafting – Technical Examination Unit (2013 – Date), Member – Project sub- committee – ATTC -2016 – 2019, Member Academic Sub-Committee – ATTC- 2016 – 2019, Competency Based Training Co- Ordinator (ATTC) 2012- 2019, Examination Committee Chairman (2011 – January, 2019), Facilitator – Ernwaca and University of Montreal Integration of ICT in West Africa (II) in Accra Technical Training Centre- 2006, Curriculum Developer and Expert in Building Construction and President Of Greater Accra Association Of Principals – 2021 to date.



**Mr Osafo Amakye**  
**Training Manager, Knauf Ghana**

Mr Amakye joined KNAUF Ghana Ltd. in February, 2019 as the Training Manager. He collaborate with training institutions, artisan groups, professionals in the building industry, etc. to give hands-on practical training in plasterboard applications.

Prior to KNAUF, he was the Head of Design of Light Gauge Steel roof trusses at Raincoat Roofing Systems and Quality Control Engineer at Micheletti and Co. Ltd. During his tenure at Raincoat, he introduced 3D modelling of roofs where customers get to see pictures of their roofs before it is installed on site. He also worked on many corporate and government projects as well.

He graduated of KAAF University, where he majored in civil engineering. Prior to his degree, he trained in carpentry and joinery at St Joseph's Technical Institute then to Accra Polytechnic for an HND in civil engineering.



**Ms Natalie Ax**  
**Project Officer, UNESCO-UNEVOC**

Ms Ax joined the Innovation and Future of TVET team at UNESCO-UNEVOC in November 2020. She serves as Project Officer in the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Project, where she leads the 'Bridging line' of BILT. In that context, she is responsible for the organization of BILT Bridging events and the renewal of the BILT online platform with the aim of strengthening the community and peer learning component of the project.

Ms Ax has more than ten years of experience working in digital transformation projects, both in the private sector and at the UN. Before joining UNESCO-UNEVOC, she worked for six years in IT consulting with a focus on change management and communication in large digital workplace projects. Prior to that, she served as Associate Expert at the Convention on Migratory Species under the UN Environment Programme and at the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs. Some of her responsibilities were to establish collaboration, knowledge and learning platforms, facilitate communities of practice, and conceptualize and carry out training sessions and workshops. Natalie holds a Master's degree in Political Science and English and Spanish.



**Mr Masilu David Modiba**  
**Deputy Director for TVET Colleges Curriculum Development and Support, Department of Higher Education and Training, South Africa**

[Modiba.d@dhet.gov.za](mailto:Modiba.d@dhet.gov.za)

Mr Modiba Completed Matric/Grade 12 in 1998, did his tertiary education at the University of Limpopo (MASTEC) campus and completed his teaching Higher Diploma in Education (HED) in 2001 specialising in Mathematics and Information Technology. He has a Post Graduate Diploma in Tertiary education with UNISA and currently doing his Masters in Curriculum Studies with WITS University.

He has previously taught in Primary School for 4 years, High School for 3 years and TVET for 4 years until he joined the DHET in 2012 for Curriculum Development and Support for TVET colleges. His responsibilities are to coordinate Curriculum Development, upgrading and innovation. He has coordinated partnerships between DHET with private and public sector for curriculum innovation including the CISCO project which forms part of projects in partnership with multinational stakeholders. He has developed quality assured all materials for learners and students. Project management of all initiated projects including support at Initial, Midline and final studies of all the projects. He has also worked with GIZ, HEAIDS, CIVICS Academy and IYF amongst others and supported all research projects undertaken under the fields for 6 years now. Mr Modiba has also coordinated curriculum development at DHET for 8 years. His other Qualifications/Certificates include: (ICDL) facilitator, Assessor, Moderator (2009), Material Developer, TVET programme for Leaders (Singapore 2013), Report Writing and Ethics in Government



**Mr Alfie (Altaaf) Hamid**

**Global Partnerships Manager for Corporate Affairs, Cisco, South Africa**

Mr Hamid is Cisco's Global Partnerships Manager for Corporate Affairs. He joined Cisco in 2006 as their Area Academy Manager for the NetAcad program for South Africa and Southern Africa Region. In this role he grew the impact of the NetAcad program in the region by over 200%. He was subsequently promoted to Cisco's Corporate Affairs NetAcad Regional Manager for Africa and was responsible for NetAcad within the continent. In this role he oversaw the review and redesign of the ICT curriculum within TVETs in South Africa, Morocco, Algeria and Nigeria. These reviews have aligned the TVET curriculum to the demands of the 4th Industrial Revolution. He also currently serves as the chairperson of the African Union's TVET Cluster.

