

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

INVITATION WEBINAR SERIES Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19

A partnership between universities, TVET colleges, the Departments of Higher Education and Training and Science and Technology and research enterprises.

11 Sept	EC TVET - RRT	Positioning TVET colleges during the pandemic
02 Oct	DHET	Remote Teaching and Learning at TVET colleges: A COVID-19 challenge
23 Oct	IPSS	Teaching and Learning in a time of Social Distancing – what do TVET colleges need to ensure learner success?
13 Nov	NMU	The future of work and the implications for South African TVET colleges
27 Nov	REAL	Building back a responsive, flexible and agile TVET sector – Why occupation as a frame of analysis for VET?
04 Dec	HSRC	“Markets on the margins”: TVET, COVID and the informal economy in South Africa
10 Dec	University of Nottingham	TVET and COVID-19: international perspectives

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WEBINAR SERIES ABSTRACTS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19

Positioning TVET colleges during the pandemic

Speakers: Ms Aruna Singh, Acting Director-General (A/DDG): Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
Mr Khaya Matiso, Retired TVET College Principal, DHET
Dr Lesley Powell, Research Chair: Youth Unemployment, Employability and Empowerment, Nelson Mandela University
Mr Thato Kgetse, National Task Team Member, SAFETSA

Date + Time: Friday, 11 September 2020. 12h00 – 13h30

Moderators: Mrs Tuletu Nongauza-Njengele, Deputy Principal: Innovation & Partnerships, Ikhala TVET College; E Cape TVET Colleges Research Round Table Coordinator
Ms Almaine Horne, First Education Specialist at Eastcape Midlands College

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the TVET sector was dubbed as the Cinderella of Higher Education in South Africa, alluding to a plethora of inherent challenges facing the sector. Attempts have been made to address the stigma attached to the sector but TVET colleges remain second-choice institutions with too many students opting for university education above TVET education.

Compounding the problem further, are prejudicial practices evident in the NSFAS bursary allocations and general resourcing of the TVET sector which leaves students deprived of resources. In stark contrast, universities are able to offer their students access to a wide range of resources and training crucial to their preparation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution on our doorstep.

The TVET sector along with many other sectors has been plunged into a new era and new reality. The pandemic has not only ushered in new challenges for the TVET sector but has also exacerbated existing ones. The negative effect on college students with disabilities is an example and points to an urgent demand for much-needed psycho-social support for both student and staff. Such support will go a long way in preparing students for life, post-pandemic.

This engaging webinar shines the spotlight onto the TVET sector with the aim of searching for key adjustments that could be introduced to curriculum and modes of program offerings or other facets in a resolute bid to better position TVET colleges both during- and post-pandemic.

Delegates must please register beforehand on the Zoom link provided to receive an automated response with the connection to the seminar

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WEBINAR SERIES ABSTRACTS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19

Remote Teaching and Learning at TVET colleges: A COVID-19 challenge

Speakers: Ms Vongani Sharon Mboweni, Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)

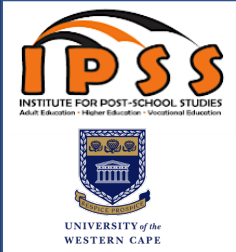
Date + Time: Friday, 2 October 2020. 12h00 – 13h30

Moderators: Mr. Thivhudziwi Walter Vele, Director: TVET Curriculum Development and Support, Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in the declaration of the State of National Disaster by the President and an extended recess for TVET Colleges' students, the use of online learning has since taken centre stage. The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology have also mandated institutions to move their programmes online to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. Online learning involves the offering of educational programmes through internet platforms. Different approaches are followed when facilitating learning online which include distance learning and blended learning modes. This session will focus on the preparedness of public TVET Colleges in South Africa to facilitate teaching and learning online.

Delegates must please register beforehand on the Zoom link provided to receive an automated response with the connection to the seminar

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WEBINAR SERIES ABSTRACTS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19

Teaching and Learning in a time of Social Distancing – what do TVET colleges need to ensure learner success?

