

▶ Services

UNESCO-UNEVOC and the UNEVOC Network provide various services. UNESCO-UNEVOC in particular, and the UNEVOC Network in general, fulfil their functions by providing various services to UNEVOC professionals, TVET practitioners and other parties working in the area of education and training. The services are primarily targeted at the professionals responsible for or associated in one way or another with UNEVOC Centres, with developing countries, countries in a post-conflict situation and countries in transition being the beneficiaries. A variety of methods are employed. Some of the methods employed by UNESCO-UNEVOC are sub-regional, regional seminars and workshops, international conferences, experts meetings, studies and Mobile Training Teams. A website is at the centre of the performance of its knowledge management and sharing functions. Some of the information on the website is dedicated to the UNEVOC Networks, and can be accessed by professionals at UNEVOC Centres only.

The principal services are as follows:

- Referral service, advice, assistance and support of UNESCO-UNEVOC;
- Capacity development;
- Infrastructure development support;
- Opportunities to tap support, assistance and collaboration of members of the networks through joint studies, sharing of framework documents and lessons learnt, reports of innovative practices and expert consultations;
- Interaction with experts through UNEVOC network sub-regional and regional clusters;
- Discussion papers and framework documents on various issues on TVET;
- Publications, i.e. CD-ROMS, books, directories, advocacy materials, frameworks, reports;
- Database on TVET institutions associated with UNESCO-UNEVOC exclusive to UNEVOC Centres;
- Website carrying UNESCO messages on TVET, including normative instruments;
- Access to the e-Forum;
- Advice on twinning and other links to technical and vocational education institutions in the UNEVOC Network.

"The UNEVOC network should be strengthened. Member States are encouraged to continue to underpin regional and national Centres which are essential vehicles for the achievement of the new vision for TVE in the twenty-first century." Second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education, Final Report, Seoul, 1999



Becoming a UNEVOC Centre within the UNEVOC Network

A UNESCO International Network for Technical and Vocational Education and Training

Further Information

UNESCO-UNEVOC	Phone: [+49] 228 8150-100
UN Campus	Fax: [+49] 228 8150-199
Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10	info@unevoc.unesco.org
53113 Bonn	www.unevoc.unesco.org
Germany	

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▶ Introduction

The UNEVOC Network is an international network in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). This network is made up of UNEVOC Centres, whose creation began in the 1990s. The UNEVOC Centres are established at national levels in institutions and organisations engaged in TVET. Because of the enormous variation in the type and functions of UNEVOC Centres, the UNEVOC Network can in fact be viewed as not one network but as several networks.

The UNEVOC Network links institutions and organisations working in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). This international network is one of the strategies adopted by the UNESCO TVET Programme whose aim is to assist Member States to develop and improve TVET. Beneficiaries of the UNEVOC Network includes TVET practitioners, in particular those in national education and training institutions, and other organisations that provide TVET. The institutions can be public, quasi-public, non-governmental or private.

In addition to the UNEVOC Network, there is an email discussion forum, the e-Forum; which is another network, fostered by UNESCO-UNEVOC. Taken together the two (i.e. the UNEVOC Network and the e-Forum) make up the UNEVOC Networks.

The UNEVOC Centres are meant to be focal points for UNESCO TVET messages. They play, among other things, an active part in the dissemination of messages to the beneficiaries, as well as in exchanging experiences in the UNEVOC Networks as a whole. Currently there are over 250 UNEVOC Centres from different regions of the world. There is great diversity in the UNEVOC Networks. Among the institutions making up the UNEVOC Networks are government departments, quasi-public authorities responsible for TVET, public vocational education and training institutions, quasi-public institutions, tertiary institutions, and skills development centres in universities.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training fosters the UNEVOC Network in UNESCO Member States. UNESCO-UNEVOC is located in Bonn, Germany. It promotes, orchestrates and mobilises all the endeavours concerning the UNEVOC Network. UNESCO-UNEVOC is thus the hub of the UNEVOC Networks.

For more information on the UNEVOC Network please consult our website at: www.unevoc.unesco.org/network

▶ Objectives of UNEVOC Network

The network has a threefold objective:

- To encourage and promote the development of TVET systems and policies through the adaptation of international experiences, best practices and innovations in TVET;
- To develop the capacities of UNEVOC Centres and associated TVET practitioners; and
- To share knowledge, know-how and competencies.

▶ Joining the UNEVOC Network

The UNEVOC network is open to technical and vocational institutions and other institutions working in the area of education and training in UNESCO Member States. Nationally recognised TVET institutions and organisations satisfying the criteria for membership can join the UNEVOC Network. There can be one or more UNEVOC Centres in each Member State. There are obligations attached to being a member of the UNEVOC Network.

▶ Criteria and procedures to become a UNEVOC Centre

Criteria to become a UNEVOC Centre

- Recognition by the national government and the competent authorities, such as a national agency responsible for one or more aspects of TVET, as a national TVET institution;
- Registration by the national competent authorities responsible for TVET as a national vocational education and training institution, e.g. technical college, polytechnic, technical and further education institution, training institution, a higher education institution engaged in skills development;
- Adequate institutional capacity for national dissemination of UNESCO TVET messages and networking with other UNEVOC Centres worldwide;
- Demonstrated experience in, and national recognition for, undertaking education and training, and research activities;
- Availability of adequate TVET staff and resources to attend to UNEVOC activities; and
- Availability of programmes to publish TVET publications on a regular basis for sharing in the network.

Procedures to join the UNEVOC Network

- Invitation from UNESCO-UNEVOC in Bonn upon identification as a reputable institution in education and training and skills development;
- Invitation by UNESCO-UNEVOC following a request from a Member State;
- Nomination by a UNESCO National Commission and request UNEVOC Nomination Form from UNESCO - UNEVOC;
- Completion of a UNEVOC nomination / application form;
- Processing of the application by UNESCO-UNEVOC;
- Endorsement of the Secretary General of the National Commission for UNESCO following the review by UNESCO-UNEVOC;
- Approval /clarification of the nomination by the Director of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre;
- Award of certificate of a UNEVOC Centre to accepted institution.

▶ Obligations of UNEVOC Centres

- Organising national and regional network activities, in particular disseminating to TVET practitioners UNESCO TVET messages, exchange of information, experiences and lessons learnt;
- Participating in events organised by UNESCO-UNEVOC, including contributing to the collection of country data and reports on good practices, frameworks, innovations and models on TVET;
- Reporting changes on the situation of the UNEVOC Centre, with regard to their status, contact details and staff movements;
- Collaborating through networking with other UNEVOC Centres;
- Updating information pertaining to the UNEVOC Centre on the UNEVOC website; and
- Submission of reports upon request.

In the event a UNEVOC Centre can no longer fulfil its obligations, the UNEVOC services and the recognition as a UNEVOC Centre can be withdrawn. The withdrawal will be done following consultations with the National Commission.