



# Skills, jobs and sustainable development: global trends and local challenges

UNESCO – Cedefop Global skills conference  
20 and 21 October 2016, Paris, France

<b>Organisers</b>	UNESCO & Cedefop
<b>Venue</b>	UNESCO headquarters, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France
<b>Participation</b>	By invitation and open registration
<b>Participants' profile</b>	International, EU and national policy-makers, experts, business associations, trade unions and employee representatives
<b>Working languages</b>	English; interpretation available into and from French and Spanish

## Event rationale

The international community has set an ambitious sustainable development agenda, with corresponding goals (SDGs) for 2030; it includes SDG 4 'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all' and SDG 8 'Achievement of inclusive and sustainable growth, full employment and decent work' <sup>(1)</sup>. Focus on education and work opens the way for greater international attention to training and preparation for employment and an upgraded role for skills. Within this context, UNESCO adopted a new *Strategy for technical and vocational education and training* (2016-21) <sup>(2)</sup> aiming to support the efforts of Member States to improve the relevance of their TVET systems and to equip all youth and adults with the skills required for employment, decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

The *Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training* (ET 2020) <sup>(3)</sup> and the revised priorities for European cooperation in VET <sup>(4)</sup>, have called for a number of key policy priorities and objectives to be set up by national and EU policymakers so that every citizen can

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://en.unesco.org/sdgs>

<sup>(2)</sup> <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002438/243804e.pdf>

<sup>(3)</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=URISERV%3Aef0016>

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/vocational-policy/doc/2015-riga-conclusions\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/vocational-policy/doc/2015-riga-conclusions_en.pdf)

realise his/her potential and sustainable prosperity be created in Europe. Strategic objectives include realisation of lifelong learning and mobility, improvement of the quality and efficiency of education and training, raising the level of basic skills, promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship, and fostering creativity and innovation. The *New skills agenda for Europe*, proposed in June 2016 by the European Commission, outlines key policy actions and initiatives which will seek to strengthen European tools for education and training to aid transparency in qualifications and skills and to improve basic competence levels <sup>(5)</sup>.

In this context, the joint conference organised by Cedefop and UNESCO will adopt a global perspective on future education and labour market trends as well as the role of education in mitigating potential imbalances and mismatches between skill demand and supply.

## Event objectives

The new global economy requires a different mix of competences and capacities from citizens, to enable them to thrive in culturally diverse and digitally connected communities. The international education context is rapidly changing, as new non-public providers have emerged, innovative and open-source learning models are being developed and curricula are modularised. Massive flows of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees across the world have made imperative the need for transparency and quality of education and training systems across different countries. Such developments pose a stark challenge for the quality, relevance, recognition and utilisation of skills in labour markets, key prerequisites for productive integration in society.

The conference aims to assess the implications of global economic trends and market forces for anticipated skill demand and mismatches, as well as the policy responses to education and training. It will consider how information on skills needs is used by countries to review and renew education and training and how qualifications frameworks (at sector, national, regional and global levels) can support coordination between education, training and the labour market, both nationally and internationally.

The conference aims to create a platform for cooperation and mutual learning between regions of the world, to debate challenges and to share best practices. Drawing on the wealth of research by the inter-agency group on TVET (UNESCO, Cedefop, EC, ETF, ILO, OECD and World Bank) and national organisations, the conference will focus on setting up and sustaining a modern system for skills anticipation, relying on latest technologies and data analytics, which contributes to developing effective policy responses in education, training and other relevant policy domains.

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<sup>(5)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/priorities/work-programme-2016\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/priorities/work-programme-2016_en)

# Conference programme

Thursday, 20 October 2016

08:30-09:30	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
09:30-10:45	<p>Official opening of the conference and key note speech</p> <p><b>Skills in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Borhene Chakroun - Chief of Section for Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening address: Opportunities and challenges for skills in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda <b>David Atchoarena (Director of the Division for Policies and lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO)</b></li> <li>• Fostering skills and talent in the EU to rise up to global challenges <b>Mara Brugia (Deputy Director, Cedefop)</b></li> <li>• Keynote: The Future of Jobs and Implications for Skills <b>Saadia Zahidi (World Economic Forum)</b></li> </ul>
10:45-11:15	Tea/coffee break
11:15-12:30	<p>SESSION I (Plenary, panel discussion)</p> <p><b>Global trends and skills: Common forces, different challenges</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Pascaline Descy - Head of Department for skills and labour market, Cedefop</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rob Wilson (IER)</b></li> <li>• <b>Moazam Mahmood (ILO)</b></li> <li>• <b>Dirk van Damme (OECD)</b></li> </ul>
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:30	<p><b>SESSION II (Parallel sessions)</b></p> <p>Parallel Session 1</p> <p><b>Digitization of economies and the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution: Changing work, jobs and skills</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Konstantinos Pouliakas - Cedefop</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maurizio Curtarelli (Ecorys)</b></li> <li>• <b>Vincenzo Spiezia (OECD)</b></li> </ul> <p>This session will be in English only.</p> <hr/> <p>Parallel Session 2</p> <p><b>Global challenges, drivers of changes and future skills needs</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Alena Zukersteinova - Cedefop</p>

