



Summit of the Future Action Days Side Event

Public-Private Partnerships in Capacity Building for SDG Transformations

21 September 2024, 8h - 9h15.

Organized by: University College Dublin (Government of Ireland SDG Champion), BuildSkills Academy, SDG Academy, UNIDO, UNITAR and Swiss Re.

Background on the event

The “Public-Private Partnerships in Capacity Building for SDG Transformations ” side event at the UN Summit of the Future Action Days aimed to explore the critical role of public private partnerships (PPPs) in capacity building for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) transformations. The discussions emphasized the potential PPPs have in advancing the 2030 Agenda and focused on several key topics essential for upskilling and reskilling in response to the evolving workforce demands.

Key Issues discussed

- **Skills Gap:** There is a great discrepancy between current workforce skills and the evolving demands for the green and digital transitions. Traditional educational methods struggle to keep their programs updated. As a result, students lack skills needed in the labor market today, which in turn affects the progress towards the SDGs.
- **Role of Micro-Credentials:** Micro-credentials can be a valuable tool for quickly upskilling and reskilling professionals, as it is faster in its approach and can address more holistically sustainability in its curricula.
- **Upskilling Vocational Education and Training (VET):** VET programs also need to adapt

their programs quickly, especially in sectors facing significant workforce shortages and skills mismatch. Curricula needs to be enriched with critical skills required for sustainability, ensuring workers are prepared for current and future demands.

- **Support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs):** SMEs, especially in developing economies, often lack the resources and expertise needed to navigate transitions toward sustainability.
- **Partnering with the Insurance Sector:** The (re-)insurance industry can help achieve the sustainable development goals, but its role is yet poorly recognized. While insurance is not mentioned once in the recently adopted Pact for the Future, the word risk is quoted throughout it. There is potential for the (re-)insurance sector to help manage risk and promote innovation, supporting the SDG agenda.

Key recommendations for action

- **Expand Micro-Credential Programs:** Support the use of micro-credentials to help the workforce adapt to the evolving demands of the job market. Develop clear definitions and build connections to national and European qualification systems, ensuring micro credential programs are aligned with quality assurance standards. A [Master's Pathways in Foundations of Sustainable Development](#) program has been designed by UCD in partnership with the SDG Academy with the goal of providing students with the sustainability skills they need in the workplace.
- **Enhance VET Programs:** Support vocational education and training centers to adapt their programs to the skills needed for the green and digital transition. One key project that is addressing this issue in the construction sector is the [BuildSkills Academy](#).
- **Strengthen Capacity Building for SMEs:** The Capabilities 4 the Future Hub, a joint initiative by UNIDO, UNITAR, and SDSN will provide training and upskilling opportunities tailored to SMEs, enabling them to contribute to sustainability worldwide.
- **Promote (Re-)Insurance as a Catalyst for Sustainability:** Advocate for greater recognition of the (re-)insurance industry's role in supporting sustainable development. The upcoming SDSN position paper on "Sustainable Development and the Insurance Industry" (*provisional title*), research sponsored by [Swiss Re](#) and harnessing the views of diverse insurance leaders across the private and public sector, will address this issue and provide recommendations to make (re-)insurance more prominent in the 2030 Agenda.

Webpage to find more information:

<https://sdgacademy.org/un-sotf-2024-public-private-partnerships-sdg-capacity-building/>