

International Skills Partnerships Overseas Organisation Profile

Key Information

This organisation is a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution located in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. It consists of three campuses, each one addressing particular needs of the community.

Students and staff

Number of full-time students	Approx 3500
Number of part-time students	Approx 1000
Student age range	17-35
Number of teachers	Approx 200

Sectors and subject areas

Industry sector/subject area	Level and/or age
Engineering	Report 191 NATED N1-N3 (16-35) NCV L2-L5 (16-20)
Business Studies	NCV L2-L5 (16-20) Report 191 NATED N4-N6 (18-35)
Agriculture	Primary Agriculture L2-L5 (16-20) Farming Management N4-N6 (18-35)
Art & Design	Report 191 NATED N4-N6 (18-35)
Learnerships (agric; computers; new venture; business admin)	Not in education, employment or training learners (18-35)

Sector priorities for the International Skills Partnership

- Support of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) (business and practical support)
- Short skills courses (soft and hard) for all organisations, private and public sector, e.g. project management, meeting procedures, conflict management etc. and welding, automotive, carpentry etc.

Overview of the organisation's current provision in the industry sectors above:

1. During 2015 we presented an Informal Traders' Upliftment Programme to 20 micro businesses
2. Partnership with Dti who are providing funding for some infrastructure in engineering and a small amount of funding for basic business skills for SMMEs
3. Partnership with SEDA who is providing funding for a Rapid Incubator and Centre for Entrepreneurship.

We believe that, being in a rural area, this is an important way to go but we don't have much experience.

In regard to the short skills programmes, we have little experience in these but they are needed by the community and, for example, local government and provincial departments.

Priority themes during the International Skills Partnership

- Curriculum development and design for support of SMMEs
- Rolling out of short skills programmes: developing further partnerships to ensure skills programmes are targeted at relevant recipients.

Objectives for the International Skills Partnership

We believe that colleges in other countries may have already had success with the supporting of small businesses. It is a fact that in South Africa there is a huge unemployment problem. In our direct area, especially, there is little or no opportunity for work, and in the rural villages there are thousands of out-of-work youth and older people. The priority is to encourage people to become entrepreneurs and to start their own businesses, no matter how small. They should then be enabled to employ one or two staff members, and in this way grow the economy in a small way.

In relation to skills training, firstly all of these potential small businesses need business skills training. If some of them had engineering – welding, carpentry, brick-making etc. – skills, this would be another means of starting a small business. Instead of focusing on a whole qualification for which a person might not have the finances or educational background, he/she could learn a skill with which to make some money to put food on the table.

If the economy of the Eastern Cape is to grow, we have to reach the very rural areas and train the people there in skills, and then support them by mentoring these small businesses until they are on their feet. If there is a college that has had success in any of these areas, including mentoring, this would be of huge value to our organisation.