Speakers: Prof Joy Papier, Director, Institute for Post-School Studies (IPSS) at University of Western Cape, SARChi Chair: TVET studies

Date + Time: Friday, 23 October 2020. 12h00 – 13h30

Moderators Dr Sophia Matenda, Post-doctoral Fellow, Institute of Post-School Studies (IPSS) at the University of the Western Cape
Dr Seamus Needham, Senior Lecturer/Projects Manager: Grants in the Institute for Post-School Studies (IPSS) at the University of the Western Cape

TVET colleges have been resilient in spite of 25 years of change at every level that have impacted systems, structures, curricula and so on. The Covid 19 pandemic has affected education and training across the world, and has not yet peaked in South Africa, meaning that its effects will be with us for some time to come. Social distancing and stringent personal hygiene are but two of the visible implications for our society. Education institutions are being exhorted to 'leave no student behind', and to 'save the academic year'. But what does this mean for how TVET college lecturers should teach and how college students should learn, and what pedagogies and practices can be sustained to ensure learner success? In this webinar we deliberate on what vocational teaching and learning of the future might look like, and what this means for lecturers and learners alike.

Delegates must please register beforehand on the Zoom link provided to receive an automated response with the connection to the seminar

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WEBINAR SERIES ABSTRACTS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19

The future of work and the implications for South African TVET colleges

Speakers: Dr Lesley Powell, Research Chair: Youth Unemployment, Employability and Empowerment, Nelson Mandela University

Date + Time: Friday, 13 November 2020. 12h00 – 13h30

Moderators: Dr Francis Muronda, Researcher to the Research Chair: Youth Unemployment, Employability and Empowerment
Ms Shawn Tini, Junior Researcher to the Research Chair: Youth Unemployment, Employability and Empowerment

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools and universities have been widely debated in the media and in the public discourse. In comparison, there has been a virtual silence around the implications of COVID-19 for the South African TVET colleges. This is deeply concerning as our TVET colleges are positioned as central to addressing social inequalities and high levels of poverty and youth unemployment.

In this presentation, I hope to address this silence by opening debate on what COVID-19 might mean for the TVET colleges in the medium and long term. Critical to this discussion is the high number of formal sector job losses or what the media has been terming 'the jobs bloodbath'. The jury is still out on the extent of job losses in different sectors but there is universal agreement that COVID-19 will be pushing a growing proportion of South Africa's workers into the informal and SME sectors to make their livelihoods. Against this backdrop, I argue that responding to the education and training needs of these sectors has become a critical imperative for TVET colleges.

The presentation draws from a study undertaken with MerSETA called the Lived Livelihoods Study which aimed to understand the way(s) in which young people from two urban townships in Port Elizabeth are making their livelihoods in engineering related areas in the informal sector. The findings challenge our understandings of entrepreneurship, occupations, skills and what has become known as education to work pathways. It suggests that engaging with the implications of COVID-19 for TVET colleges will demand tackling the implications of the fourth industrial revolution for these sectors. It would also mean engaging with how we understand the notion of skills, what we define as an occupation, what we understand when we talk about the tools of particular trades and how we understand pathways from school to TVET and from TVET to work. Mainly, and importantly, it compels and propels us towards opening debate on what it might mean to talk about a responsive TVET college in the South Africa context.

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WEBINAR SERIES ABSTRACTS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19

Building back a responsive, flexible and agile TVET sector – Why occupation as a frame of analysis for VET?

Speakers: Prof Emeritus Yael Shalem, Associate Professor of Education at the University of Witwatersrand
Prof Stephanie Allais, REAL. SARCHi Research Chair: Skills Development

Date + Time: Friday, 27 November 2020. 12h00 – 13h30

Moderator: Mr. Hans Awude, PhD candidate at REAL
Dr Presha Ramsarup, Director for the Centre for Researching Education and Labour at the University of Witwatersrand

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic, Antonio Guterres (in UN, 2020) has stated: “As the world begins planning for a post-pandemic recovery, governments must seize the opportunity to “build back better” ‘Build back better’ involves turning recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future. As we focus on ‘building back better’ within the TVET sector, structural changes are expected in both the education system and in the labour market.

