

Skills as an Enabler for Youth to Participate in a Just and Green Transition

Strategies for Engagement, Policy and Research

COP 28 Greening Education Hub Session

Tuesday, 5 December 2023, 16:15 – 17:15 (UAE time)

AI-Erth Room, Greening Education Hub Mobility Pavilion (Green Zone)

Background

Populations continue to face the risks of human-induced climate change, inefficient use of resources, rising temperatures and sea levels, climate-related inequality, and disproportionate distribution of investments for the green transition. Fundamental transformations in economies and societies are required to change the course of global progress. As Member States strive to achieve net zero by 2050, measures to counter the long-term impact of biodiversity loss, pollution and resource depletion are being put in place. These efforts are stimulating global economy transformations that have an impact on technologies, production, goods and services, and increased demand for sustainability skill sets. Technological and material advances emerge, which now require new skills and competencies.

The reality of the climate crisis is increasing the demand for learners and workers who possess the qualifications, skills and mindset that can bolster green growth. Continuous updates in teaching and training that match technological and material advances are required to ensure they reflect current skills needs. To steer in this direction, education and training systems are called upon to enable individuals, as agents of change, to acquire knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to support net-zero development where societies can be empowered and economies can pursue growth that is equitable for all, sustainable and successful. UNESCO's strategy for TVET 2022-2029 supports the repositioning of TVET as a pathway for individuals to learn, work and live, and as a catalyst for digital and green transformation and sustainable economies.

The green transformation must take place at all levels and include all members of society. Transformations in learning and skills development must consider the critical role of young people as agents of change and the future workforce. They also require a strong foundation of knowledge and practical skills that can be applied to transform practices in the workplace. Transformations in systems must go hand in hand with the responsibilities of education and training authorities to set out policies and strategies that support the shaping of a just and green transition of economies.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET, in close collaboration with its partners, including its UNEVOC Centre – the Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), the United Arab Emirates, the International Labour Organization and World Skills International, is organizing the session to showcase the perspectives and achievements of young people empowered through their engagement in TVET. They will share their experiences in acquiring relevant skills and knowledge and applying them to become young agents of change for the green transition. The panel will also discuss about relevant interventions of selected organizations working to help transform TVET and develop skills that match the new standards in professional working environments and meet the needs of technological and material advances.

Objectives

- Share the relevant experiences of young people and gather insights into their role and efforts in acquiring knowledge and skills that can prepare them to better engage in the green transition.
- Highlight key policies, strategies and research findings that support the future role of young people in the green transition, and the requirements to further boost their engagement.

Organizers and key partners

- UNESCO- UNEVOC and HCT
- ILO and World Skills International

Date and Venue

- When: **5 December 2023 at 16.15 – 17.15 (UAE Local time)**
- Room: **Al Erth Room, Greening Education Hub**
- Location: **Greening Education Hub, Mobility Pavilion**, Green Zone, EXPO City, Dubai. (Entrance at Mobility Gate <https://maps.app.goo.gl/UitVuK97rsKPqHqTA>)
- Virtual participation is possible for attendees – registration via the link:
https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BhmEZM6kTkyCHpFM46vSKQ

Technical specifications

- The session is hybrid and will be conducted in English with Arabic translation for in-person audience only.

AGENDA

AGENDA

Moderated by **Ms Priscilla Gatonye**, Programme Officer and Team Leader, Inclusion and Youth, UNESCO-UNEVOC

16.15

Panel 1 - Youth perspective

- **Mr Rashed Alshamsi**, COP28 Ambassador and Student of Logistics Engineering Technology, Higher Colleges of Technology (UNEVOC Centre), United Arab Emirates
- **Ms Megan Yeates**, WorldSkills Champion and Apprenticeship Coordinator, FTA, Ireland

16.45

Panel 2 - Policy, Research and Strategies in TVET

- **Ms Olga Strietska-Ilina**, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO
- **Ms Esther Goodwin Brown**, Lead, Circular Jobs Initiative and Interim Head, Systemic Initiatives, Circle Economy Foundation, The Netherlands
- **Mr Adel Zairi**, Associate Dean of Academic Operations - Dubai, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE

