

Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme

Creating opportunities for renewable energy



Information Note

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN AFRICA

Background

Africa has substantial renewable energy resources which are largely untapped. However, to exploit these resources, local skills and capacities are needed. The conventional energy sector in Africa is in most cases dominated by public utilities which have traditionally conducted their own training. In contrast, the renewable energy sector is and will be largely driven by private operators which rely on well-trained local energy professionals. In this light, governments as well as private sector representatives have repeatedly articulated the **need for local skills and capacities to develop African renewable energy markets**. The availability of skilled labour will strongly support the further implementation of renewable energy projects.

The major challenge in promoting renewable energy skills development is adapting the existing, but slow moving technical vocational training and education sector to respond to the very dynamic field of renewable energy.

Objectives

Appreciating this need for skills development, the **Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP)** has developed two components focusing on higher education and **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for Renewable Energy in Africa**. RECP activities in the area of vocational training aim to bridge the gap between technical education and current as well as future labour market needs.

By addressing vocational training needs for renewable energy, the RECP contributes to:

- » **renewable energy market development**
- » **energy security**
- » **energy access**

- » **youth employment** and job creation
- » **gender equality** through promotion of women in technical professions
- » **social inclusion** through access to education and training.

Activities

RECP activities to support vocational training for renewable energy in Africa include:

- » market and training **needs assessment**
- » support to renewable energy **training centres**
- » development and delivery of courses for **training of trainers**
- » provision of **curricula support** for education and training
- » **specialised courses** directly addressing specific private sector needs
- » facilitation of regional, pan-African and intercontinental **cooperation and exchange**.

Results

In order to initiate activities in the area of vocational training, the RECP held a **workshop on Technical and Vocational Education and Training for the African Renewable Energy Sector** in October 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique. International experts from different sectors exchanged experiences with training for renewables in Africa and identified needs for potential support interventions.

Simultaneously, the study "**Vocational Training for Renewable Energy in Africa**" was completed. Findings highlight the complexity of TVET for renewable energy, with two diverse, often immature sectors coming together.





The study features:

- » an overview of TVET in Africa and related initiatives in the energy sector
- » a conceptual framework and strategic approach for renewable energy vocational training activities in Africa
- » country mappings for several African countries in respect to TVET and renewable energy
- » recommendations for potential support interventions.

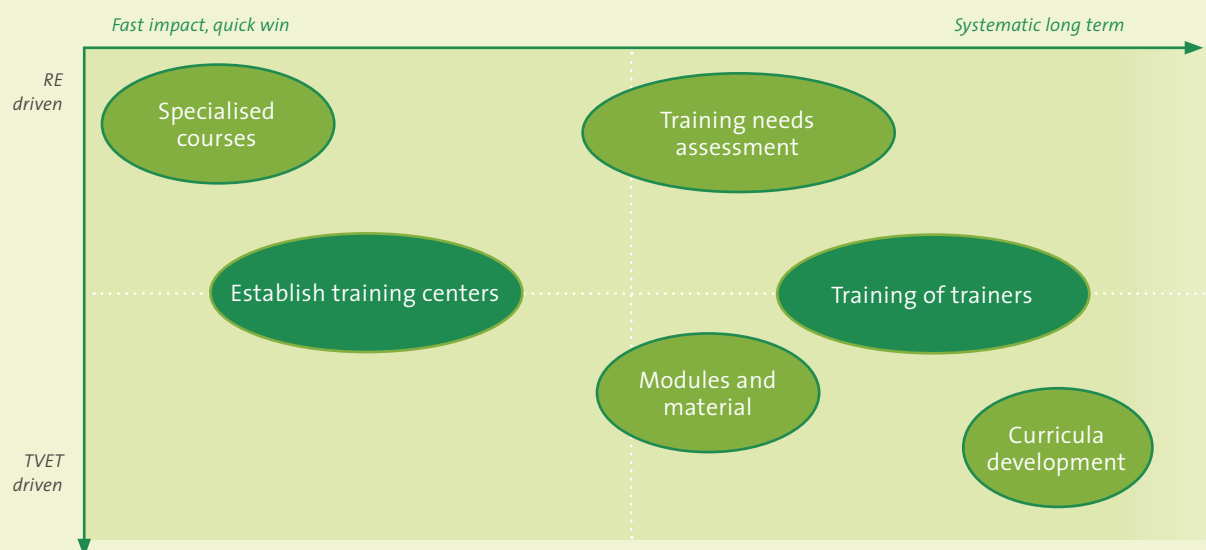
Entry points for support interventions, identified through the study (*see figure below*), include among others, work on national curricula for renewable energy technologies, adaptation of existing curricula, train-the-trainer programmes and the development of course material for specific institutes.

The way forward

At present, the RECP is planning its first country intervention to strengthen **TVET for renewable energy in Ghana**. Based on a capacity needs and skills gap assessment, the RECP will assist in designing a long-term strategy for TVET in the country's renewables sector.

During the course of 2015 it is envisaged to engage in further country activities under the RECP's TVET component. The RECP will further foster **continuous exchange through dialogue** between the various actors in Africa's RE TVET.

Potential support activities - TVET for Renewable Energy



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