In this seminar we aim to contribute to ‘building back better’ through interrogating some of the conceptual foundations of TVET research and praxis. The seminar will explore, how does being a member of an occupation contribute to one’s being a citizen? This seminar deliberates this question through a conceptual interrogation of five key concepts which are central to TVET: occupation, work, knowledge and skill, labour market and qualifications

Delegates must please register beforehand on the Zoom link provided to receive an automated response with the connection to the seminar

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WEBINAR SERIES ABSTRACTS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19

“Markets on the margins”: TVET, Covid and the informal economy in South Africa

Speakers: Prof Matiaz Pilz, Business Education at the University of Cologne, Director of the German Research Centre for Comparative Vocational Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T).

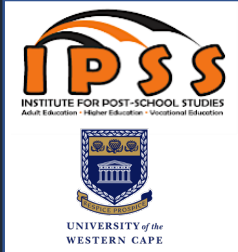
Date + Time: Friday, 4 December 2020. 12h00 – 13h30

Moderators: Ms Thelma Oppelt, PhD intern, Inclusive Economic Development (IED) research programme.
Dr Adam Cooper, Senior Research Specialist, Inclusive Economic Development research programme at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

In this exploratory session we will try to draw some tentative links and potential effects of the COVID-19 crisis on young people who move in and between the TVET sector and the informal economy. The main speaker, Professor Matias Pilz (Cologne University), has worked on informal trading in India, and published Vocational education and training in times of crisis (Springer, 2017) and Comparative Vocational Education Research (Springer, 2020). We will try to apply some of his insights to the South African context, exploring what happens to labour markets/livelihoods and educational institutions/forms of learning on the margins of society, in times of crisis.

Delegates must please register beforehand on the Zoom link provided to receive an automated response with the connection to the seminar

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NELSON MANDELA
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WEBINAR SERIES ABSTRACTS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19

TVET and Covid-19: international perspectives

Speakers: Prof James Avis, Professor of Post-Compulsory Education, Professor of Education, University of Derby
Prof Simon McGrath, UNESCO Chair in International Education and Development at University of Nottingham, and
Extraordinary Professor at University of Western Cape

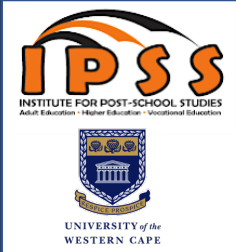
Date + Time: Thursday, 10 December 2020. 12h00 – 13h30

Moderator: Prof Volker Wedekind, Deputy Head of School, University of Nottingham, Convenor of UNEVOC Centre

Whilst this series is predominantly concerned with the South African context, there are things to be learnt from international responses to the crisis. In this session, we will draw upon research done through a number of research projects in Africa and beyond, and on deliberations within the UNESCO-UNEVOC network.

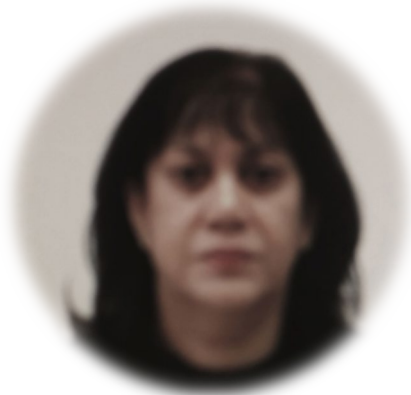
Delegates must please register beforehand on the Zoom link provided to receive an automated response with the connection to the seminar

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WEBINAR SERIES SPEAKERS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Ms Aruna Singh

Ms Singh served for the greater part of her tenure (around 10 years) as the Director: Curriculum Development and Support, in the Department of Higher Education and Training. Ms Singh is currently the Acting Deputy Director-General for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and also serves as the Chief Director for TVET Programmes and Qualifications. She holds a BA Degree, a University Higher Dip in Education, a BA Hons (Psychology), a MBA, and started out on a PhD in Curriculum Studies at the University of North Texas.



