

## BARBARA PEARN - CONSULTANT

**Last name:** Pearn  
**First name:** Barbara

**Date of birth:** -  
**Nationality:** Poland

### PROFILE (BIO)

Barbara Pearn has over 10 years of professional experience working in vocational skills development (VSD). She has worked in different types of development organizations, including multilateral, private and NGO. She has sound technical expertise in VSD with the focus on TVET systems reform. She worked for UNESCO both at the global and regional levels (UNESCO-UNEVOC and UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education). She has demonstrated experience with short-term assignments (GIZ, SDC and private funders) and backstopping to SDC projects. Barbara has worked with government entities, such as the Thai Office of Vocational Education Commission (OVEC) and the Malaysian Ministry of Education, to plan and implement joint programs. She conducted research on quality assurance in national qualification frameworks and transversal skills in VSD, presenting findings at national and regional meetings, prepared analytical reports, policy briefs, and web articles, and coordinated policy and regional progress reviews. She led the organization of major conferences, edited an issue of the TVET@Asia online magazine, and headed a working group on good practices in VSD for GIZ RECOTVET in Vietnam. Barbara holds an MA in Educational Planning, Economics and International Development from the University College London.

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

<b>Institution:</b> University College London, UK <b>Date:</b> Sept. 2016 – Jun 2018	<b>Degree/title:</b> MA in Educational Planning, Economics and International Development
<b>Institution:</b> Heriot-Watt University, UK <b>Date:</b> Sept. 2007 – Jun 2011	<b>Degree/title:</b> MA in Applied Languages and Translating (Spanish, English, German)
<b>Institution:</b> Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Spain <b>Date:</b> Oct 2009 – Jan 2010	<b>Degree/title:</b> European Erasmus Program
<b>Institution:</b> Universidad Pablo Olavide, Spain <b>Date:</b> Feb 2010 – July 2010	<b>Degree/title:</b> European Erasmus Program

### SELECTED TRAININGS COMPLETED

<b>Institution:</b> ETH Zurich, Nadel Centre for Development Cooperation <b>Date:</b> September 2024	<b>Content:</b> Storytelling for Systems Change
<b>Institution:</b> GIZ Academy for International Cooperation <b>Date:</b> June 2018	<b>Content:</b> Capacity Works Certificate
	<b>Nadel</b>

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<b>Period:</b> 01.02.2025-present <b>Countries:</b> Switzerland	<b>Position:</b> International Consultant and Backstopper	<b>Employer:</b> Swisscontact <b>Funder:</b> SDC (Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation)
<b>Backstopping mandate to SDC HQ for the period 2025-2029 – Lot 4: Vocational Skills Development</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical inputs to assignments tendered through the framework</li> <li>• Liaise with SDC HQ on specific assignments and their progress</li> </ul>		
<b>Period:</b> 01.01.2025-present <b>Countries:</b> Switzerland	<b>Position:</b> Global coordinator	<b>Employer:</b> Swisscontact
<b>Coaching for Employment and Entrepreneurship (C4EE)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseeing all projects implementing C4EE and supporting its implementation</li> <li>• Liaising with partners (HSLU)</li> </ul>		
<b>Period:</b> 11.2023-06.2024	<b>Position:</b> International Consultant	<b>Employer:</b> Swisscontact

