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07 February 2024

Dear ETDP SETA Stakeholder

Re: BUILDING A RESILIENT SKILLS ECOSYSTEM: THE FORWARD PATH OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN LIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC AND 4IR/5IR SHIFTS IN THE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR.

We hope this letter finds you well.

The Education, Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP SETA) writes to inform you about an important research study that we have commissioned in collaboration with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC).

We kindly request your active support and participation in this study.

Background Information

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the national economy revealing digital divides and necessitating remote emergency teaching solutions without adequate lead times or resources (Aruleba et al., 2022; Landa et al., 2021). In addition, in recent years, the world has witnessed a rapid transformation in various sectors due to the emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). This revolution, characterised by the integration of digital technologies into every aspect of our lives, has brought forth both challenges and opportunities. Nowhere is this more evident than in the field of education, training and skills development, where the impact of 4IR and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has created a seismic shift in the way learning and teaching are conducted.

Understanding this impact is pivotal for future planning and ensuring the relevancy of education, training and skills development.

To plan and implement effective responses at a policy, programme, and implementation level, the ETDP SETA have commissioned the HSRC to conduct a study on the impact of COVID-19 across the 14 subsectors within the context of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR).

Study Objectives

The main objective of this project is: ***To build a resilient skills ecosystem defining the forward path for the education and training (ETD) arising from the pandemic and 4IR/5IR shifts.***

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Study Target and Request for Support

The study aims to reach out to employers in all 14 ETD sectors across the country. We are seeking a diversity of stakeholders within these sectors and sub-sectors, categorized by province and different types of members. Due to compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) legislation, we are unable to share our databases with the HSRC.

We are therefore reaching out to you directly to make you aware of the study and importantly to encourage your institutions participation in the study. The attached letter from the HSRC provides a link which we would appreciate your clicking on and responding to, with the aim of assisting them compile a database of potential respondents.

Ethical Clearance

Please note that the study has received ethical clearance from the Human Sciences Research Council Research Ethics Committee.

Contact Information

Should you require further information related to the research component of the study, please feel free to contact the Principal Investigators Dr. Bongiwe Mncwango: Email - Bmncwango@hsrc.ac.za and Ms. Shirin Motala: Email - smotala@hsrc.ac.za.

For information regarding the work of the ETDP SETA, please contact Mr. Lucky Mkhonza: Email LuckyM@etdpseta.org.za.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Your support and collaboration is crucial in ensuring the success of this study and will contribute greatly to enhancing the support that the ETDP SETA will be able to provide to the sector to strengthening skills development interventions towards developing a skilled and competent workforce which contributes to the realisation of our national development priorities.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Thokozani Mlambo: ETDP SETA Senior Research Specialist

Date: 07 February 2024