Site map | Contact us |

> EMPLOYMENT Sector > Departments > EMP/SKILLS > What we do > Programmes and projects

Skills for Green Jobs

The ILO is conducting policy-applied research into skill needs for greener economies. The research is based on fifteen country studies worldwide with a primary focus on good practice examples of how national policies for greening economies are complemented by identification of skills needs and efficient skills response strategies. The ILO is partnering with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) who is conducting six additional country studies in Europe.

Unit responsible Skills and Employability

Right skills for green jobs are the prerequisite to make the transition to a greener economy happen. Today, skills gaps are already recognised as a major bottleneck in a number of sectors, such as renewable energy, energy and resource efficiency, renovation of buildings, construction, environmental services, manufacturing. The adoption and dissemination of clean technologies requires skills in technology application, adaptation and maintenance. Skills are also crucial for economies and businesses, workers and entrepreneurs, to rapidly adapt to changes as a consequence of environmental policies or climate change.

In this context the ILO in cooperation with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) is conducting policy applied research into skill needs for greener economies. The countries covered are: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Mali, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Uganda, the UK and the US.

The research distinguishes between three different types of skills needs:

- a) (re)training needs deriving from green structural changes in the labour market and major employment shifts within and across sectors;
- b) new green occupations which emerge in the context of adaptation to climate change and mitigation of negative impacts in the country;
- c) new types of skills, competences and skill gaps which need to be incorporated into existing occupational profiles.

A synthesis report will be prepared in 2010.

KEY RESOURCES

The Green Jobs Training Site

Green Jobs: Towards decent work in a sustainable, low-carbon world (report overview) - [pdf 1266 KB]

Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World (Full report) -[pdf 4595 KB]

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