	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hélène Guiol &amp; Camille Courchesne (UNESCO)</i></li> <li>• <i>Xavier Matheu de Cortada (ETF)</i></li> <li>• <i>Hernan Araneda (Chile foundation)</i></li> </ul> <p>This session will be in English only.</p> <hr/> <p>Parallel Session 3</p> <p><b>Skills and inequality</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Katerina Ananiadou - UNESCO</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lydia Toto Raharimalala (Minister of Employment and Vocational Training, Madagascar)</i></li> <li>• <i>Eva Jespersen (UNDP)</i></li> <li>• <i>Maria Hartl (IFAD)</i></li> <li>• <i>Aaron Benavot (Director of the Global Education Monitoring Report, UNESCO)</i></li> </ul> <p>This session will have interpretation from and into French and Spanish.</p> <hr/> <p>Parallel Session 4</p> <p><b>Making use of Big data to enrich labour market intelligence</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Vladimir Kvetan – Cedefop</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Miroslav Beblavy (CEPS &amp; Slovak Parliament)</i></li> <li>• <i>Bledi Taska (Burning Glass Technologies)</i></li> </ul> <p>This session will be in English only.</p>
15:30-17:00	<p>SESSION III (Plenary, speeches)</p> <p><b>Education and training for a global economy: How skills governance helps to adapt to a new landscape</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Hiromichi Katayama - UNESCO</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills governance as a reply to labour market challenges <i>Konstantinos Pouliakas (Cedefop) and Olga Strietska (ILO)</i></li> <li>• Adapting education and training based on skills evidence <i>Craig Fowler (NCVER)</i></li> <li>• National experience in adapting to a new landscape <i>Jamal Eddine El Aloua (SG Ministry NEVT, Morocco)</i></li> </ul>
17:00-18:00	<p>SESSION IV (Poster session, drink)</p> <p><b>Anticipate future – act now: How skills forecasting feeds into local policies across the world?</b></p> <p><b>Country examples:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>FYROM: Marek Radvansky (Slovak academy of Sciences)</i></li> <li>• <i>FRANCE: Sandrine Aboubadra-Pauly (Strategy, France)</i></li> <li>• <i>MEDITERRANEAN: Hélène Guiol and Camille Courchesne (UNESCO)</i></li> </ul>

- **BRASIL:** *BrasilFelipe Morgado (Senai)*
- **SINGAPORE:** *Johnny Sung(Institute for adult learning)*
- **POLAND:** *Arthur Gajdos (University of Lodz)*
- **KOREA:** *Cheol Hee Kim (KRIVET)*
- **UKRAINE:** *Ben Kriechel (Economix)*
- **GERMANY:** *Ben Kriechel (Economix)*
- **EU:** *Vladimir Kvetan (Cedefop)*

## Friday, 21 October 2016

08:00-09:30	Arrival of participants and coffee
09:30-11:00	<p>SESSION V (Plenary, speeches)</p> <p><b>VET qualifications in a global context: Making them relevant and facilitating comparison</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> George Kostakis - Cedefop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing VET content as a response to global trends <b>Sally Messenger (WorldSkills)</b></li> <li>• Connecting learners records <b>Ricardo Torres (National Student Clearing House, USA)</b></li> <li>• Qualification frameworks to facilitate comparison and recognition of qualifications <b>Koen Nomden (DG EMPL, European Commission) - TBC</b></li> <li>• African Qualifications Verification Network: An overview and looking ahead <b>Joel Samuels (SAQA, South Africa)</b></li> </ul>
11:00-11:30	Tea/coffee break
11:30-12:30	<p>SESSION VI (Plenary, panel discussion)</p> <p><b>Discussing possibilities to set up a Global partnership on skills anticipation and skills governance for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) provision</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Borhene Chakroun - Chief of Section for Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, UNESCO</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ana-Carla Pereira (European Commission)</i></li> <li>• <i>UNESCO</i></li> <li>• <i>OECD</i></li> <li>• <i>ILO</i></li> <li>• <i>ETF</i></li> </ul>
12:30	<p><b>Official closing of the conference followed by lunch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borhene Chakroun - UNESCO</li> <li>• Pascaline Descy – Cedefop</li> </ul>