



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7TH
BANJUL, THE GAMBIA
TIME: 09:00 – 16:30
LOCATION: OCEAN BAY HOTEL & RESORT

SKILLS FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT (SKYE) FUND LAUNCH AND INFORMATION WORKSHOP

The launch of the Skills for Youth Employment (SkYE) Fund will be held at the Ocean Bay Hotel & Resort on 7th March 2018. The high-level launch of the SkYE Fund will be followed by a workshop on the SkYE Fund process and guidance to applicants.

The SkYE Fund is developed under the Gambia Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) and will be jointly operated by the National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority (NAQAA) and the International Trade Centre (ITC). The Gambia Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) is a four-year project that aims at supporting youth employment and entrepreneurship in the country to address the economic root causes of irregular migration. It is funded by the European Union (EU) Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

The SkYE Fund is a results-based competitive funding model that ensures the critical importance of training youth to meet existing job needs, or in the case of self-employment, successfully meet market opportunities. In the pilot phase, the SkYE Fund aims to equip 1,000 Gambian youth with market-relevant technical and vocational skills in partnership with local training institutions.

The launch event will entail a panel including representation from NAQAA, Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (MOHERST) and YEP to officially announce the SkYE Fund and invite all interested training providers to apply. The launch of the SkYE Fund will also provide an opportunity to inform young people as well as employers and industry about possibilities for new training opportunities the SkYE Fund will bring.

The information workshop will bring together 80-100 participants representing the technical and vocational training landscape and interested employers across all regions in The Gambia, from both public and private sector including TVET institutions, industry associations and youth associations. The workshop aims to provide all potential applicants detailed information on the SkYE Fund process and guidance on proposal development in line with best practices and SkYE Fund criteria.

About ITC:

ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. ITC assists small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in partner countries to become more competitive in global markets, thereby contributing to sustainable economic development within the framework of the Aid-for-Trade agenda and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

About NAQAA:

NAQAA is the technical agency of the Gambia government under the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology responsible for the regulation of Tertiary (including TVET) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). NAQAA sets quality standards for institutions and programmes, and monitor compliance to the standards for continual improvement, and support for lifelong learning.

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LAUNCH AND WORKSHOP

09:00 – 09:30	Participants registration
09:30 – 10:15	Opening session (plenary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by YEP • Launching statement by Minister of Trade • Statements from MOHERST, MOYS • Presentation on SkYE Fund by YEP and NAQAA
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:30 – 12:00	SKYE Fund: Guidelines and application (plenary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed presentation on SkYE Fund criteria and the application form • Best practices on TVET programmes • Q&A
12:00 – 13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 – 15:00	Working session: industry support (breakout) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to reach expected employment/self-employment outcomes? • How to build employer and training partnerships? • Case study examples
15:00 – 15:20	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Preparing budgets (plenary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practices on achieving value for money
16:00 – 16:30	Closing remarks