



# Partnerships in Labor Force Resilience: The Imperative of Education and Upskilling in Digital and Sustainability Skills

UN HLPF Virtual Side Event

**Organizer:** UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

**Partner:** BuildSkills Academy

**Date and time:** July 17 at 8am-9.30 ET / 2pm-3.30pm CEST (virtual event)

## Description

This event delves into **emerging trends and resilient solutions in education for sustainable development among youth and professionals** moving towards gainful employment, professional development, and vocational training. Upskilling is imperative in lifelong learning, equipping the youth and professionals with the knowledge, competencies, and values to respond to sustainable development challenges in all growing industries. Discussions will spotlight policies and practices aimed at promoting informed educational decision-making and exploring the pivotal role of vocational education and professional training in facilitating transitions to employment. The implementation of such pathways require diverse partnerships and expertise to work alongside policymakers for more effective and localized outcomes.

A cross-sectoral panel will provide a comprehensive examination of interconnected issues related to education and employment, stressing the importance of policy measures, intersectoral partnerships, and strategic investments. Additionally, the panel envisions collaborative efforts among educators and practitioners across governmental, corporate, and civil society sectors, equipping them with relevant educational content and training to actively contribute to sustainable development through workforce participation.

## Key questions

- What specific skill sets do the evolving labor force need to adapt for the digital and sustainability transformations?
- What targeted policies and investments are needed to enhance education and professional training in response to these transformations?
- How can collaborations among stakeholders ensure that education aligns with sustainable development and remains relevant in today's transforming labor market?



## Objectives

- **Identify emerging trends and resilient solutions** that support sustainable development for youth and professionals.
- **Advocate for the importance of upskilling in lifelong learning** to equip the youth and professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to address sustainable development challenges.
- **Identify policies and practices** that promote informed educational decision-making.
- **Explore the pivotal role of vocational education and professional training** in facilitating transitions to employment.

## Outcomes

- **Actionable recommendations for policy and practice** on how collaborations among stakeholders can contribute to ensure education aligns with sustainable development.
- **Map the necessary skill sets and competencies** required in the evolving labor market, guiding future educational content and training programs towards sustainability goals.

## Agenda

- Welcome words
- Individual speaker presentations
- Moderated roundtable discussion
- Audience Q&A
- Closing

## Speakers

- **Elena Proden**, Senior Specialist, Strategic Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Unit, UNITAR
- **Maria Nakova**, Project Manager, BuildSkills Academy; Manager of Strategic Development, Cleantech Bulgaria
- **Remo Steinmetz**, Head Executive Education, Director, Swiss Re Institute
- **Karen Shand**, Director, Education Studies; Co-Network Manager, SDSN Malaysia
- **Tremeur Denigot**, Education for Climate, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
- **Niki Rodousakis**, Capacity Development and Policy Advice Unit, UNIDO.

**Chair: Patrick Paul Walsh**, Vice President of Education, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)