Mr Khaya Matiso

Mr Khaya Matiso has a Post Grad Diploma in International Studies, a BEd from Rhodes University, a BTech Business Management from PE Technikon and an MBA from Wales/PE Technikon. He has experience in working with the Higher Education Sector, Government, Non-Government sector and Private Sector. Mr Matiso is a retired TVET college principal.



WEBINAR SERIES SPEAKERS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Ms Vongani Sharon Mboweni

Ms Vongani Mboweni is an Acting Assistant Director at the North West Sub – Regional Offices. Vongani possess an MBA Degree that she acquired from the University of North West – Potchefstroom Campus. She has researched on the effectiveness of Management Information Systems (MIS) in the TVET Colleges in 2018.



Mr Thato Kgetse

Thato Kgetse is a graduate and former SRC President at Taletso TVET college, he also served as SAFETSA NEC member (Academic and Transformation Officer). He is currently involved in national task team member of SAFETSA.

WEBINAR SERIES SPEAKERS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Prof Joy Papier

Prof Joy Papier is SARCHi Chair: TVET studies and has been active in vocational research, policy development, and capacity building in the TVET college sector since 1997. She is currently Director of the INSTITUTE FOR POST-SCHOOL STUDIES at the University of the Western Cape and is involved in a range of research projects and postgraduate programmes in the TVET domain.



Dr Lesley Powell

Dr Lesley Powell has for the past 20 years worked as a researcher in Post School Education and Training (PSET), specifically in Vocational Education and Training and the education to work nexus. She is committed to social justice and her work is concerned with the role that education can play in intervening in poverty, inequality and unemployment. She is currently the Research Chair: Youth Unemployment, Employability and Empowerment at Nelson Mandela University. Her work locates mostly in the sociology of education, but through her writing in the capability (human development) approach and critical realism also locates in development studies and sociology. She has published a book on Skills for Human Development: Transforming Vocational Education and Training.

WEBINAR SERIES SPEAKERS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Prof Yael Shalem

Yael Shalem is Associate Professor of Education at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her research interests include professional knowledge, curriculum, teacher education and teacher work. Together with Prof Shirley Pendlebury, she edited *Retrieving teaching: Critical issues in curriculum pedagogy and learning* which was written in memory of Prof Wally Morrow, the founder of educational theory in South Africa. Her recent book is *Knowledge, Curriculum and Preparation for Work*, co-edited with Stephanie Allais (Brill Sense, 2018)



Prof Stephanie Allais

Stephanie is the SARChI Research Chair for Skills Development. Her research interests are in the sociology of education, policy, education and development, curriculum, and political economy of education, focused on relationships between education and work.

WEBINAR SERIES SPEAKERS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Prof Matiaz Pilz

Matiaz Pilz is Professor of Business Education at the University of Cologne and Director of the German Research Centre for Comparative Vocational Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T)

WEBINAR SERIES SPEAKERS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Prof James Avis

James Avis left school at 16 and worked for many years in retail before teaching in FE and then HE. His research currently focuses on the policy context surrounding vocational education and training. He has recently (2020) published a book about the 4th Industrial Revolution and the future of waged labour.



Prof Simon McGrath

Simon McGrath is UNESCO Chair in International Education and Development, University of Nottingham, and Extraordinary Professor at UWC. He has worked extensively in policy advisory work, including for the South African and British governments, for UNESCO and SADC. His research interests are in the better theorisation of TVET research to engage with advances in development theory, most notably around human development and sustainability.

