

LLWF Newsletter

Issue 01 • October 2002

Editorial

This is the initial issue of the "LLWF Newsletter". It provides a platform for stakeholders to exchange information on the initiative "Learning for Life, Work and the Future: Stimulating Reform in Southern Africa through Sub-Regional Co-operation" (LLWF Initiative). It supplements related Internet services such as the e-mail based "LLWF List" (see page 4) and the following website: <http://www.unevoc.de/southernafrica>

This first issue of the LLWF Newsletter provides updates on the progress reached so in the various sub-projects of the LLWF Initiative. It also informs on other activities that might be of particular interest to LLWF stakeholders, such as the e-learning initiatives "DASSIE" and "Africa Drive" in South Africa.

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre and the Department of Vocational Education and Training of the Ministry of Education of Botswana have prepared this initial issue jointly. We encourage those interested in LLWF activities to contribute actively to its content.

We would be particularly happy if interested partners in SADC Member States would assume responsibility for the preparation of future issues of the LLWF Newsletter. While the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre is prepared to provide logistic support and backstopping, we welcome every effort from among stakeholders in the region to assume ownership.

Mogotsa M. Kewagamang
Department of Vocational Education
and Training

Hans Kröner
LLWF Project Officer at the
UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre

What is LLWF?

The Initiative "Learning for Life, Work and the Future: Stimulating Reform in Southern Africa through Sub-Regional Co-operation" (LLWF Initiative) has been launched jointly by the Department of Vocational Education and Training (DVET) of the Ministry of Education of Botswana and the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn, Germany. Its main objective is to develop sub-regional cooperation in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in the 14 Member States of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which currently include Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Its purpose was to assist UNEVOC Centres and other TVET stakeholders in the sub-region to develop their systems of TVET further in areas of common interest, thus contributing to put into practice the recommendations adopted at the Second International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education, Seoul, Republic of Korea, April 1999.

At the initial workshop held in Gaborone, Botswana, in December 2000, decision-makers from twelve SADC countries identified project proposals in eight areas related to technical and vocational education and training (see overview on page 2).



LLWF project proposals: an overview

1. Enhancing access to effective technical and vocational education and training: a feasibility study

A large number of barriers to access TVET have been identified, which should be addressed by the activities mentioned in this project proposal.

2. The development of a quality assurance programme

The objective of this project is to establish quality assurance mechanisms for TVET up to diploma level in SADC Member States.

3. Professional staff development programme in TVET

This project's objective is to improve the quality of the delivery of TVET in the SADC region through the development of further staff training mechanisms.

4. The development of an information and communication technologies programme

The objective of this project is to facilitate the use of information and communication technologies in the world of work through the delivery of high quality TVET.

5. The development of a training programme for the unemployed and for the informal sector

This project's objective is to develop training in entrepreneurial skills and job creation and to make it accessible for the unemployed and people working in the informal sector.

6. The development of a Regional Qualifications Framework

The objective of this project is to establish National Qualification Frameworks in the participating countries, which will later be developed into a Regional Qualifications Framework with the ultimate goal to facilitate the mobility and transferability of an educated and skilled workforce.

7. HIV/Aids in TVET staff development

HIV/Aids infection rates are particularly high in the region. Due to HIV/Aids, a still growing member of young people is confronted with a declining number of available teaching staff. Therefore, all participants of society - including staff and students of TVET institutions - need to combat the further spreading of the virus. The project will focus on several activities related to this.

8. Information, knowledge management, networking

This project builds the basic for successful implementation of the other projects mentioned above. Its overall aim is to enhance the effectiveness of TVET departments in Member States' ministries through a systematised sub-regional information sharing.

LLWF project update

The eight LLWF projects are making progress at different speeds. Here is an update on recent developments:

Project 1: Enhancing access to effective technical and vocational education and training: a feasibility study

The first step will be to conduct a feasibility study concerning access in TVET in SADC Member States. The LLWF coordinators are in touch with a donor agency that has indicated interest in collaborating. A project document is currently being prepared.

Project 2: The development of a quality assurance programme

As this project is closely interrelated with project 6 (RQF), it has not been pursued independently yet. Nevertheless, efforts are being made to prepare a small workshop that would focus in particular on LLWF projects 2, 5 and 7. Contacts have been made with the Vocational Education and Training Authority in the United Republic of Tanzania to explore the feasibility of such a workshop in early 2003.

Project 3: Professional staff development programme in TVET

A draft project proposal on "*Training of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Trainers in the SADC Sub-Region*" is currently being examined. It aims at utilizing a "*Technical and Vocational Teacher Training Core Curriculum*" developed by the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). The Industrial and Vocational Training Board (IVTB) of Mauritius has indicated its interest in collaborating.

