

Closing the institutional gap for the circular economy in TVET

What is the circular economy?



Social benefits

7 million new jobs created globally by embracing the circular economy

Financial benefits

1.8 trillion of net annual benefit in the EU alone

Environmental benefits

reduced CO2 emissions, improved air quality, lowered influx of waste, and increased water, resource and energy efficiency

Barriers and gaps in integrating circular economy principles and skills in TVET

- Low level of understanding and integration of circular economy themes;
- Disconnect between the perception of the impact of the circular economy on the labour market and the action needed for mainstreaming circularity aspects in curricula; and
- Unsupportive TVET regulating measures or guidance frameworks when it comes to adopting practices in the delivery of curricula content.

* based on the UNESCO-UNEVOC and Circular Economy research study analysing perspectives from three African countries

What is driving the integration of skills and competencies for the circular economy in TVET?



Policy and regulatory framework



Industry engagement



Curricula development and updates



Investments



Closing the institutional gap: Trends and perspectives from three countries in Africa

This draft synthesis report is based on a study analysing the main barriers and enablers to mainstreaming circular economy aspects in the curricula and training of TVET institutions.

The upcoming final report examines TVET curriculum planning and delivery in three countries – Ghana, Kenya and South Africa – and covers a sample size of 27 different actors, relevant bodies and TVET institutions that helped establish an overview of the current status quo and identify areas of future action.



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Empowering youth for a sustainable future

How can TVET empower young people?

- Environmental sustainability and climate change are not only youth concerns, but global ones.
- Training programmes in TVET should emphasize sustainable methods and practices within their own operations. This includes waste reduction strategies such as recycling, conserving energy and water, and adopting eco-friendly technologies such as those powered by renewable energy.



About **96%** of all young workers in developing countries are in the informal economy¹



TVET institutions act as role models for students and businesses, emphasizing the importance of sustainability within the industry and equipping future professionals with the knowledge and motivation to make a positive impact on the environment.

Sonya Hill
World Skills Champions Trust
Regional Representative for the Americas

67% of young people say climate change and biodiversity loss is the world's **#1 challenge**²

And yet...

According to UNESCO, **70% of youth** surveyed in 2021 say that they can not explain climate change, can only explain its broad principles or do not know anything about it, **putting into question the quality of climate change education in schools today.**

- UN World Youth Report, 2020
- The World in 2030: Public survey report, UNESCO, 2021

World Youth Skills Day 2023: Empowering youth for a sustainable future

Technological advancements and shifting labour market dynamics call for agile and adaptable skillsets. It is crucial that we empower young people to navigate these changes effectively.

This report provides a compilation of inputs from speakers and participants at the World Youth Skills Day 2023 hybrid event, as well as the results of the UNESCO-UNEVOC youth survey.



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