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Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Ms Almaine Horne

Mrs Horne, is currently working as an Academic Manager titled First Education Specialist at Eastcape Midlands TVET College and currently heads up the Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) Research Project for the college. Over the years, she has developed a holistic perspective of the college as well as the TVET sector at large. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Education (Research) with the focus on TVET colleges, at Nelson Mandela University under the research title *Learning in landscapes of practice: Conceptualising a humanising approach to WIL at a TVET college*.



Prof Volker Wedekind

Volker Wedekind is a professor in the School of Education at the University of Nottingham and an adjunct member of the REAL Centre at the University of Witwatersrand. His current research focuses on the role of vocational education within development discourses, the relationship between education, social policy and economic development. He is also interested in the practices of vocational education and what distinguishes these from other forms of education.

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Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Mr Thivhudziwi Walter Vele

Mr Thivhudziwi Walter Vele is a teaching and learning professional currently employed as Director for TVET Curriculum Development and Support at the DHET. He is also pursuing a Master's Degree in Higher Education Studies at Rhodes University. His interests are in Academic Development and he is hugely influenced by Critical Realism's (Bhaskar) and Social Realism's (Archer) perspectives.



Dr Seamus Needham

Seamus Needham is a senior lecturer in the Institute for Post-School Studies at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). He has been involved in a range of commissioned research projects within the TVET college sector since 1997 and is currently the Project Manager of a five year collaborative TVET Research Programme funded by the National Skills Fund and the Department of Higher Education and Training.

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Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Dr Sophia Matenda

Sophia Matenda is a Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of the Western Cape Institute of Post-School Studies (IPSS). Sophia holds a PhD from the University of the Free State. Her research interests are in TVET, with a focus on students' experiences.



Ms Thelma Oppelt

Ms Thelma Oppelt is a PhD Intern in the HSRC's Inclusive Economic Development research programme. Her current projects assess the impacts of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope on human development, and the development of policy responses to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. She is currently completing a PhD in Psychology, in the Faculty of Health Sciences, at Nelson Mandela University. Her thesis considers how Gambling Disorder is a specific risk factor for Intimate Partner Violence.

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Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Ms Shawn Tini

She works as a Junior Researcher to the Youth Unemployment, Employability & Empowerment Research Chair. She has worked at the University of Fort Hare as an NRF intern. Shawn holds a BA Honours in Psychology and is currently registered for an MA in Education.



Dr Francis Muronda

Dr Francis Muronda is currently a Researcher to the Research Chair for Youth, Unemployment, Employability and Empowerment at the Nelson Mandela University, where he is also a postdoctoral research fellow. He holds a PhD (Economics) from the Mandela University. His thesis focused on the econometric application of gravity methodology to the analysis bilateral trade flows. He also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Tertiary Education from UNISA. His research interest is focused on quantitative analysis of: Unemployment, Entrepreneurship, Youth and Skills development.

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Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Mr. Hans Awude

Hans Awude is a PhD candidate at the REAL Centre, University of Witwatersrand. Hans has Master of Arts in Development Economics (Social Economy and Labour) from the State University of Campinas, Brazil; A Bachelor of Arts (Hons)-Sociology (Major), Philosophy (Minor) from the University of Ghana - Legon. His PhD study is trying to understand Demand and Supply of Skills in the Oil and Gas Industry in Ghana. Linking Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a conduit of skill supply. The study is using a conceptual framework of the Human Capital Theory as a major theory and other concepts like Competence-Base Training, Occupational Standards, Learning Outcomes and skill mismatches to better understand the Ghanaian context.



Dr. Presha Ramsarup

Dr. Presha Ramsarup is the Director of the Centre for Researching Education and Labour, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Her PhD focused on a systems approach to change orientated learning pathways and sustainable development. Her PhD work uncovered systemic insights into the emergence of scarce skill occupational learning pathways. Dr Ramsarup has worked as a practicing educator, professional development facilitator and environmental education advisor. She has served as technical advisor to both provincial and national government to support the development of environmental and sustainability education within South Africa's education and training transformation process.

