

Team Europe's

TVET Sector Support Programme

Year Re-Cap

Year Re-Cap 2024



Team Europe Launches Skills Development Programme to Promote Youth Empowerment in Balochistan

Quetta, 14 June, 2024

Following the success of recent skills development initiatives in Pakistan, Team Europe has launched a new programme in Balochistan on training and empowering youth for better employment opportunities.

This programme, performed in partnership with the Government of Germany aims to revolutionize the skills training sector in Balochistan by transforming the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) landscape in the province.

The programme also contributes to the EU's Global Gateway Initiative, the EU's largest investment programme designed to tackle the most pressing global challenges, from fighting climate change to improving health systems and boosting the competitiveness and security of global supply chains.

After the launch of Team Europe's TVET programme in Gilgit, Peshawar and Islamabad, the Quetta event was another resounding success. The ceremony featured distinguished guests, including the Honourable Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, the EU Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Riina Kionka and German Consul General Dr. Rüdiger Lotz, among others.

In his keynote address, Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti expressed his deep gratitude for the unwavering

support from the EU and the German Government. He highlighted the urgent need for such programmes in Balochistan, emphasising their role in strengthening educational institutions and empowering the youth.



"This programme aims to equip our young population with vital skills, enabling them to contribute significantly to Balochistan's economic development."



"We believe that investing in the employable skills of youth of this province is not just an individual investment in the opportunities and potential of each of these young people. In fact, it is also an investment in the socio-economic future of Balochistan",

EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka

The Consul General of German Consulate at Karachi Dr. Rüdiger Lotz, highlighted the enhanced impact of Team Europe partners Germany and the European Union working together with the national and provincial authorities to improve the TVET sector, thereby enhancing employment prospects for its youth.

Addressing the ceremony, Chairperson NAVTTC Gulmina Bilal Ahmad, appreciated the Team Europe initiative to transform the country's TVET sector, adding that NAVTTC will make utmost effort to turn the vision into reality.

The TVET Sector Support Programme is a five-year initiative that aims to improve Pakistan's socio-economic situation by enhancing the access to training opportunities in high-demand professions for both women and men.

It seeks to advance human capital development in Pakistan by cooperating with TVET institutions that qualify young women and men for jobs in green and digital fields.

Through the joint effort of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the British Council, this programme sets forth a comprehensive upgrade to TVET institutions. This upgrade will go hand in hand with other educational reforms that specifically target youth empowerment.

Stakeholder Engagement Workshops

Islamabad

24 July, 2024

The Islamabad workshop marked the beginning of the series and focused on addressing skill gaps in Pakistan's IT and digital sectors. Held at the NAVTTC headquarters, the event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including policymakers, industry representatives, and academic leaders.



Ms. Gulmina Bilal, Chairperson NAVTTC, emphasized the importance of targeted digital skills training, especially for women and underrepresented groups. Ms. Maarya Rehman, Deputy Country Director British Council, outlined the programme's commitment to creating Centers of Excellence (CoEs).

Discussions led by Mr. Nadeem Malik, General Secretary of P@SHA, highlighted the urgent need for curriculum updates to meet market demands in areas such as AI, programming, and cybersecurity. The participants also deliberated on sustainable CoE models that integrate international partnerships and industry collaborations. The workshop concluded with a roadmap for CoEs as digital skill hubs and a commitment to fostering industry-academia linkages to ensure practical learning opportunities.



Peshawar

30 July, 2024

The Peshawar workshop centered on bridging the demand-supply gap in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's digital workforce. Hosted at the Institute of Management Sciences, the event featured keynotes by Dr. Akif Khan of KPITB and Abdul Karim Khan, Advisor to the KP Chief Minister. They highlighted the province's efforts to build a digital talent pipeline and the challenges posed by outdated infrastructure and curricula.



Participants engaged in interactive group discussions to address these challenges, proposing the establishment of incubation hubs and robust apprenticeship programs to support entrepreneurship. Specific focus was placed on enhancing mentorship opportunities and ensuring accessibility to international certifications.

