

Skills for Green and Just Transitions – Potential and Challenges with a Focus on Africa and South Eastern Europe

Public event

As the climate crisis intensifies, transitioning to a green and just global economy is essential. But do we have the skills needed for this transition? And are we even sure what skills will be needed in the future?

Vocational Education and Training (VET) plays a crucial role, yet especially in low- and middle-income countries, VET systems face major challenges such as financial constraints, inadequate infrastructure, weak labour market relevance, and low social recognition. Another key issue is the tension between VET's traditional focus on industrial development and the growing need to address environmental sustainability and social justice.

A dynamic debate has emerged on VET's role in supporting these transitions, with diverse actors – from governments and multilateral organisations to companies, trade unions, civil society, and local communities – proposing a range of solutions. These include specific measures like green job training and broader systemic changes in VET's role.

Yet critical questions remain, especially in low-income countries, where large parts of the workforce, including informal and unpaid sectors, risk being left behind. While there is general consensus on the principle of leaving no one behind, there is still a lack of clear strategies for implementation.

This event will explore the opportunities and challenges of VET and skills development for green and just transitions. It will bring together academics, policymakers, and civil society to discuss labour market relevance, social inclusion, and justice, with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Europe.

Registration: registration@oefse.at

The event will take place in a hybrid format. Upon registration, the link will be sent to those who wish to participate online.

By participating in this event you consent to the publication of photographs and film footage that are produced by the organizers during the event.

Conveners:

OFSE
Austrian Foundation
for Development Research

 Austrian
Development
Agency

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 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

Skills for Green and Just Transitions – Potential and Challenges

with a Focus on Africa
and South Eastern Europe

Friday, October 18, 2024

C3 – Centre for International Development
Sensengasse 3, 1090 Vienna and online



Speakers:

Alseny Diallo is advisor for education and science at the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). He has been working in the field of development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and migration, with thematic specialization on education, vocational training, youth and child protection since 2014.

Fatoumata Dicko is a renewable energy engineer specialising in solar projects. Since 2019, she has been leading solar energy initiatives as part of the ADA project in Burkina Faso BBEE-BF (vocational training in renewable energies).

Johanna Dreher is a project manager at Jugend Eine Welt, where she is responsible for the “Gender Matters for Green TVET!” program, which is implemented in cooperation with the Salesians of Don Bosco in Uganda and Rwanda and co-financed by ADA.

Ralf Lange has been working for more than 30 years in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), employment promotion and business development in international development cooperation. He works for FAKT Consult based in Stuttgart, Germany.

Alessandra Molz is a Senior Specialist for Skills Development at the sub-regional office for Central and Eastern Europe (Budapest, Hungary) of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). She focuses on the Western Balkans region, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Laurat Raca leads the Kosovo Generation Unlimited programme at UNICEF Kosovo and holds the position of Youth & Adolescent Development Officer.

Timur Ramiqi is Adolescent Development Officer at UNICEF Kosovo.

Presha Ramsarup is Director at the Centre for Researching Education and Labour at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. She is currently engaged in several research programmes focused on Transitioning Vocational Education and Training in Africa, understanding the nature of the green transition and the impact on occupations jobs and skills.

Christine von Harrach is a master of economics and a thematic expert at the Donor Committee for Dual Vocational Education and Training (DC dVET), focusing on knowledge transfer in dual vocational education and training (dVET) developments.

Befekadu Zeleke is Associate Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership Studies at Addis Ababa University. He is currently the president of the Ethiopian University Teachers Association.

Programme:

09.30 Arrival, Coffee

10.00 Opening

Werner Raza (ÖFSE), Erwin Künzi (ADA)

10.15 Keynote 1: Skills for green and just transitions in Africa. Challenges and potential.

Presha Ramsarup, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa (online)

11.00 Q&A

11.20 Keynote 2: Skills for green and just transitions in South-Eastern Europe. Challenges and potentials

Alessandra Molz, ILO Office for Central and Eastern Europe

12.05 Q&A

12.30 Lunch break

13.30 Working groups

WG 1: Case studies:

Ethiopia: Befekadu Zeleke (University of Addis Abeba);

Burkina Faso: Fatoumata Dicko (ADA Coordination Office Burkina Faso, online)

Facilitator: Margarita Langthaler (ÖFSE)

WG 2: Inclusion, social justice and diversity:

Johanna Dreher (Jugend eine Welt – Don Bosco),
Fr. Maximus Okoro (Don Bosco Tech Africa, online)

Facilitator: Christine von Harrach (DCdVET)

WG 3: Professional opportunities: Ralf Lange (FAKT),
Laurat Raca and Timur Ramiqi (UNICEF Kosovo, online)

Facilitator: Lukas Schlögl (ÖFSE)

15.00 Coffee break

15.15 Concluding session

Reports from WG

Plenary session – Which way forward?

Alseny Diallo (ADA), Christine von Harrach (DCdVET),
Alessandra Molz, Presha Ramsarup

16.45 Closure of the event – Refreshments

Facilitator: Margarita Langthaler, ÖFSE