WEBINAR SERIES MODERATORS

Re-Imagining TVET: The Implications of COVID-19



Dr Adam Cooper

Dr Adam Cooper is a Senior Research Specialist in the Inclusive Economic Development research programme of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). Dr Cooper works on a theme of research called Youth and the Future of Work. His work lies at the intersection of the Sociologies of Youth and Education. His current research interests focus on the ideas that excite marginalised young South Africans and how these can be used to create educational and work-related opportunities for empowerment.



Mrs Tulet Nongauza-Njengele

Mrs Tulet Nongauza-Njengele obtained a BSc (Education) degree from the University of Transkei which is now referred to as Walter Sisulu University - WSU; a Bachelor of Education (BEd) (Hons) from the University of Fort Hare (UFH); an Advanced Diploma in Project Management (NQF Level 6); Programme in Development and Implementation of a Quality Management System; a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) (Management Coaching) from Stellenbosch University (SU); and a number of enrichment short courses. She is currently a PhD (Public Administration) student at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. She has acquired an extensive understanding of public sector systems; inter-governmental partnerships; and Public-Private-Partnerships in South Africa. Her key competencies are: enhancing organisational efficiency; coaching for organisational performance; strategy execution; research and report writing skills; and extensive national and organisation skills development experience; amongst others, she has been awarded a Finalist in the Government Employed Official Sector of the CEO Global's Most Influential Women in Business and Government 2017 and 2018 Award. She is currently a Deputy Principal at Ikhala TVET College and the chairperson of the Eastern Cape TVET Colleges Research Round Table (EC-TVETC-RRT), an innovative idea that is pioneered by Eastern Cape TVET Colleges in South Africa.

Special acknowledgements and gratitude to the people and teams who made this webinar series possible.

Particular mention needs to be made of:

- Dr Lesley Powell from Nelson Mandela University who initiated and led the development and implementation of the series
- Dr Presha Ramsarup, Dr Adam Cooper, Dr Seamus Needham, Prof Joy Papier from IPSS at UWC, who generously supported and participated in the development of the webinar concept and who designed individual webinars.
- Our speakers: Ms Aruna Singh, Mr Khaya Matiso, Dr Lesley Powell, Ms Vongani Mboweni, Prof Joy Papier, Prof Yael Shalem, Prof Stephanie Allais, Prof Matiaz Pilz, Prof James Avis and Prof Simon McGrath.
- Our moderators: Mrs Tuletu Nongauza-Njengele, Ms Almaine Horne, Mr TW Vele, Dr Sophia Matenda, Dr Seamus Needham, Ms Shawn Tini, Dr Francis Muronda, Mr Hans Awude, Dr Presha Ramsarup, Ms Thelma Oppelt, Dr Adam Cooper, Prof Volker Wedekind
- TVET Webinar Series Working Group: Chaired by Dr Francis Muronda from Nelson Mandela University, the Working Group included Tuletu Nongauza-Njengele Deputy Principal of Ikhala TVET College, Samkelo Mokoena a student representative; Rakal Govender and Thivhudziwi Vele from DHET; Sophia Matenda and Seamus Needham from IPSS; Shawn Tini, Geniene Sharrock, Rochelle Brass, Nontutuzela Maginx, Ezekiel Majola, Karen Snyman, Yolisa Lawrence and Francis Muronda from the Research Chair Youth Unemployment, Employability and Empowerment at Nelson Mandela University; Tshidiso Seitshiro from the Faculty of Education at Nelson Mandela University; Hans Awude and Tolika Sibiya from REAL; and Thelma Oppelt from HSRC.
- Ms Debbie Mattheus for design and layout
- The HSRC team who worked on the ITC aspects of broadcasting the webinar series, in particular Ms Arlene Grossberg, Dr Adam Cooper and Mr Thabo Mphelo.

Particular mention also needs to be made of Nelson Mandela University who through their Special Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC) has made funding available to support this event as well as the production of a webinar report.

