

SDGNOTE



International
Labour
Organization



**A QUICK
GLANCE**

SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT

In 2015 world leaders adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development builds on progress achieved under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and provides a roadmap for coordinated global action to tackle the formidable challenges facing humanity, including in the world of work. With the 2030 Agenda the global community has recognized the importance of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda in making inclusive sustainable development a reality.

"With the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development we have a once-in-a-generation chance to make a change and improve the lives of billions. The Agenda places Decent Work for all at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive growth and development. Through its work to promote decent jobs and social justice for all, the ILO's mandate cuts across all of the Sustainable Development Goals. We can realize the vision of sustainable development of this transformative agenda by 2030 if we all come together in a global partnership of governments, business and trade unions, as well as multilateral organizations, civil society and ordinary people. Each and every one of us has a role to play, to ensure no one is left behind."

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder



See [Decent Work and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

Goal: Create skills for employment, and inclusive and sustainable development

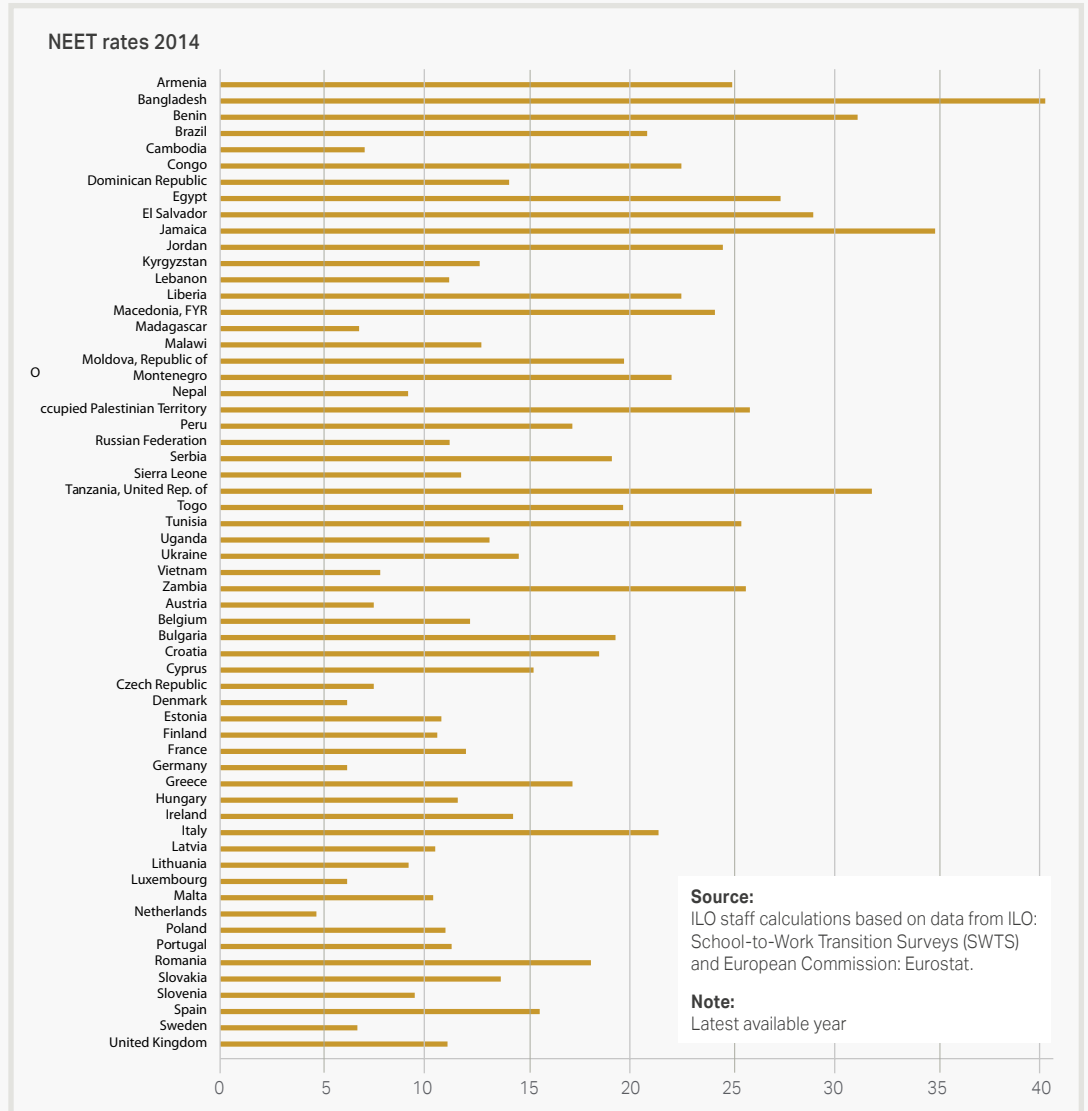
Breaking the vicious circle of low education, low productivity and poverty is crucial for the promotion of inclusive economic growth and decent jobs for all. Education, as well as being an end in itself, is also a means toward getting a decent job, especially for young people. Lifelong learning is also important in order to keep up with the new skills required for the labour market. Skills development is, therefore, an essential prerequisite for sustainable development and constitutes a key element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular Goal 4 on Quality Education.

Effective skills systems are created based on social dialogue and institutional arrangements, in particular partnerships between enterprises and training institutions that allow all social partners to have input. The ILO's strong links with the social partners enables it to leverage greater involvement from them in terms of skills development.

ILO Skills and the SDGs

Effective education and training systems strengthen long-term and inclusive economic growth. However, a number of challenges remain and have been included in several SDGs. Limited access to education and training is a major obstacle to sustainable development. In order to be more inclusive, access to quality education and training should not be restricted by gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, geographical location or income.

SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT



The ILO is well positioned to provide sound advice regarding policies on skills development. For instance, policy advisory services are provided for the implementation of competency-based training and assessment systems; training of trainers and assessors; skills financing; national qualification frameworks; rural development, and skills for trade and economic diversification (STED).

Policies on skills that facilitate structural transformation and strengthen enterprise competitiveness so as to deliver “more and better jobs for inclusive growth and improved youth employment prospects” are cornerstones of the ILO’s strategy.

In view of the emphasis placed on multi-stakeholder cooperation in the SDGs, the ILO will enhance its external partnerships with multilateral institutions, the G20, the World Bank Group the International Monetary Fund and international and regional financial institutions to work on issues related to youth employment and skills.

The ILO has developed the online Skills for Employment Knowledge Sharing Platform: (www.skillsforemployment.org) and contributed to the World Indicators of Skills for Employment (WISE) database hosted by the OECD (www.oecd.org/employment/skills-for-employment-indicators.htm), a joint effort involving the ILO, OECD, UNESCO, the WBG and the European Training Foundation.

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