Project 4: The development of an information and communication technologies (ICTs) programme

The first step will be a survey on the application of ICTs in TVET in the SADC region. The National Computer Board (NCB) of Mauritius has developed a questionnaire. DVET Botswana is currently identifying contact persons in SADC countries.

Project 5: The development of a training programme for the unemployed and for the informal sector

The issue of training for the unemployed and for the informal sector

is linked with project 1 (Access). The workshop envisaged for early 2003 (see project 2 above) might provide an opportunity to carry this project further.

Project 6: The Development of a Regional Qualifications Framework

UNESCO-UNEVOC and ILO have agreed to have a feasibility study prepared, which would address the current situation of national qualifications frameworks in six to seven SADC countries (see "A regional qualifications framework for SADC?" on page 3).

Project 7: HIV/AIDS in TVET Staff Development

Botswana has submitted a comprehensive proposal through the National Aids Coordinating Authority. The workshop envisaged for early 2003 (see project 2 above) might provide an opportunity to exchange experiences, to create synergies and to develop common strategies.

Project 8: Information, Knowledge Management and Networking

The overriding approach to improving sub-regional cooperation is Project 8: Information, Knowledge Management and Networking in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). This is considered as a backbone for enhanced South-South cooperation in technical and vocational education and training in the SADC region. A strategy was developed during the 10th European Congress and Specialist Trade Fair for Education and Information Technology (see article "Workshop at LEARNTEC 2002") on page 3).

Once the technology is in place, UNEVOC considers launching a "Mobile Training Team" to train relevant staff in participating countries.

Support Structure: Networking, Monitoring, Evaluation



LLWF planning meeting at the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn: Mr Jones (DFID Consultant), Ms Mitschke (UNEVOC), Ms Mussgnug (SAP), Ms Nganunu (DVET), Ms Maintz and Mr Krönner (UNEVOC).

Networking, Monitoring and Evaluation are seen as an essential support structure to make the LLWF Initiative sustainable.

Meetings of partners and other interested parties (e.g. the Working Group for International Co-operation in Skills Development, see "LLWF introduced to donors", see page 3, "LEARNTEC 2002", see page 3, and Infotech 2002 in Mauritius) are being utilized to carry the planning further, to stimulate new initiatives, and to ensure communication among stakeholders.

The present "LLWF Newsletter" is an example for the support structure.

A regional qualifications framework for SADC?

SADC Ministers have agreed to engage themselves in the development of a Regional Qualifications Framework as suggested in the course of the LLWF Initiative (see "HRD Ministers adopt LLWF" on this page).

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre and ILO have agreed to have a feasibility study conducted.

The proposed SADC Regional Qualifications Framework (RQF) will help in the reform of vocational education and training systems in the SADC Member States. It will facilitate simplifying, structuring, classifying and valuing existing qualifications and awards from all areas of education and training within each country and across the region. A RQF would also support the mobility of learners and skilled workers in the region.

Subject to the recommendations that will come up in the feasibility study, the main project might, in a pilot phase, address six to seven more advanced countries. The other countries would then be invited to join the second phase. All results will be shared, from the outset, with all SADC countries.

LLWF introduced to donors

The *Working Group for International Co-operation in Skills Development* met in Interlaken, Switzerland, in September 2001. The meeting focused on "Linking Work, Skills and

Knowledge; Challenges for International Co-operation".

DVET and the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre presented the LLWF initiative jointly. The main purpose was to draw attention of donor agencies to the eight project proposals for subregional co-operation in TVET for which donor support is needed. A comprehensive 60-page document "Proposals for Subregional Co-operation in Southern Africa" was prepared for that purpose. Representatives of several agencies emphasized their interest in further collaboration.

The *Working Group for International Co-operation in Skills Development* is an informal structure of donor and multinational agencies active in the field of technical and vocational education and training. It has been initiated jointly by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Northern Policy Research and Advisory Network on Education and Training (NORRAG). The Secretariat of the Working Group is based at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies; University of Geneva.

The Working Group plans to hold its next meeting in April 2002 at the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn, Germany.

The document "Proposals for Subregional Co-operation in Southern Africa" (60 pages) can be downloaded from:
www.unevoc.de/southernafrica

Hardcopies can be requested from the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre.

Workshop at LEARNTEC 2002

The 10th European Congress and Specialist Trade Fair for Education and Information Technology (LEARNTEC 2002) was held in Germany, in February 2002.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from various sources, including the private sector, 14 TVET and ICT experts from UNEVOC Centres and other LLWF stakeholders had the opportunity to hold a Special UNESCO-UNEVOC Workshop "Focus Southern Africa", organized by the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre.



