

# Empowering youth for a sustainable future: Building skills for tomorrow

Hybrid event – Bonn, Germany

14 July 2023, 10.00 am – 12.30 pm (CEST)

## Background

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In 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day, to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship. Since then, World Youth Skills Day events have provided a unique opportunity for dialogue between young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, the private sector, policy-makers and development partners.

As the world undergoes rapid technological, economic and societal transformations, young people will need the right skills to successfully navigate these challenges and achieve their full potential. According to a recent ILO study, young people in the labour force are three times as likely as adults to be unemployed, with the global youth unemployment rate at about 14 per cent in 2022. This translates into 69 million young people who were looking for a job but unable to find one.<sup>1</sup>

Three years ago, UNESCO launched the Global Skills Academy (GSA) to provide one-stop access to training that can help young people develop skills for employment. Under the GSA initiative, UNESCO-UNEVOC leverages its partnerships with more than 220 UNEVOC Centres in over 140 countries to match learners with training offered by members of the Global Education Coalition. The selected trainings aim to help 10 million young people build skills for employability and resilience by 2029.

WorldSkills is the global hub of skills excellence, working in 85 Member countries and regions to promote the benefits of vocational education and training for young people. Every two years, WorldSkills hosts the WorldSkills Competition and Conference, a global celebration of skills, showcasing how equitable access to skills changes the futures of individuals, communities, and countries.

On World Youth Skills Day 2023, UNESCO-UNEVOC and WorldSkills International are joining forces to showcase the positive impact of youth skills development on societies and economies, and to empower youth to meet the challenges of an evolving global landscape through TVET.

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<sup>1</sup> World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023, International Labour Organization

## Objectives

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The World Youth Skills Day hybrid event will celebrate the role of skilled young people in building a sustainable future for all. The first panel will include a youth focus group and a discussion on how teaching and learning processes can be optimized to prepare young people for a changing labour market. The second panel will reflect on UNESCO's Global Skills Academy and its work to scale up youth skills development as well as what more can be done to build employability, entrepreneurship, and resilience among young people.

By raising awareness, fostering collaboration, and empowering young people, this observance contributes to building a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future. UNESCO-UNEVOC, WorldSkills International, and partners such as WorldSkills Germany, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH remain committed to supporting youth in realizing their full potential and becoming active agents of change in their communities.

1. **Raise awareness:** World Youth Skills Day seeks to raise global awareness about the importance of equipping young individuals with skills that are essential for personal development, employment, and entrepreneurship.
2. **Foster dialogue and collaboration:** The observance provides a platform to engage in dialogue, exchange best practices, and foster collaboration. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the event aims to create synergies and partnerships to address the skills gap.
3. **Promote youth employment and entrepreneurship:** World Youth Skills Day endeavours to promote youth employment by emphasizing the critical role of skills in facilitating access to decent work opportunities. Furthermore, it seeks to encourage youth entrepreneurship as a means of unleashing innovation, economic growth, and sustainable development.
4. **Empower marginalized youth:** The observance prioritizes empowering marginalized and disadvantaged youth. It seeks to ensure that they have access to quality education and vocational training, bridging the gap between formal and informal sectors, and creating pathways for their active participation in the economy.

## Format

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The event will take place in English in a hybrid format, with participants joining in person in Bonn and online via Zoom webinar.

[Register here](#)