He is a strong believer in "We Must Become The Change We Want To See".



**Ms Sarah Darkwa**

**Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, University of Cape Coast, Ghana**

Ms Darkwa is a Professor of Food Science at the University of Cape Coast where she has taught courses in Food Science, Nutrition, and Environmental Science (Waste Management). She obtained her Ph.D. degree in Environmental Systems and Risk Management in 2009 from the State University of New York – College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, New York, USA

Ms Darkwa is currently the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, University of Cape Coast. Prior to this position, she served concurrently as the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology Education (FSTE) and the Head of the Department, Vocational and Technical Education (2019 – 2020). In March 2018, she was appointed as the Chairperson for the three-member Interim Management Committee, which led and managed the administrative activities of the Cape Coast Technical University. She was the Vice Dean of the FSTE (2015 – 2017) and the Head of, Department of VOTEC (2010 – 2013).

Her research interest is in Food Science, Nutrition and Health, and Environmental Systems and Risk Management. She has authored several publications in local, national, and international journals based on her areas of interest and specialization.

Her desire to grow food, process, and manage very well the waste led her to read Environmental Science for her Ph.D. She is also a Steering Committee Member for SDG Graduate School – Performing Sustainability, Cultures and Development in West Africa. Her great desire is to see her SDG students graduate on time and become good academics and impact their societies at large.



**Mr Michael Schwarz**  
**Senior Technical Advisor, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany**

Mr Schwarz' responsibilities at BIBB include the management of VET- projects and advisory services in Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Europe in co-operation with Ministries, government agencies, partner institutions and social partners to improve work-based learning systems. Furthermore, he is in charge of the cooperation with multilateral agencies like UNESCO-UNEVOC and is the UNEVOC Centre Coordinator for BIBB.

Currently he is responsible for the BILT (Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET) project, which is carried out in cooperation with UNESCO-UNEVOC and funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education. Furthermore, he is heading an advisory project for the Vietnamese government in establishing a monitoring system for TVET (VET Report Vietnam) and in the development of a TVET strategy 2021-2030 and he is in charge of advising the Mongolian government on the new TVET law. In recent years he has been conducting many short-term missions advising on steering mechanisms and TVET laws, on cost-benefit relations in TVET, on monitoring of TVET systems and on the development of occupational standards.

Mr Schwarz holds a Master's degree in Political Science, International Law and Geography from the University of Bonn, Germany.



**Ms Alexandra Filippova**  
**Programme Assistant, UNESCO-UNEVOC**

Ms Filippova joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in June 2019 as a Programme Assistant within the Innovation and the Future of TVET team. She supports the development, coordination and implementation of the Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) project, which seeks to assist TVET institutions in addressing the transformational challenges in the fields of Greening, Migration, Digitalization, Entrepreneurship, and New Qualifications and Competencies in TVET.

Prior to joining UNESCO-UNEVOC, Ms Filippova worked as a teacher for Education Nationale (France), both in general and vocational pathways. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations from INALCO Institute, Paris, and a Master's degree in French Literature from Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3.



**Max Ehlers**  
**Associate Officer, IT, Team Leader for KMIT, UNESCO-UNEVOC**

Mr Ehlers joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in 2002. He leads the Knowledge Management and IT team, which is responsible for the online communication and web services of the Centre, as well as its technical infrastructure. Mr Ehlers is the focal point for issues related to the use of ICT and digital media in and for TVET. He holds a postgraduate degree in political science, but has always had a passion for IT, networking and web technologies. After graduation, he started working as IT specialist and project manager for various IT and multimedia companies in Munich and Bonn.



**Mr Kwaku A. Boakye**  
**Dean of International Education, University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana**

Mr Boakye is presently the Dean of International Education at the University of Cape Coast. Together with a team of 15 staff his office, the Centre for International Education is the outfit responsible for managing UCCs internationalization activities which include forging and monitoring partnerships with foreign institutions, managing motilities of students staff and faculty both into and outside Ghana and the provision consular services Mr Boakye is a Professor with over 20 years' experience as a tourism academic, consultant and business executive.



**Mr Johnson Nyarko Boampong**  
**Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Coast, Ghana**

Mr Boampong is a Pharmacist, Biomedical Scientist. He is the current Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast. Prior to this, Mr Boampong occupied the following positions in the University; Provost, College of Health and Allied Sciences, Dean, School of Biological Sciences, Head, Department of Biomedical and Head, Forensic Sciences.