Participants in the Special UNESCO-UNEVOC Workshop "Focus Southern Africa" at LEARNTEC 2002

The interest of participants focused on two issues:

- Improving knowledge management in TVET in the subregion by introducing an internet server
- Providing a technical platform for management and delivery of e-learning content across SADC.

This was particularly fuelled by the announcement of SAP AG, one of the largest software producers worldwide, to sponsor a suitable software platform, the "SAP Learning Solution", as well as the technical infrastructure (server and its connectivity).

This platform would allow SADC Member States to make relevant content available in order to have documents shared such as policy documents, blueprints, syllabuses, curricula, materials for teacher training, on assessment and certification, etc.

Training requirements for the TVET knowledge management platform have been identified in terms of identification and classification of content to be shared, operation and management of the system, and methods of retrieval of content from the knowledge server.

HRD Ministers adopt LLWF

At the recent Annual Human Resources Development (HRD) Sectoral Meeting held in Mauritius in July 2002, the HRD Ministers noted that the Technical Committee on Intermediate Education and Training (TCIET) was collaborating with the Learning for Life, Work and Future (LLWF Initiative) spearheaded by the Government of Botswana. The Ministers approved the Strategic Plan for the TCIET which includes the work undertaken by the LLWF Initiative as an integral part of the Technical Committee activities and adopted the LLWF initiative as a SADC initiative.

E-Learning in South Africa

Two e-learning initiatives, "DASSIE" and "Africa Drive", are taking place in South Africa. Their stakeholders are open to share their experiences with other interested parties and similar projects in the SADC region and elsewhere, and to work for future cooperation.

DASSIE

As a result of a UNESCO request, a public-private partnership of companies (SAP AG Corporate Research, INGENATIC, Bosch, and Lucas Nuelle) and the Western Cape Educational Department agreed to implement an e-learning pilot research project in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. The project is called DASSIE, which stands for "Distributed Advanced Strategic System for Industrial E-Learning". The German Technical Cooperation Agency GTZ supports it financially. Implementation will include phased installation of an e-learning platform and the delivery of quality interactive learning content to learners at technical colleges.

The objective is to assess the relevance and value that e-learning can bring to the cost-effective delivery of quality learning. In addition, an e-learning model is developed for the whole of Southern Africa, with the aim of supporting the South African Government's policy of open and

flexible learning, accessibility, and the expansion of education and training. DASSIE builds upon the results of a German lighthouse project called L³ Project (L³ stands for "Life Long Learning"). In DASSIE, the L³ experience is being transferred and adapted to meet local needs and, hence, will be put at the disposal of South Africa and the whole region.

For further information on DASSIE, please contact Mrs Bettina Mussnug, Corporate Research, SAP AG, fax [+49] (721) 69 68 16, bettina.mussnug@sap.com

Africa Drive

A second e-learning pilot research project in South Africa is the Africa Drive Project (ADP). It involves the University of North-West's main and satellite campuses and five learning centres at secondary schools in the North-West Province. The primary objective of the ADP is to develop new learner-centred strategies, focusing on e-learning, for teachers to improve their knowledge and skills and to use them to deliver quality learning to learners.

ADP will provide training in the key areas of science, mathematics, physics, biology, technology and entrepreneurship, English communication skills, computer literacy and social responsibility aspects, such as prevention of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, and the promotion of conservation of the environment.

These strategies include innovative and appropriate technology, communication-infrastructure and financial models. They may provide a starting point for the rollout of learning for pre-service and in-service educators.

Public-private partners of the project are the University of the North West (project owner), the North-West Education Department, the German Technical Cooperation Agency GTZ, SAP AG, and the Paragon Development Forum. The implementation phase of Africa Drive will start in January 2003.

For further information on Africa Drive, please contact Mr Danie Kok, Corporate Research, SAP AG, phone [+27] (11) 319 7460, fax [+27] (11) 319 7474, danie.kok@sap.com

LLWF E- List

Soon after the initial LLWF workshop in December 2000, the UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn launched an E-List to facilitate exchange of information among LLWF stakeholders.

To that end, the e-mail address LLWF@unevoc.de has been established.

In case you are not on the list, or if your e-mail address has changed recently, kindly send an e-mail message to LLWF@unevoc.de and request for subscription.

Learning for Life, Work and the Future

Stimulating Reform in Southern Africa through Subregional Co-operation

An initiative launched jointly by:



Ministry of Education
Department of Vocational
Education and Training