



Concept Note

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): Bridging the Gap - Lessons from the Dutch and African Experience

Panel 46 Africa Knows! 4th December 2020, 14:00 – 16:00 (CET), via ZOOM event

Register at <https://www.africaknows.eu/registration/>

Background

Recent studies demonstrate the deficit of employable skills in a large percentage of young African graduates. The historical legacy of grammar-type schools in many African countries has led to a surfeit of graduates with a lot of theory-based knowledge to the detriment of the competences and skills urgently needed by the rapidly expanding African economy. Several African governments are taking steps to redress this educational gap.

In the Netherlands, Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS) provide technical and vocational education and training (TVET) driven by the competences and skills needed by the professional labour market. More recently, in addition to this education mandate, UAS are increasingly engaging in practice-oriented research in collaboration with business and public sector entities that has a high social impact. What are the emerging best practices but also challenges of effective collaboration between business communities and TVET educational institutions in the areas of competence-based education and practice-oriented research? What lessons can we learn from the experience in the Netherlands and Africa?

A systems approach to aligning TVET education with labour market needs allows the simultaneous targeting of economic, environmental and social sustainability. Increasing access to high-quality academic programmes and vocational education act as accelerators for sustainable growth. These perspectives are outlined in the new African-European Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, as well as expressed by President Juncker in his 2018 State of the Union address. Taking the EU-Task Force Rural Africa's recommendations to heart, strengthening the capacity of people, notably women and youth, through higher education and skills development can unlock the potential of rural areas and secondary cities. Exchanging best practices and sharing knowledge are essential in this regard.

Objectives

In Panel 46 we would like to explore how a focus TVET education intervention can impact and engage young people in any sector. With this in mind, which best practices of institutional collaborations between Europe and Africa might serve as steppingstones to increase impact? Are there examples of successful collaboration that go beyond the level of higher education and seek to impact the quality and demand for vocational education as well? What is needed in terms of education, stakeholder engagement, policy and business planning?

In summary, Panel 46 asks questions in three broad areas.

1. Developments in TVET competence-based education and practice-oriented research.
2. Best Practices to increase TVET impact as accelerator for sustainable growth.
3. TVET curricula and technology transfer – Gaps and areas of concern.

The virtual event will bring together representatives from industry and academia. The also audience is encouraged to participate and share their comments or contributions in two ways. Via contributions in the chat function or during the open discussion. **The session will be recorded and to facilitate a report of the session** for further dissemination. All contributors to the report will be acknowledged.

Program

Opening Remarks – 5 Minutes

- Dr. Abiola Makinwa, Principal Lecturer, The Hague University of Applied Sciences (Panel Chair)

Keynote - TVET in Context - 10 Minutes

- Samira Zafar, Partnerships & Programme Development, Nuffic

Working Sessions Moderated by Abidemi Olatunbosun

Session 1 - Lessons from the Field, (30 Minutes)

- Diana van der Stelt et al Maxim Nyansa in West Africa,
- Abiodun Odunuga, International Development Consultant, Co-Founder and Executive Board Member, Friends of Nigeria (FON), Project Manager, Nigeria-France Tech Initiative (NFTI)
- Rotimi Olawale, Founder/Chief Executive JR Farms LLC (Nigeria, Rwanda, Netherlands and Zambia)

Coffee Break – 15 Minutes

Session 2 – Lessons from Educators – (20 Minutes)

- Jonas Aryee, Lecturer, Regional Maritime University, Ghana, Torben Andersen, George van Dyck, Regional Maritime University, Ghana
- Irene Dondjio, Senior Lecturer, International Business and Management Studies (The Hague University of applied Sciences)

Contributions from the Floor (20 Minutes)

Closing Remarks (5 Minutes)

- Dr. Abiola Makinwa