He is a product of Tokyo Women's Medical University, Japan, with PhD in Tropical Medicine (2004-2007) as Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) scholar. He did his post-doctoral research at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India as CV Raman Scholar (2011). He also obtained his M. Phil degree in Zoology (Applied Parasitology) from the University of Ghana (1995-1999); B. Pharm degree from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (1997-2001) and, B.Sc. degree and Dip. Ed (1988-1992) from University of Cape Coast.

Mr Boampong has taught Parasitology and supervised undergraduate and postgraduate (M.Phil and PhD) students with diverse backgrounds. He has mentored many lecturers and served as an external examiner to other universities in Ghana.

His research interests cover multidisciplinary areas, a reflection of his diverse professional training in Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy.



**Mr Oliver Diehl**  
**Deputy Head of Division 'Innovation in Vocational Training' at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany**

Mr Diehl is Deputy Head of Division at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in Bonn, Germany. Before taking up his current position, Dr Diehl was Assistant Head of Basic Policy Issues in Vocational Education and Training at the BMBF. He joined the Ministry in 2002 and previously held positions in the areas of cooperation with Latin America, Mediterranean countries and Africa, and was involved in projects related to sustainability, culture, environment, and basic energy research. He was Head of the BMBF's FONA (Research for Sustainable development) Brussels Liaison Office from 2011 to 2013.

Dr Diehl holds a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Mainz University, Germany.



**Ms Christina Hong**

**President, Technological and Higher Education Institute, (THEi) Hong Kong, China**

[christina.hong@thei.edu.hk](mailto:christina.hong@thei.edu.hk)

Ms Hong, PhD, is the President of the Technological and Higher Education Institute, Hong Kong SAR. THEi (a member of the VTC Group), offers applied degree programmes developed with significant industry input, incorporating real world project-based learning and applied research components to produce work ready, future ready graduates with an international outlook. She has a strong background in educational leadership with an emphasis on organisational change management, curriculum transformation, technology enhanced learning, and teacher praxis across the VPET and higher education sectors. Prior to joining THEi in 2017, she held senior leadership positions in Australia and New Zealand.

Ms Hong is particularly interested in how tertiary institutions are adapting to the challenges of Education 4.0 in relationship to Industry 4.0 and the new world of work, including C21st employability skills. Given her theoretical and practical expertise in the field of curriculum and pedagogy Christina has been championing and implementing strategic initiatives in the key areas of digital transformation, sustainability, and innovation and entrepreneurship. She is a member of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Bridging Innovation and Learning in TVET (BILT) Macro Expert Group developing publications relating to New Qualifications and Competencies in TVET.



**Ms Inga Schad-Dankwart**

**Senior researcher, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, Germany**

Ms Dankwart studied economics at the University of Heidelberg and the University of Cologne. In addition to her work at IW Köln Consult, she completed her PhD in the field of economic and social psychology at the University of Cologne on the topic of "Rational regulatory policy for irrational people" from 2010-2013.

Since 2016, Ms Dankwart is a senior researcher at the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training, where she is responsible for various industrial-technical professions in the area of regulatory work. She is involved in various research projects on topics such as "Women opt for STEM", "Attractiveness of Career paths" or "Vocational Education 4.0". In this context, she is intensively dealing with the question regarding the influence of different trends such as digitalization, greening or migration on dual education and the need for new competences and qualifications. Ms Dankwart is currently entrusted with the development of an indicator system as a scientific base for an early detection system and systematic monitoring of occupations – especially focused on regulatory work.



**Ms Ellah Manyana Matshediso**  
**Human Resource Development Council (HRDC), Botswana**

Ms Matshediso is the Director Human Resource Development Planning Supply at Human Resource Development Council (HRDC). Her roles entail advising and coordinating on institutional planning to tertiary education and training institutions, TVET included. She is leading implementation of the National Human Resource Development Strategy and TVET policies. Furthermore, she has initiated and is currently leading TVET related policies and initiatives including the National Apprenticeship Training and Student Internship Policy, TVET Pitso (Consultative) Forum, National TVET Advisory Committee.

Ms Matshediso is a public health specialist, behavioural scientist and policy advisor with gradations on Doctor of Literature and Philosophy in Public Health Studies from the University of South Africa; she holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA, and a Bachelor of Education in Community Health Education from the University of Toledo, Ohio, USA. She has published in peer-reviewed journals on population health, monitoring and evaluation and education. Ms Matshediso has previously worked for Government of Botswana, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and University of Botswana.