The workshop concluded with actionable

recommendations tailored to the region's unique needs, including targeted training programs in digital literacy, e-commerce, and advanced IT skills.

Quetta

7 August, 2024



The Quetta workshop emphasized the importance of aligning skill development initiatives with Balochistan's market demands while addressing cultural and gender barriers. Chaired by Ms. Raheela Durani, Minister for Higher & Technical Education, the event underscored the potential of the region's youth to contribute to the digital economy.



Participants discussed the need for specialized training in UX design, cybersecurity, and digital marketing, identifying significant gaps in the current training landscape. Recommendations included adopting a hub-and-spoke model for CoEs to reach remote areas and integrating cultural sensitivities into program design. The event also explored strategies for remote training to enhance accessibility for women, resulting in a comprehensive plan to develop region-specific curricula and methodologies.

Gilgit Baltistan

21 & 22 August, 2024



Held in both Gilgit and Skardu, these workshops highlighted the region's unique challenges and opportunities in digital skill development.

Mr. Ghulam Shehzad Agha, Minister of Education Gilgit-Baltistan, led discussions on reducing barriers to education and empowering women through high-tech training programs.



Participants proposed establishing CoEs tailored to the region's needs, focusing on incubation hubs, mentorship programs, and international accreditation for training courses.

The workshops also addressed infrastructure challenges, such as unreliable internet and electricity, proposing solutions like satellite-based connectivity and partnerships with telecom companies. These sessions resulted in detailed plans for CoEs that would serve as centers for innovation and entrepreneurship in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks from Mr. Riaz Ahmed, secretary of IT, GB. He praised the EU and British Council's initiative for developing high-tech skills in Gilgit-Baltistan. He specifically thanked the British Council for bringing together a diverse group all geared towards the same goal, which was much needed to synergize various public and private initiatives. He had listened carefully to the industry and invited them all to take the discussions further with his department. He hoped that the EU TVET-IV component would build on, and complement, existing initiatives, and offered full cooperation to the project and the industry.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks to all participants, reaffirming the importance of continued collaboration between the stakeholders to achieve the project's objectives.

Employer Engagement Workshop - NIC Islamabad

25 September, 2024



The British Council and the National Incubation Center (NIC) hosted the EmpowerTech: Skills for Employability workshop in Islamabad under the EU-funded TVET sector support programme. The event gathered tech industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and freelancers to address skills gaps and recruitment challenges in the IT and high-tech sectors, with a particular focus on increasing women's employability.

EU-TVET IV, outlined the programme's multi-year goals and interventions aimed at building a skilled female workforce for Pakistan's rapidly evolving digital industry.



The workshop opened with welcoming remarks from NIC's Project Director, Sayyed Ahmad Masud, followed by insights from Sarah Parvez, British Council Pakistan's Head of Education, on the significance of the TVET sector. Dr Nasir Khan, Team Lead for



Participants engaged in structured discussions using the World Café format, where they were divided into groups representing global HR recruiters, local and global service providers, and freelancers. Discussions spanned two rounds of 25 minutes each, facilitated by "learning ambassadors" to share insights across groups. The dialogues explored skills gaps in local and global markets, challenges faced by employers, and strategies to address unemployment.

Findings from these discussions were presented in an open forum, fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas among participants. Unique and shared insights emerged, highlighting the skills most in demand by recruiters and actionable strategies to bridge the employability gap. Feedback was further collected through structured questionnaires, providing valuable input for ongoing interventions to support women entering the tech sector.

The event concluded with remarks from the British Council summarizing the outcomes and next steps, emphasizing continued engagement with the private sector. A networking lunch followed, providing attendees with an opportunity to connect informally and explore potential collaborations.

