



ONLINE

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTING NEXT GENERATION SECTOR SKILLS BODIES

DESIGNING AND STRENGTHENING SECTORAL APPROACHES
TO SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

5 – 30 OCTOBER 2026

 4 WEEKS, 30 HOURS

Information Note



International
Labour
Organization



International Training Centre

WHAT IS THE COURSE ABOUT?

Sector Skills Bodies (SSBs) - known variously as Sector Skills Councils, Jobs and Skills Councils, and other titles, have been a popular policy response in international practice to bridge the gap between labour market needs and the skills system at a sectoral level - bringing employers, workers, government and education and training institutions together around shared evidence and priorities, as a structure for improving skills relevance and employability.

Emerging global practice now reveals a paradigm shift in SSB mandates as they respond to the rapidly evolving skills landscape. Many SSBs are moving beyond a narrow focus on standards and training to combine inclusive skills development with business development capabilities, expanding their services to help enterprises and workers respond to technological change, strengthen productivity and innovation and support the 'Just Transition' to sustainable economies.

The ***Implementing Next Generation Sector Skills Bodies*** course equips participants to design, establish and implement new SSBs and invites representatives from skills systems with established SSBs to review and revitalize their operations in the light of innovative new international practices.

The course content will draw evidence and examples from the forthcoming ILO publication: **Next generation Sector Skills Bodies: Driving productivity, innovation, decent work and social justice**. It will provide an international peer-learning opportunity and an opportunity to bring innovative practices into national systems, strengthen industry-skills linkages for improved human capital development and skilled decent employment.

WHO ATTENDS THIS COURSE?

The ***Implementing Next Generation Sector Skills Bodies*** course is designed for parties with a role or an interest in aligning skills systems to meet current and future labour market demands. This includes:

- Policymakers and officials from ministries of labour, TVET, education, employment and sectoral line ministries seeking to implement structures to improve skills relevance and productivity
- Representatives of employers' and workers' organisations, industry associations, chambers and enterprise networks
- Board members and secretariats of sector skills bodies, national skills authorities, TVET councils and related institutions



"Next generation Sector Skills Bodies can transform skills systems by institutionalizing industry leadership and expanding their role to support productivity, innovation and more responsive skills development. ILO's new publication captures the evidence and provides an innovative guidance framework for policy makers, social partners and existing sector skills bodies seeking to address broken or weak linkages between training systems and labour market realities."

Ashwani Aggarwal

HEAD (SKILLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING POLICY AND GOVERNANCE), ILO

- Leaders and specialists from training providers, labour market information institutions and public employment services
- Technical experts and staff from development partners focusing on skills development reform or increasing private sector engagement in the skills system.

The participation of full tripartite country delegations (government, workers and employers) is strongly encouraged to support integrated dialogue and policy coherence. ITCILO promotes the equal participation of women and men and the inclusion of individuals with disabilities.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The ***Implementing Next Generation Sector Skills Bodies*** course will draw on the latest global practice to illustrate how effective sectoral skills bodies are implemented and operationalised in their national contexts. It will explore how their remit and scope can develop over time to play an increasingly strategic role in improving skills and productivity, and will equip participants with tools and models to implement or reform models of inclusive, industry-led skills system collaboration.

After this course, participants will be able to:

- **Explain** the strategic rationale for sectoral approaches and assess when an SSB is an appropriate response to the skills, productivity and decent work challenges
- **Analyse** the different SSB functions that are emerging in international practice
- **Compare** different models of governance and financing and discuss how these structures inform the capabilities, scope and outputs of an SSB
- **Apply** labour market analysis and industry foresight at the sectoral level
- **Evaluate** the factors that contribute to SSB effectiveness and the common challenges that hinder implementation and sustainability.

COURSE CONTENT

Module 1: Introducing Next Generation Sector Skills Bodies – roles and responsibilities

This module introduces Sector Skills Bodies as a mechanism to connect the world of education and training with the world of work. It examines why sector-level structures can respond more rapidly to changing technologies, trade conditions and other factors that continually shape labour market needs. It then moves on to analyse the three main categories of roles and responsibilities adopted by effective SSBs in different national contexts, and highlights their shifting mandate with particular emphasis on recent innovations and emerging trends in international SSB models.

The first case study webinar provides a deep dive into one SSB and provides an example of how AI is integrated into real-time skills anticipation and forecasting.

Module 2: Governance, social dialogue, oversight and sustainable financing

In this module, participants will explore the institutional arrangements that ensure an SSB is legitimate, effective and accountable. The module will investigate why clear governance structures are so critical to the success of SSBs, and explore the relationship between governance, mandate and capacity of the SSB. It will then consider the main financing options inviting participants to analyse the trade-offs between lower-cost committee structures and more autonomous SSBs with a formalised scope.

Module 3: Skills needs anticipation, skills utilisation and the SPEED methodology

Module 3 provides a guide through the main data and methodologies for analysing skills needs and then progresses to explore the skills cycle, which considers not only how skills are developed, but how skills are deployed and utilised in the workplace. The ILO Skills for Productivity, Environment and Economic Development (SPEED) model is introduced as a systematic framework for analysing current and future skills needs, identifying system-wide challenges while facilitating a just transition towards environmentally sustainable societies and economies for all.

The second case study will follow a SPEED methodology in a national context to share the experience of how the process can lead to practical and new skills innovations.

Module 4: Challenges, risks and success factors for effective SSB implementation

While SSB models across international practice can be extremely varied, there are several challenges and difficulties that are commonly experienced, especially in the establishment phases. This module diagnoses these challenges and discusses the root causes and potential solutions. The phased roadmap approach is outlined, alongside the identification of critical success factors that can help to unblock operational barriers and unlock the effective operationalization of SSBs within national skills systems.

CERTIFICATE

Participants who complete the activities will be awarded with an ITCILO Certificate of Participation.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply online: <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/DST/A9719092/en>

The application deadline is 20 September 2026.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Relevant professional experience.
- Sponsorship letter covering course fees.

FELLOWSHIPS

A limited number of fellowships are available, with priority given to women, persons with disabilities, tripartite delegations, and first-time ITCILO applicants.

FEES

Tuition Price: EUR 1,010

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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