



## Overview

The **Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)** and **SwissCham**, the representative body of Swiss businesses and their associates in South Africa, have entered into a partnership aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning in public technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges aimed at making them 'centres of excellence' in the national skills development landscape.

Swiss companies and their subsidiaries in South Africa, for whom skills development is both a business imperative and a point of pride, are well-placed to assist in this regard.

## Objectives

The overall objective of the proposed project is to develop a model for college-industry partnerships that can help raise the standard of public TVET colleges from 'average' to 'excellent'.

To that end, the project envisages a series of interventions by SwissCham member companies in at least two public colleges that will:

- Improve the standard of teaching and learning in the colleges' programmes and courses that relate to the companies' business interests.
- Align those training programmes and courses more closely with industry practice.
- Make students more employable.
- Develop mutually-beneficial partnerships between the participating college(s) and companies.

## Strategy

Over the next three years, participating companies will work with selected colleges to:

- Improve institutional management by participating in college councils.
- Develop the technical knowledge and skills of college staff through industry visits, exchange programmes and in-service training.
- Host college students for workplace-based experience during their studies and longer-term internships on completion of studies.
- Facilitate in-service mentoring of college staff by visiting Swiss experts.

## Progress to date

Project management team in place.

Implementation plan developed for the life of the project (July 2014 – July 2016).

Participating colleges, programmes and lecturers selected.

Lecturers trained on how to manage work experience placements for their students.

Lecturers trained on how to prepare and plan for their own time in industry

Employer day hosted.

Numerous college/industry meetings have been convened to plan how industry and colleges will work together in the future.