

# CONNECTED EDUCATION

EVERY LEADER. EVERY TEACHER. EVERY LEARNER

# BRIDGE



LINKING INNOVATORS IN EDUCATION



## BRIDGE National Post-School Access Community of Practice

### What is a CoP?

A community of practice (CoP) is a group of people with a common interest who come together to learn more about it. BRIDGE is a leader in setting up, managing and running communities of practice in different educational fields.

## COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

### Inputs

- Need & purpose
- Common interest
- Multi stakeholders
- BRIDGE methodology
- Facilitator/champion
- Administrative support
- Venues & logistics
- Funding

### Activities

- Sharing information
- Sharing practices
- Sharing resources
- Identifying and solving problems
- Networking
- Forming partnerships & relationships
- Responding to policy developments
- Creating products & resources
- BRIDGE Knowledge Management

### Outputs

- Knowledge products
- Joint ventures
- Maps
- Pilot projects
- Resources, guidelines & tools
- Shared practice models

### Purpose of the National Post-School Access Community of Practice

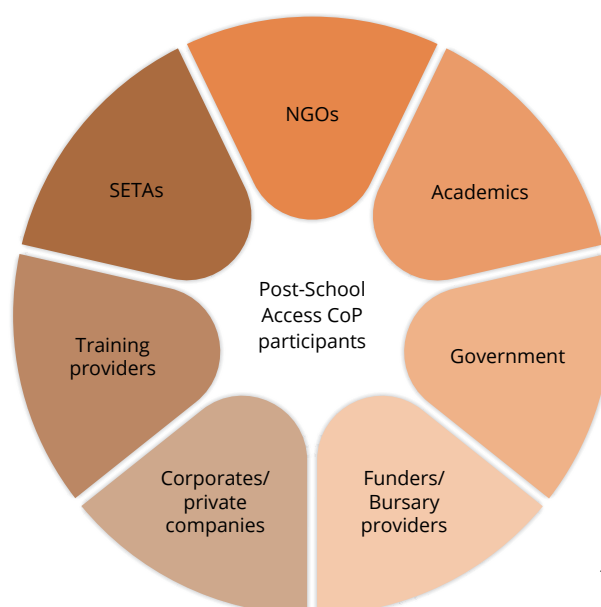
The aim of this community of practice is to share knowledge about post-school opportunities and pathways for South Africa's youth from a range of different perspectives, and to facilitate interaction between diverse players in this sector.

### The Post-School Landscape

The post-school landscape covers a broad spectrum from institutional education and training to workplace learning and informal skills acquisition. It includes issues of access and factors affecting performance as well as ways of enhancing employability to facilitate the transition of young people into employment, self-employment or entrepreneurship.

### Post-School Access CoP participants

The CoP attracts participants from a broad range of organisations, who connect over their shared interest and work in supporting young people to navigate the post-school terrain and ultimately the world-of-work.



### History of the P-SA CoP

This community of practice began in 2012 as the Tertiary Access Focus Group, an action group set up by higher education bursary providers to explore their common interests. It subsequently evolved into a community with a wider focus on the post-school terrain in general.



## What happens in a P-SA CoP meeting?

The CoP holds four meetings a year. These events might include:

- Expert input on aspects of the Post-School Access landscape
- Showcasing organisations or innovations
- Panel discussions
- Group activities on specific topics
- Hands-on exploration of resources or practices
- Discussion of links between policy and on-the-ground realities and practices
- Updates and information-sharing on key events or issues in the Post-School Access landscape
- Formation of specific interest groups or task teams to pursue a line of action



## Examples of themes, topics and tools explored by the P-SA CoP

- Sharing of information and collaboration around **bursary opportunities**
- Issues of **TVET** colleges, work integrated learning, and the value of industry/ TVET partnerships in strengthening the curriculum and enhancing student employability
- Insights into the development of the **National Plan for Post-School Education** and Training (NP-PSET), for implementing an integrated post-school system
- The implications of the **Fourth Industrial Revolution** for education and skills development
- The **Demand-Driven Training (DDT)** Toolkit, a digital resource that helps bridge gaps between education and employment
- The work of the **DHET's Career Development Services** in providing effective career information and counselling
- The **Maharishi Institute's success in empowering young people** by giving them access to quality business education while developing them as 'whole people'.

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The challenge – and the opportunity – that this CoP gives us is a chance to ask: What can we do jointly if we engage with others in the room, that we couldn't do on our own?

CoP PARTICIPANT

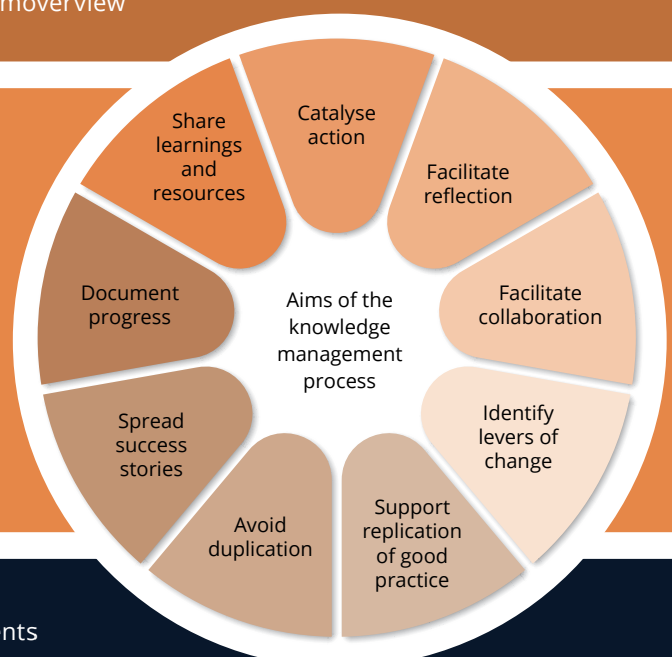
## Development of the Post-School Access Map

A significant achievement by this community has been the mapping of post-school education, training and informal learning opportunities. This comprehensive online resource assists learners (as well as parents, teachers, career advisors and others who work with young people) to select appropriate learning and career pathways.

Click on this link to view the map:  
<http://bit.ly/psamoverview>

## Knowledge Management and the P-SA CoP

Knowledge management for the P-SA CoP means spreading the information, practices, tools and resources that are shared in CoP meetings. Presentations and discussions are captured in Meeting Highlights, and other types of 'knowledge products' that come out of the work of the CoP are disseminated to the sector in general through the BRIDGE website.



All knowledge products relating to CoP activities and achievements are on the M&E tab of the BRIDGE website [www.bridge.org.za](http://www.bridge.org.za). Please contact [info@bridge.org.za](mailto:info@bridge.org.za) if you would like to take part in this CoP.