

Technical Education and Skills - How do you ensure quality?

SkillsFest 2025

Tim Runacre

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The Challenge

Just 57% of countries worldwide report having professional teaching standards and policies for TVET and skills.*

Do you?

* UNESCO, 2025

Global Challenges: Poor workforce considerations

UNESCO TVET report stated that

- In terms of TVET staff, just 57% of States reported having policies that cover teachers.
- Most of these are not dedicated TVET teacher policies, but often civil-service policies applying to all civil servants or overall teacher policies.
- TVET teacher policies and strategies mainly addressed initial teacher education (55%); teaching-staff recruitment and retention (51%); and career structure and path (49%).
- Less than half of the States (48%) reported the majority of their TVET teachers (>80%) had the minimum level of qualifications required by law.



Source: *Recommendation on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (2015). Results of the Second Consultation of Member States on the Implementation of the UNESCO TVET Recommendation, 2019–2022*

We are the Education Training Foundation (ETF)

Education Training Foundation is *the* professional membership body that champions the vital role of the technical and vocational education workforce, sets professional standards and provides a pathway of professional development for educators and leaders across the sector.



Everything we do at ETF is about supporting the skills sector workforce on their professional journey to provide transformational opportunities for learners aged 14 and over.

Vikki Smith

Executive Director Education and Standards

Our reach and Impact

Since 2012, over 350,000 teachers, trainers, assessors, mentors, governors and leaders have come to the ETF. This is comprised of:

- 23,000+ individual professional members
- CEOs working across 200 colleges
- Individuals working for 5,000+ institutions accessing standards and continuous professional development
- 14,000 people adopting T-Level qualifications
- Thousands of enrolments English, Maths, Digital skills, special needs (SEND) teacher training
- Building international footprint through sustainability status



What does this mean for teaching standards?

Great teaching requires **great leadership**,

When educators grow, **learners succeed** - changing lives, improving communities, and strengthening employers

Great teaching requires **dual professionalism** – having deep and up-to-date technical skills

Great teachers never stop learning

Self-improvement is key to teachers being the best they can be.

Importance of continuing development, **lifelong learning** whereby ETF supports every step in the professional journey.

Excellence is also about **adaptability**: what works for one learner might not for another.

Learning from peers from **across the system** is key to it becoming sustainable and self-improving.

Learning can happen **informally** through peer connections, shared learnings and community.

Outcome: Better world:

positive impact that makes the journey worth going on.

A connected and thriving skills workforce, attracting and keeping good people to deliver lasting learner outcomes.

Together we can create more chances to change lives, improve communities, and strengthen employers.



How can ETF support you?

1



We set professional standards.
System-led approach to creating quality.

2



We develop and deliver pathways for professional development.
Ensuring continuity and consistency of quality.

3



We champion the role of the TVET workforce.
Advocating for those who play a vital role in improving lives and societal outcomes.

1. Education Training Foundation Standards

ETF Professional Standards provide the benchmark for technical education teachers and leaders.

Each set of Professional Standards is built around three core principles.

These standards are globally agnostic and adaptable to different types of institutions. At the heart, standards create consistency in quality.



Professional Values and Attributes



Professional Knowledge and Understanding



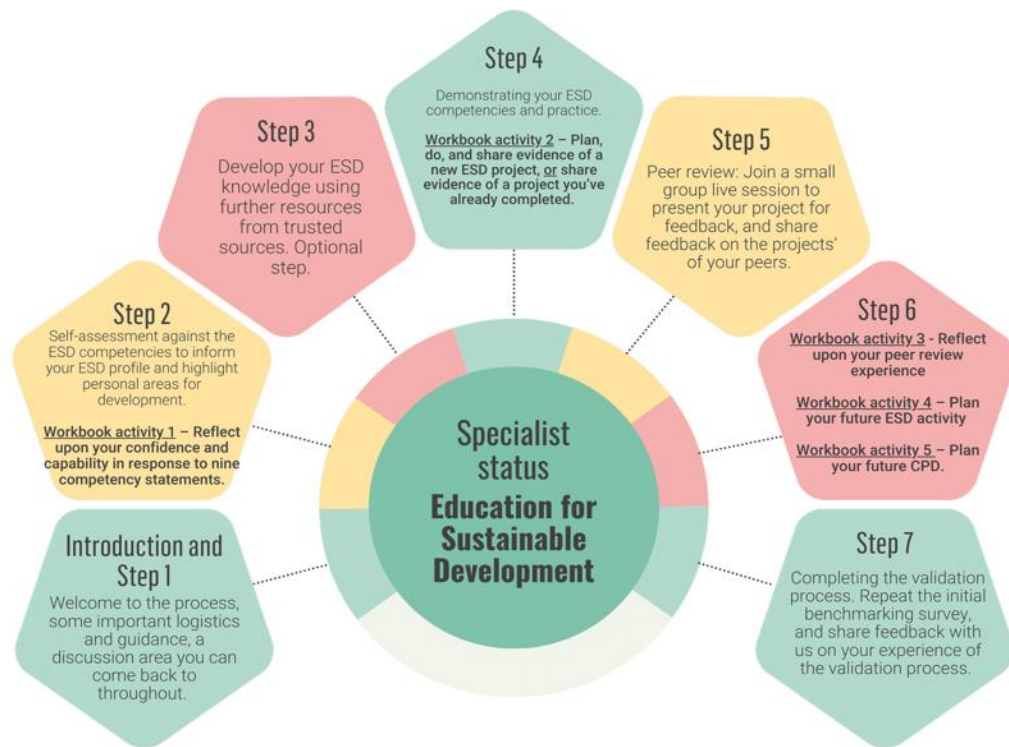
Professional Skills

2. Case study: Specialist Status – Sustainability in Education

By fostering sustainability competencies, educators can play a pivotal role in this transformation, thereby contributing to a more sustainable future for all.

The bridge from skills to employers: delegates from Siemens, EKC Group, and colleges and universities across the UK have all enrolled in the ESD programme.

Aligned with the **Sustainable Development Goals**



3. Championing the skills workforce with a Global Approach

ETF's vision, grounded in practice and evidence, is for a system in which:

- every TVET teacher is trained and supported to high, consistent standards
- every region has the data, funding and capacity to meet local skills needs
- every learner is taught by professionals who are highly skilled and valued.



Our Calls to Action

ETF is calling on governments to lead mutually-reinforcing reforms

1

A national, targeted workforce strategy to recruit, retain and develop the diverse, dual professionals needed across the skills system

2

Kitemarking for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers to ensure programmes consistently meet rigorous professional standards and deliver quality and value for trainee teachers that support requirements.

3

improved transparency and data on workforce training spend and provision, to better inform decision-making and the alignment of investment in workforce development to identified skills gaps

Resources and Support for you: www.etfoundation.co.uk

Tim Runacre

Associate Director

Tim.Runacre@etfoundation.co.uk

