

Dual Education in South Africa's Post-School Education and Training System

Seamus Needham

Dual Education is best known amongst German, Austrian, and Swiss education and training systems, variants of which have been replicated across the world. Through a combination of theoretical learning and practical workplace learning, dual education is seen as a key learning mode for the training of artisans and professional qualifications. South Africa has experimented with dual education within its post-school education and training system. This presentation identifies both successes and challenges of dual learning implementation within South Africa's Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education sectors. High employment rates of artisans trained through dual learning within a context of significant youth unemployment point to the success of this approach while the cost and sustainability of dual learning programmes raise questions as to whether dual learning can be mainstreamed in South Africa. The nascent potential for dual learning programmes to assist the development of career and learning pathways that span South Africa's Post-School Education and Training institutions is also assessed.

Dr Seamus Needham, PhD, is the Director of the Institute for Post-School Studies (IPSS) in the Faculty of Education at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), Cape Town, South Africa.