

# Skills for Green and Just Transitions

## The role of Vocational Education and Training for Sustainable Development

### Background

The human capability to learn is widely regarded as one of the most important resources for achieving a sustainable society. Yet, traditional institutions of learning are lagging behind in transmitting such kind of transformative skills. In particular, the role of Vocational Education and Training (VET) is often limited to providing technical skills for greener economies. But will this suffice?

Faced with the scale and immediacy of the climate emergency, there is a need for a radical reimagining of approaches to VET. Indeed, predominant VET conceptions remain grounded in their history of industrialisation and modernisation. Common VET practices are still very much tied to environmentally and socially unsustainable models of growth and work, that all too often, and particularly in the Global South, do not correspond to the reality of informal, indecent and precarious work many people are faced with.

A radical re-imagining of VET requires an in-depth discussion on what a transition to a greener and just economy will mean, what type of substantive, transformative and systemic change is needed and what implications at the conceptual, policy and operational level this will have for VET.

The seminar aims at facilitating an in-depth discussion on the challenges of green and just transitions for VET systems, conceptions and practices in the Global South and North. In particular, it will analyse differences and similarities of challenges in a North-South perspective with a view to stimulating knowledge exchange and learning from each other.

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

**Please register at: [registration@oefse.at](mailto:registration@oefse.at).**  
**After registration the access code will be sent to you.**

Convener: ÖFSE – Austrian Foundation for Development Research

Gefördert durch die

 **Österreichische  
Entwicklungs-  
zusammenarbeit**

# Skills for Green and Just Transitions

## The role of Vocational Education and Training for Sustainable Development

Online Seminar

May 20th 2021, 17.00 – 19.30 CET

  
Österreichische Forschungsstiftung  
für Internationale Entwicklung

## Speakers

**Kenneth Barrientos** joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in 2013 as a Programme Officer. As of 2020, she leads and coordinates UNEVOC's SDGs and Greening TVET programme, aimed at strengthening TVET institutional capacities; developing normative guidance, practical implementation tools and learning resources; and facilitating knowledge sharing and network exchange on the topic. For the past 15 years, Ken has worked in the education and TVET sector. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration.

**Simon McGrath** is UNESCO Chair in International Education and Development at the University of Nottingham and Extraordinary Professor at the University of the Western Cape. He has worked for more than 25 years on the relationships between education and development and has advised many governments and international organisations. He currently is part of the Scientific Advisory Group for the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

**Presha Ramsarup** is Director at the Centre for Researching Education and Labour at University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Her research work focuses on Green Skill learning pathways, aimed to investigate the nature of learning pathways for sustainable development and a green economy in South Africa and thus lay at the nexus of two important areas for development, policy, and education namely, work and learning and sustainable development. She has previously served as Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) technical advisor to both provincial and national government to support the development of environmental and sustainability education within South Africa's education and training transformation process.

**Franz Rauch** is a Professor at the Institute of Instructional and School Development (IUS) at the Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt (Austria). He has been involved in research and development projects internationally and nationally since many years. He is one of the editors of Educational Action Research Journal and of the Journal ARISE and serves on editorial boards of other Journals (like The Journal of Environmental Education and The Journal of Work-Applied Management). His areas of research, teaching and publication are education for sustainable development, networks in education, school development, science education, continuing education for teachers and action research.

**Maud Seghers** is a Senior Education Advisor at VVOB – *education for development*, where she coordinates the educational support to VVOB's projects and programs in secondary technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Maud has more than 20 years of experience in education and development. She earned her Master's degree in Comparative and International Education from Teachers College, Columbia University and her Master's degree and upper secondary Teacher Certification from the University of Ghent, Belgium.

## Programme

- 17.00 Welcome and opening**  
Werner Raza (ÖFSE)
- 17.05 Key note**  
**Skills for green and just transitions.**  
**What challenges for VET?**  
International and South African Perspectives  
Presha Ramsarup, University of Witwatersrand
- 17.35 Key note**  
**The need to go beyond the VET orthodoxy**  
Simon McGrath, University of Nottingham
- 17.55 Q&A session**
- 18:00 Breakout sessions: reflection in small groups.**  
Results to be fed into the panel discussion.
- 18.15 Coffee break**
- 18:30 Panel discussion: How to transform VET systems and practices to make them contribute to green and just transitions?**
- Challenges and strategies from an ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) perspective. The case of Austria (Franz Rauch, University of Klagenfurt)
  - Challenges and strategies at the level of policy and practice (Kenneth Barrientos, UNESCO-UNEVOC)
  - Challenges and strategies for Development Cooperation (Maud Seghers, VVOB)
- 18:55 Q&A Session**
- 19:20 Wrap up and way forward**
- 19:30 Closure**

*Facilitation: Margarita Langthaler (ÖFSE)*