

The SKILLS Bridge Masterclass Series

Promoting Lifelong Learning (LLL) for the Future of Work

Concept Note for Episode 11

Bridging the Skills Gap: How Can the Private Sector Drive Skills Development and Lifelong Learning?

29 April 2025, 11:00–12:30 CEST/ 09:00–10:30 GMT/ 14:30–16:00 IST

Registration link (FREE): [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)



Objectives

In a rapidly evolving global economy, work is transforming at an unprecedented pace, driven by technological advancements, climate change, trade and demographic shifts. As industries adapt, so must the workforce—but the widening **skills gap threatens economic growth, employability, and innovation**. Addressing this challenge requires a **renewed focus on skills development and lifelong learning**, ensuring individuals remain employable, and businesses thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Collaboration is key. Governments, social partners and training institutions play a crucial role, but the **private sector holds the key to real-world insights**—knowing first-hand which skills are in demand and how to equip workers with them. Their engagement is not just beneficial but essential in designing relevant, effective training programs that meet industry needs.

This masterclass will bring together **leading experts, policymakers, and private sector champions** to explore **successful strategies, innovative models, and impactful partnerships** that drive **skills development and lifelong learning**.

The main objectives are:

- Highlight **successful models** of private sector engagement in national skills body, sector skills council, and as training provider
- Provide **actionable insights** for policy development to encourage private sector involvement

Target groups

Target groups include policy makers and government officials, employers and workers organisation, skills and research institutions, private sector leaders and experts, education and training providers, universities, development partners and banks, investors & innovators

The future of work and life is in our hands—let's bridge the skills gap together.

Agenda

Time	
11:00 – 11:05 CEST	Introduction By Dr Ashwani Aggarwal, Head (Skills Policy & Governance), ILO, Switzerland
11:05 – 11:15 CEST	Welcome Address By Ms Mia Seppo, Assistant Director General (JSP), ILO, Switzerland Keynote Address By Mr Roberto Suárez Santos , Secretary-General, International Organisation of Employers, Switzerland
11:15 – 12:25 CEST	Moderator: Ashwani Aggarwal Private Sector led Skills Development System by Mr Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO, National Skill Development Corporation, India Empowering People for the Future: Approach to Skills Development by Ms Bettina Schaller Bossert, Senior Vice President, ADECCO Transforming Public Training Centres: How Private Sector Leadership Drive Success by Prof (Dr) Subash Bijlani, Adjunct Professor, University of Maryland, USA Q&A
12:25 – 12:30 CEST	Closing remarks Mr Ramon Iriarte, UNESCO, France

*The **SKILLS Bridge** title refers to the invaluable role of Skills and Lifelong Learning in closing skills gaps, aligning demand and supply, and in uniting private and public sector collaboration.*

Coordinator and moderator of SKILLS Bridge Masterclass series

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Language: The working language of the webinar will be English.

(The link to the event page: <https://www.ilo.org/meetings-and-events/how-can-private-sector-drive-skills-development-and-lifelong-learning>)