<b>Countries:</b> Nepal		<b>Funder:</b> SDC (Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation)
<b>Nepal Vocational Qualifications System (NVQS)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and revise a series of policy briefs covering topics related to operationalizing the national vocational qualification framework (NVQS) in Nepal</li> <li>Revise policy briefs related to the topics of permeability, credit transfer and recognition of prior learning (RPL)</li> </ul>		
<b>Period:</b> 06.2024-09.2024	<b>Position:</b> International Consultant	<b>Employer:</b> Swisscontact
<b>Countries:</b> Switzerland / Germany		<b>Funder:</b> SECO (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland)
<b>Swiss Skills for Competitiveness (SS4C)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the intervention plan implementation from ISD perspective</li> <li>Provide technical advice to the development of the Green Skills Gap Assessment Tools</li> <li>Explore a cooperating with partners in Switzerland on dual VET</li> </ul>		
<b>Period:</b> 06.2024-09.2024	<b>Position:</b> International Consultant	<b>Employer:</b> Swisscontact
<b>Countries:</b> Switzerland / Germany		<b>Funder:</b> Hilti Foundation
<b>Multi-Criteria Assessment: Country-Readiness to Replicate Dual Apprenticeship in East Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducting secondary data analysis of the country readiness based on the criteria (Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Somalia, Rwanda)</li> <li>Creating a first list of countries that may not be suitable for replication</li> <li>Deep diving (collecting primary data) on the readiness of final set of countries, ranking them according to readiness</li> <li>Proposing final two countries with rationale for selection based on the selected criteria: strength and weaknesses of the framework conditions for replication of the dual apprenticeship.</li> </ul>		
<b>Period:</b> 11.2023-present	<b>Position:</b> Advisor Skills Development	<b>Employer:</b> Swisscontact
<b>Countries:</b> Switzerland / Germany		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advising the Swisscontact global portfolio in skills development</li> <li>Providing technical input to technical proposals in skills development to technical proposals led by regional teams, including donors such as SDC, SECO, WB and the private funders</li> <li>Actively contributing to the Community of Practice (CoP) in skills development</li> <li>Developing knowledge products (e-learning, reports, fact sheets, policy briefs) and presenting Swisscontact's work in various thematic events in Switzerland and beyond.</li> </ul>		
<b>Period:</b> 05/2017 – 11/2023	<b>Position:</b> Consultant and Project Manager - Skills Development and Employment Promotion	<b>Employer:</b> NIRAS International Consulting
<b>Country:</b> Germany		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designing projects for different donors: EU, SDC, GIZ, KfW, WB, ADB, AfDB.</li> <li>Leadership and management of external consultants in several projects.</li> <li>Managed and provided advisory services to the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centers of Excellence for Cooperative Training in Kenya (KfW)</li> <li>Technical Cooperation with Africa (E4D/SOGA) (GIZ)</li> <li>Qualitative Research on Business and Industry Collaboration in TVET in ASEAN (GIZ)</li> <li>Education to Employment (E2) Project (SDC)</li> <li>Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) (KfW)</li> <li>Qualifications and employment perspectives for refugees and host communities (QEP) (GIZ)</li> <li>Improving Image and Social Perception of TVET in Egypt (EU)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>Period:</b> 04/2016 - 08/2016	<b>Position:</b> Associate Project Officer - VSD	<b>Employer:</b> UNESCO International Center for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (UNESCO-UNEVOC)
<b>Country:</b> Germany		

- Provided technical advice and support in managing the implementation of a capacity building program, including training manual development, for vocational education (UNEVOC TVET Leadership Program).
- Played a key role in planning and executing the launching of UNESCO’s strategy for vocational education (2016-21).
- Supported the consolidation of activities of the UNEVOC Network in Europe and North America.

**Period:** 07/2013 - 02/2016      **Position:** Research and Program Assistant – VSD      **Employer:** UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

- Supported education and training projects, including project conceptualization, monitoring and reporting, in Asia.
- Worked closely with key partners, including the Thai Office of Vocational Education Commission (OVEC) and Malaysian Ministry of Education in planning and preparing of joint program activities
- Conducted research and conceptualized research frameworks (quality assurance of national qualification frameworks, transversal skills in TVET).
- Presented research findings and represented UNESCO in several national and regional meetings.
- Prepared analytical products (reports, policy briefs, web articles, etc.).
- Coordinated policy reviews (Pacific, Cambodia).
- Coordinated regional progress reviews (TVET progress review in the Asia-Pacific)
- Lead the organization of meetings and conferences (Asia-Pacific Conference on Education and Training, Aug 2015; Quality Assurance of TVET Qualifications, Oct 2015, etc.
- Served as editor of the 3rd issue of TVET@Asia online magazine.
- Served as Head of Working Group 3 to have you as the head of the Working group 3 on good practices in TVET for RECOTVET/GIZ Vietnam
- Supported administrative procedures (development of terms of reference, establishing contracts, etc.).

**LANGUAGE SKILLS** (C2 = very good, negotiating level / C1 = good / B2 = satisfactory / B1 = basic)

Language	Spoken	Written	Read
English	C2	C2	C2
Polish	Native Language		
German	C2	C2	C2
Spanish	B2	B2	B2

**OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION (E.G. PUBLICATIONS)**

- Pearn, B. (2025). Driving Systemic Change Capitalisation of Project Experiences in Skills Development. Swisscontact.
- Pearn, P. (2024). Policy Brief Series. Nepal. Credit Transfer and Lateral Entry. Nepal Vocational Qualifications System (NVQS). Swisscontact.
- Pearn, B., Lenssen, R. and Torres, C. (2019). Partnerships for Skilling ASEAN’s Workforce Business and industry collaboration in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. GIZ.
- Pearn, B. and Tam A. (2018) Transversal skills as a missing link between school and work: Experiences from the Asia-Pacific region, In Transitions to Post-school life. Margarita Pavlova, M et al (ed.), Springer Nature Singapore
- Pearn B. (2015) Transversal skills in TVET: Policy implications, Asia-Pacific Education System Review Series No. 8. UNESCO, Bangkok.
- Pearn, B. and Chang, G.C. (2013) Collaborative regional research as a basis for policy recommendations and educational reform in Asia and the Pacific, In TVET@Asia