17.10

Q & A Panel 1 and 2

PROFILES

Moderator

Priscilla Gatonye, Programme Officer, Inclusion and Youth and Gender and Youth Focal Point, UNESCO-UNEVOC
Priscilla supports the development and implementation of the UNEVOC Network strategy, with a particular focus on the thematic area of inclusion and youth, including the International Centre’s ongoing work on entrepreneurial skills development, and gender equality in TVET. She also acts as Regional Focal Point for Africa and in this capacity develops regional strategies to involve members of the UNEVOC Network in Africa in UNESCO-UNEVOC’s activities. She worked for 10+ years in various capacities within the TVET sector as well as in youth empowerment and employability advisory. Priscilla holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Nairobi, an M.Sc. in International Supply Chain Management from the University of Exeter and AEVO’s international master trainer qualifications in vocational and work pedagogical knowledge, skills and abilities.



Panelists

Rashed Alshamsi, COP28 Ambassador and Student of Logistics Engineering Technology, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE

Rashed Alshamsi, the HCT Sustainability COP28 Ambassador, is a dynamic leader and scholar. Currently serving as the Student Council President and Logistics Engineering Representative, he blends academic excellence with active engagement. His commitment extends to safety as the EHS Committee Student Representative. An NYUAD Scholar, Rashed seamlessly integrates academia with a full-time role in the private sector. He is a key influencer and impactful team member at HCT, showcasing a versatile and impactful leadership style.



Megan Yeates, WorldSkills Champion and Apprenticeship Coordinator, FTA Ireland

Megan Yeates is a Logistics Industry Ambassador and WorldSkills Champion who works to highlight and promote opportunities in the industry for young people and the next generation, especially highlighting opportunities for women. Formally a Logistics Project Manager and Lecturer, she is currently working as an Apprentice Coordinator for Transport and Logistics Apprenticeships in Ireland.



Olga-Strietska-Ilina, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO

Olga is a Senior Skills and Employability Specialist at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Switzerland. She is a Team Leader of the work area Skills Strategies for Future Labour Markets, focusing on anticipating skills needs for the future of work, skills for trade and economic diversification, skills for environmental sustainability and climate action, and skills for technological change and digitalization. Before 2008, Olga worked on skills forecasting for the European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop). Earlier on, she was a Head of the Czech National Observatory of Employment and Training and taught International Relations at the Central European University (CEU). Olga holds post-graduate degrees in Economic and Social Sciences from the University of Manchester, Society and Politics from the CEU, and History and Ethnography from the Moscow State University named after Lomonosov.



Esther Goodwin Brown, Lead, Circular Jobs Initiative; Interim Head, Systemic Initiatives, Circle Economy Foundation

Esther leads Circle Economy Foundation’s Systemic Initiatives. This includes the Circular Jobs Initiative, which works internationally with stakeholders in governments and industry to understand the people, skills, and enabling conditions that are needed to unlock the social benefits of the circular economy so that it can be put into action: with and for people. Esther’s experience comprises developing strategy, programmes and research for think tanks, funders and NGOs both as a consultant and in-house expert. She has had an explicit focus on the circular economy since 2019. Prior to this she has worked on the inclusion and labour market inclusion of women, youth and older workers. She leads the growth and strategic direction of the Circle Economy’s efforts to use circular economy interventions as a vehicle for promoting skills development and sustainable livelihoods. Esther leads key partnerships to realize these objectives, such as Circle Economy Foundation’s partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank on decent work in the circular economy, alongside other key partnerships with UNESCO-UNEVOC and the UN Environment Programme.



Adel Zairi, Associate Dean of Academic Operations - Dubai, Higher Colleges of Technology, UAE

Adel is an Assistant Professor and academician in the field of quality. He is currently serving as the Associate Dean of Academic Operations at The Higher Colleges of Technology in Dubai. He has a PhD in Quality Culture from The University of Salford in Manchester, UK. His postgraduate is from the University of Central Florida and he has a BA (Hons) in Management from the University of Nottingham. He is passionate about promoting entrepreneurship and startups and is currently mentoring a sustainability project with his students aimed at promoting sustainable farming.

