



***Greening the economy:  
The role of education for sustainable development in technical  
education and vocational training***

**Side event to be held in conjunction with the  
Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference  
Astana, 21-23 September 2011**

**Date: 22 September 2011**

**Time: 1 – 3 p.m.**

**Room: B 10**

Organized by:

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development

Speakers include:

**Mr. Gerald Farthing**

Deputy Minister of Education, Manitoba/Canada  
and Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee for Education for Sustainable Development

**Mr. Harry Stolte**

Head of Division for Modern Media and Development of Vocational Training Curricula,  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

**Ms. Mercedes Duran**

Technical Officer, Skills and Employability Department,  
International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Ms. Zhyldyz Duishenova**

Chief Specialist of the State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry,  
Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

**Mr. Zaza Tsiramua**

Head of Network Management Center, Georgian Technical University

## **Green skills — key for the successful transition to a green economy**

The growing demand for green skills throughout most economic sectors is prevalent in debates on how to achieve the transition to a green economy. Every job is going to have to contribute to making the economy more sustainable. A key challenge will be to introduce sustainable development concerns in existing fields of training and learning. Green skills may include knowledge, values and attitudes, as well as technical skills that are crucial to promote sustainable economic, environmental and social outcomes in industry and the community. The development of green skills includes the upgrading of workers' skills, as well as the development of new skills; but learners in technical education and vocational training (TVET) and other education sectors will also need to acquire green skills.

To meet the demands for green skills, a multitude of stakeholders will need to engage in educational efforts. While there will be a need for Governments to play a big role in facilitating the provision of green skills, a joint effort by employers and vocational as well as tertiary education institutions will be necessary to tackle this challenge.

## **Education for sustainable development – a framework for supporting green skill development**



Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is uniquely fit to contribute to this process because it lays out a carefully designed conceptual plan for providing skills which will be necessary for mastering the transition to a green economy. At the regional level, the UNECE Strategy for ESD encourages countries to develop and incorporate ESD into their formal education systems, in all relevant subjects, as well as in non-formal and informal education. The Strategy in particular also focuses on the promotion of skills for sustainability, emphasizing that “professional skills and knowledge of sustainable development should be improved continuously and, consequently, be part of the lifelong learning of individuals, including those in sectors such as public administration, the private sector, industry, transport and agriculture. The development of new knowledge and the need to introduce new skills in order to give more specific substance to the concept of SD [sustainable development] will remain a constant need, as many areas of expertise are constantly developing.”

### **How can ESD support technical education and vocational training in providing green skills?**

This panel discussion will focus on the role of TVET for greening the economy in the UNECE region and will discuss the ability of ESD to support TVET in addressing the demand for green skills. The panel discussion aims to map major opportunities and areas for future green jobs, as well as vocational and technical skills needed for those green jobs. Moreover the panel will address how to position TVET so that it is able to play a critical role in greening the economy.

#### **Join us at the side event to explore:**

- What kind of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities might there be in a green economy which do not exist now?
- What kind of vocational and technical skills might be required in a green economy in order to take advantage of the new employment and entrepreneurial opportunities?
- How is the technical education and vocational training sector preparing to meet the new employment opportunities and skills required in a green economy? What gaps might exist?
- How could an ESD framework perspective support that effort in both the short and long term?