Advancing TVET through industry partnerships and innovation

BILT Bridging Event

19-21 May 2026, Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Policy, governance and partnership ecosystems

Tuesday, 19 May 2026

Moderator

Natalie Ax

Project Manager, UNESCO-UNEVOC

Opening remarks

Matsheliso Molapo

Acting Vice-Principal, Strategy, Risk and Advisory Services, University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa

Opening remarks

Nomcebo Mthombeni

Interim Director of Research and Postgraduate Support, Durban University of Technology (DUT), South Africa

Opening remarks

James Keevy

Chief Executive Officer, JET Education Services, South Africa

Opening remarks

Friedrich Huebler

Head of UNESCO-UNEVOC

Advancing TVET through industry partnerships and innovation

BILT Bridging Event

19-21 May 2026, Umhlanga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Keynote

Advancing TVET through industry partnerships and innovation

Impulse talk

Transforming TVET systems in Africa: Policy, partnerships and the Continental TVET Strategy

Chigozie Emmanuel Okonkwo

Education and Skills Advisor, African Union Commission (AUC)

Panel

From policy to practice: Governance models for industry-responsive TVET

Panel
From policy to practice: Governance models for industry-responsive TVET

Faruk Reza
Curriculum Specialist, Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB), Bangladesh

Gabriel Konayuma
Principal TEVET Officer – Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Technology and Science (MOTS), Zambia

Moderator
Sanele Zondi
Secretary General, Technical Vocational Education Training Colleges Governors Council (TVETCGC), South Africa

Kertney Thompson
Chair of the Caribbean Association of National Training Authorities (CANTA)

Seamus Needham
Director of the Institute for Post-School Studies, University of the Western Cape (UWC), South Africa

Parallel sessions
Frameworks and tools for structured TVET-industry partnerships

African Sky (11th floor)

TVET-Industry roadmap tool

Andrew Paterson, Research Associate, JET Education Services and Zolile Nicholas Zungu, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Protea (4th floor)

Apprenticeships and their return on investment

Kathryn Rowan, Executive Director, Global Apprenticeship Network (GAN Global)

Bafana (4th floor)

Step-by-step private sector engagement

Christine von Harrach, Thematic Expert, Donor Committee for dual vocational Education and Training (DC dVET)

Lunch time

13:00 – 14:00

4th floor

Impulse talk

Centres of Specialisation: A systemic approach to industry-led TVET ecosystems in South Africa

Zulaikha Brey

Director, Practice Head: Financial Empowerment and Monitoring and Evaluation, DNA Economics, South Africa

Panel

Innovation ecosystems, clusters and networks for TVET transformation

Panel
Innovation ecosystems, clusters and networks for TVET transformation

Matteo Sgarzi
Head of Mission International Relations, Centre for Studies and Research on Qualifications (Céreq), France

Sello Sethusha
Director of Lecturer Development and Support, Technical and Vocational Education and Training, DHET, South Africa

Moderator
Sebastian Ciołek
Project Manager, Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB), Germany

Stefan Thomas
Senior Human Capital Development Expert, European Training Foundation (ETF)

Theodor Grassos,
Director, AKMI International, Greece, and Secretary General, European Association of Institutes for Vocational Training (EVBB)

Tea and networking break

15:45 – 16:00 SAST

See you tomorrow!

Still happening today:

- UNEVOC Network meeting (upon invitation)
  16:00, ‘Protea’, 4th floor

- Gala dinner for all participants
  18:30, ‘African Sky’, 11th floor