COE Selection Meeting - Islamabad

10 October, 2024



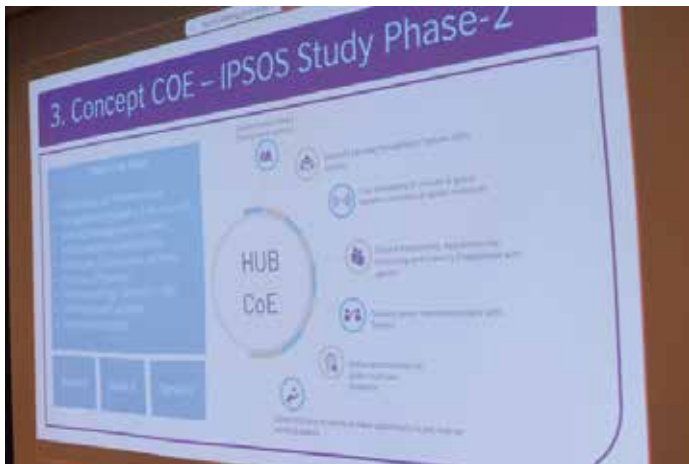
On October 10, 2024, the British Council hosted a pivotal meeting at PC Hotel Rawalpindi to select institutes for establishing Centres of Excellence (CoEs) under the EU TVET Sector Support Programme. The initiative aims to strengthen Pakistan's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, focusing on empowering women with digital and high-tech skills. Participants included representatives from public sector organizations, educational institutions, and international partners.

The meeting began with an introduction to the EU TVET IV program by Dr. Nasir Khan, who outlined its goal of enhancing the availability of skilled female labour in digital and high-tech professions. The initiative also targets underrepresented women, including refugees and those with disabilities, by developing 20 demand-driven Competency-Based Training & Assessment courses. These courses align with local and global job markets, ensuring inclusivity and improved employment opportunities.



Mr. Abdul Hafeez Abbasi presented findings from a Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) report conducted by IPSOS. The report emphasized the need for market-aligned skills and addressed challenges such as high certification costs, which the British Council pledged to mitigate through partnerships with course providers. The proposed CoEs will follow a Hub and Spoke model, where internationally accredited hubs will offer advanced training and connect digitally with multiple spokes to ensure widespread impact. These CoEs will provide technical and soft skills to prepare students for modern workplaces.

The feasibility study for selecting institutes utilized a comprehensive dashboard with data collected on 57 indicators across 10 criteria. Following rigorous spokes across Balochistan,



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in Quetta, and IMSciences in Peshawar, with spokes established at technical and vocational centers in urban and rural areas.



The meeting concluded with unanimous decisions on the selection of institutes and the endorsement of courses identified in the LMI report.



Inclusive TVET Model - Empowering Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

19 December, 2024



A one-day workshop was held on December 19, 2024, to foster dialogue and develop actionable strategies for creating an inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystem for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Pakistan.

The event brought together diverse stakeholders, including representatives from organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), public institutions like Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal, private sector organizations, disability rights activists, and refugee communities. The discussions focused on innovative solutions and best practices to empower PWDs through skill development and vocational opportunities.

The workshop emphasized the importance of inclusion as a driver of sustainable socio-economic development. Participants discussed the need to make TVET institutions more accessible and adaptive for PWDs by fostering partnerships among donors, NGOs, and private entities. They highlighted the challenges faced by PWDs, particularly refugees and rural populations, and explored ways to address these

through inclusive policymaking, accessible infrastructure, curriculum design, and assistive technologies.



Participants proposed the need for revising existing policies to include provisions for PWDs, such as adding disability friendly clause(s) to the Non-Discriminatory Act 2022 of NAVTTC and aligning the National Skills Strategy and NVQF with inclusive goals. There was a strong focus on designing TVET curricula tailored to the needs of hearing-impaired individuals, incorporating assistive technologies like screen readers, and adopting Universal Design for Learning (UDL). The importance of training instructors to meet the diverse needs of PWDs was also emphasized, alongside leveraging media to bridge the gap between opportunities and rural disabled populations.

Recommendations included conducting a policy gap analysis, launching NAVTTC-accredited programs specifically for PWDs, and ensuring accountability through accreditation for disability-friendly institutions. Participants also stressed the importance of addressing sexual harassment of women with disabilities through targeted budget allocations and improving access to financial aid and scholarships to purchase assistive tools.

The workshop concluded with a call for inclusive behaviour, infrastructure, and curriculum to empower PWDs and leave no one behind in the pursuit of equal opportunities.