**Mr Konstantinos Pouliakas**  
**Senior Expert, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Greece**

Mr Pouliakas is a Senior Expert on Skills and Labour Markets at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop). He is coordinator of Cedefop's Skills and Work team and leads Cedefop's projects on Digitalisation, AI and the Future of Work and Anticipating and Matching skills. His proudest achievement is the development of two waves of the Cedefop European Skills and Jobs Survey. He has been scientific advisor and author on skills anticipation and skill mismatch for the European Commission, World Economic Forum, ILO and the Greek Ministry of Labour. He has represented Cedefop at high-level international conferences in Europe, USA, Middle East, Asia and Latin America. Before joining Cedefop he held posts at the University of Aberdeen and the University of Cyprus and worked for the Bank of Greece and HM Treasury. He has been invited Professor at the Università Degli Studi Roma TRE and Visiting Research Scholar at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He is Honorary Lecturer at the University of Aberdeen Business School and IZA Research Fellow. He holds an M.Phil from the University of Oxford (St. Antony's College) and a D.Phil from the Scottish Graduate Program in Economics. He has published widely in peer-reviewed journals of education and economic science (e.g., Oxford Review of Education, Economica, Journal of Economic Surveys, Research in Labor Economics, Education Economics, International Labour Review).



**Ms Verena Schneider**

**Senior Researcher, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany**

Ms Schneider has been working for over 15 years in the area of TVET in the national, European and international context. After two years in international TVET cooperation she joined the BIBB in 2007. Working for several years in the international VET department, she is now located in the department "Structure and Regulation of VET", Division "Electrical, IT- and Scientific Occupations". Here she is responsible for the environmental engineering occupations, the occupations for training personnel, technical occupations in the public sector and policy issues relating to Higher-VET. Her tasks include: Occupation-related and employment-related research to determine, analyse and review the need for qualifications, professionalisation and regulation; Analysis, development and evaluation of regulatory instruments including training and advanced training regulations for vocational education and training in her areas of responsibility; Modernisation of existing and the creation of new vocational training schemes, development and implementation of training and advanced training regulations and their evaluation; Long-term monitoring/early identification of developments in qualifications and of qualification requirements in the training market and in the employment system; and Initiation, implementation, contribution to and consultation on international projects, consultation on structural matters in an international context.



**Mr Samuel Thompson**

**Coordinating Lead for the Policy, Planning, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate  
Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET), Ghana**

[samuel.thompson@ctvet.gov.gh](mailto:samuel.thompson@ctvet.gov.gh); [kingtite@yahoo.com](mailto:kingtite@yahoo.com)

Mr Thompson is the Coordinating Lead for the Policy, Planning, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate at the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET) and the Coordinator for the UNEVOC Centre at CTVET. Prior to this, Mr Thompson worked as a Programme's Manager, an Executive Director of a Foundation that focused on education and health, a Teacher, a Head Teacher and a Community Facilitator. He coordinated the Skills Gap Analysis and Audit of seven sectors together with the Skills directory and the Profile of occupations; contributed to the production of Education Sector Plan 2018-2030 (specifically the TVET section), the Strategic Plan for TVET Transformation 2018- 2022 and the design of the Ghana Jobs and Skills Project which is about to take off. He coordinated the production of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and the Workplace Experience Learning (WEL) policies.

Academically, he has a Master's Degree in Development Studies from the University of Ghana, Legon and a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana.

He is a Council Member of Koforidua Technical University, Ghana and has the drive to affect systems and programmes positively through strategic planning and efficient policy implementation.



**Mr Longino Dingli**

**Deputy Director, Institute of Engineering and Transport, within the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST), Malta**

[longino.dingli@mcast.edu.mt](mailto:longino.dingli@mcast.edu.mt)

Mr Dingli is a warranted Electrical Engineer with over twenty years' experience in the engineering industry, ranging from specialized technology-related assignments, project and program management and general management. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering (with Honors) from the University of Malta, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the same University. He also obtained accreditation as an Energy Performance of Buildings Assessor from the local Building Regulation Office.

During his career, he was responsible for several projects in different industry sectors. One of his major projects was the setting up, commissioning, and the eventual launch of a major telecommunication network in Malta with a budget of €40 million. Additionally, he acted as a consultant to several Maltese entities, as well as co-represented the Maltese government in international technical fora.

Currently, he is the deputy director responsible for the Foundation and Automotive department at the Institute of Engineering and Transport, within the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST). The department offers courses from Level 1 up to Undergraduate Diploma at Level 5 to over 200 students.

Mr Dingli is a keen collector of Melitensia books with particular interest in Maltese history. He is also a member of the committee at a local philanthropic NGO which promotes arts and culture.



