

# Skills for Employability: Working with partners

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# Skills for Employability

- British Council is UK's cultural relations organisation – we create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries, building trust between them worldwide.
- The *Skills for Employability* programme uses the themes of skills and enterprise to promote cultural relations and support social and economic development in different countries and communities.



# Skills for Employability: What it does

**Policy Dialogue:** Local and international conferences etc for policy makers, employers and senior educationalists to facilitate dialogue and share strategic goals and themes.

**Partnerships for Skills Development:** Partnership projects between different organisations in priority skills sectors/delivery areas linked to industry needs and in support of national reform agendas.

**Enterprise:** Enterprise awards etc run at local and international level, to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship and showcase talent. Aimed at young people and their teachers, they also involve employers and policy makers.

**International Professional networks:** for professionals in skills.



# Skills for Employability 2010-11

38 countries

25 Partnerships for  
Skills Development

7 regions

26 Policy Dialogues  
for key stakeholders

69,474,210 people  
(395 leaders, 13,073 influencers  
69,460,742 aspirants)



## Partnering with government

- Government bodies in UK and overseas  
e.g. MoU signed with the National and Vocational Technical Education Commission of Pakistan under which Pakistani government provided technical/financial support to colleges involved in SfE.  
e.g. Collaborating with SQA on development of national qualifications development in Ukraine

## Partnering with employers

Skills is an HR talent management issue:

- Working with UK Sector Skills Councils on: setting up SSCs, developing national occupational standards and capacity building in Middle East
- Supporting development of skills standards in 23 priority areas for Pakistan (construction, textile, hospitality/tourism)
- Protocol for Social Partnership for VET in Macedonia signed by Economic Chambers
- Collaborating with Rolls Royce on educational leadership development in Saudi Arabia



## Working with colleges

### Institutional partnerships:

- Bilateral relationship; curriculum/materials development; capacity building; staff/student mobility.



### Partnerships for Skills Development:

- Wider systemic reform; linked to SSCs and NOS, awarding bodies, Skills Academies, IHE; strong employer engagement and investment from outset; government involvement e.g. Bahrain, Kuwait

## Increasing impact

- New strategic models of partnerships for skills development: more collaboration, more consortia
- Government involvement in governance of Partnerships for increased impact and sustainability: making sure the dots join up
- Enhanced management and monitoring and evaluation strategies – increased regional staff involvement for increased impact at local level
- Stronger employer investment based on the HR talent agenda (recruitment, retention, talent, succession)
- Social protection and labour.



# Calls for Skills Development Partnerships

1<sup>st</sup> Call      Regional Profiles ready by May 2011  
Full Partnerships start by October 2011

2<sup>nd</sup> Call:      Regional Profiles ready by September  
2011  
Full Partnerships start by February 2012

3<sup>rd</sup> Call:      Regional Profiles ready by early March  
2012  
Full Partnerships start by June 2012



## Future opportunities

- Briefing day for SSCs, learning providers and other bodies wishing to explore further models for international collaboration – 6 July 2011
- WorldSkills London 2011 wraparound international policy dialogue – October 2011
- British Council Skills development Partnership of the Year Award – November 2011
- Large international conference and exhibition opportunity on youth and employment – Istanbul, May/June 2010



Thank you

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[www.britishcouncil.org/learning-skills-for-employability](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-skills-for-employability)

