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Advancing TVET through industry partnerships and 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





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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 Ciolek
*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)*



The background of the slide is a faded image of a traditional tea set. It includes a silver-colored tray with ornate patterns, a small cup of dark tea on a matching saucer, and several round, light-colored pastries or buns. A semi-transparent dark brown banner is placed over the middle of the image to hold the text.

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