**Mr Roberto Tiscio**

**Deputy Director of the Institute of Engineering and Transport Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, Malta**

Mr Tiscio holds a Master Degree in Computer Engineering from Federico II University and an Executive Master of Business Administration from the Henley business school. He has an extensive background of Project Management as a certified PRINCE2 Practitioner and Business Transformation best practice. A change manager with the proven ability to develop and implement effective new systems and procedures and process improvement initiatives. He started working in the ICT industry before moving to the semi-conductor industry to work for a global company, STMicroelectronics. During his career as a Team Leader in Product Engineering, he became a member of the ST Global OEE improvement task force. Mr Tiscio is driven by a passion for developing teams and individuals to achieve the strategic goals set from the business accepted then the challenge to work as Launch Manager for a global firm in the Automotive and Power industry, Methode Electronics. During his career in Methode Electronics, he drove and managed products from Concept to Market Launch within the most challenging and high-end accounts such as Ford, FCA, VW, Valeo, Renault and Aston Martin. Managing Projects with capital investments of over 5M Euro and with an annual sale of 15M Euro.

Currently he works at MCAST. The institute has around 1000 students following around 60 programs in the areas of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, building and construction, maritime and aviation.



**Ms Kelly Shiohira**

**Strategist and researcher in educational development programme, JET Education Services, South Africa**

Ms Shiohira is a prominent strategist and researcher in educational development programmes in developing contexts. She holds dual Masters' degrees in International Educational Development from the University of Pennsylvania and Applied Linguistics with a specialization in African Languages from Rhodes University, and specializes in ICT in education, literacy in minority languages and linking education and labour markets and does some additional work in community development and refugee contexts. She has authored a number of papers in her areas of interest, most recently Understanding the Impact of AI on Skills Development, published by UNESCO-UNEVOC in 2021, and The Potential of Innovative Technologies for Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. She is known for strategic implementation and in addition to managing programme implementation for JET Education Services regularly conducts strategic reviews and planning sessions for funders, government departments and other implementers to strengthen their programmes, scalability and efficiency. In addition to project management and strategic planning work, Ms Shiohira has overseen the development of theories of change and monitoring and evaluation frameworks for projects, programmes and the South African Post School Education and Training Sector.



**Ms Christina Boateng**

**Senior Lecturer, Department of Vocational and Technical Education, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana**

Ms Boateng is a TVET eEducator. She holds a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL. USA. She has over 25 years of work experience teaching TVET at the tertiary level. She is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast. Her areas of specialisation are TVET Leadership; TVET and employment promotion; TVET Teacher Education Ms Boateng is also an alumnus of the UNEVOC TVET Leadership programme and has served as a trainer +/facilitator on several UNEVOC capacity building programmes. Currently, she is the Programme Coordinator of the UNEVOC Centre at the University of Cape Coast.



**Ms Adrijana Hodak**

**Head of Intercompany training centre, School Center Nova Gorica, Slovenia**

[adrijana.hodak@scng.si](mailto:adrijana.hodak@scng.si)

Ms Hodak is the Project leader of Talentjourney, a Platform of IoT vocational excellence. She is also a VET ambassador and project leader of Munera 3, a five-year ESF funded project that aims at training approximately 17,400 employees according to the needs of the modern labour market, industry 4.0 in tight collaboration with companies and smart specialization chains.

She has worked at the School Center Nova Gorica for 22 years where she has served as teacher of German Language and coordinator for international projects. Since 2007, she holds the position as the Head of Intercompany Training Center. She is an active member of Consortium of Slovenian School Centers since 2004, and the representative of the Consortium in EUproVET, a representational platform for European Vet providers for the last five years.



**Mr Edson Mendes**

**Deputy General Director, Training and Metrology Department, Center for Renewable Energies and Industrial Maintenance (CERMI & CdC 3C), Cape Verde**

[edson.mendes@cdc3c.com](mailto:edson.mendes@cdc3c.com)

Mr Mendes has a degree in Biomechanics and a Master's Degree in Energy and Environment from the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, he is a pedagogical engineer and specialist in renewable energy and energy efficiency in buildings with experience in policy design and regulation of the sector of energy.

Between 2015 and 2020, he led the implementation of one of the most structuring projects for the sustainable development of the energy sector in Cape Verde entitled "Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Appliances".

Today, with the vast amount experience accumulate through the work in various project in energy sector and TVET, he is the director at Cape Verde Competence Center, partner and operational arm of CERMI whose main mission is to support institutions in the energy transition process, through training and energy consulting aimed to reducing energy consumption while reduction the greenhouse gases emission.



