

WORKSHOP A

a rethinking in society for *vocational education and training (VET)*

moderation: jonas büchel - urban institute, riga

VI. Dikli Forum on Social Market Economy
“Dual Vocational Education and Training”
May 27. 2014

a rethinking in society for vocational education and training (VET)

four issues to be considered:

stimulated employment

skills and qualities

movement of labor and investment

occupational and educational standards

to be discussed:

operational recommendations for the nearby future

workshop summaries:

***the day after* - workshop feedback**

a rethinking in society for VET ...

stimulated employment

- locally and regionally adopted and strengthened labor markets.
- combating youth unemployment, hence combating poverty and fostering the development of the next generation.
- preventing unstable social and educational situations.
- offering orientation for youth.
- offering new motivation for 50+ workforces.

a rethinking in society for VET ...

skills and qualities

- highly educated and skilled workforces are increasing the local economic attractiveness.
- new foreign investment.
- incubating locally based start-ups with better opportunities.
- strengthening individual and societies abilities to tackle the aftermath of the economical crisis.
- economy and education are running hand in hand and may predict certain demographic and labor market developments.

a rethinking in society for VET ...

movement of labor and investment

- comparability for employers. stimulating investment in local economic growth.
- comparability for employees. once achieved skills are measurable and europe-wide comparable.
- inland migration: regions have the opportunity to develop concrete market specializations and according education-institutions.
- increased re-immigration and future necessary immigration.

a rethinking in society for VET ...

occupational and educational standards

- professionalism requires precise and detailed occupational and frequently upgraded professional standards.
- occupational standards are far more than binding norms or regulations:
improving professional thinking, reliability and identity.
- occupational standards are supporting societies acceptance.
- occupational standards are a core issue for VET:
no profession can work out educational didactics without setting an index of necessary skills and qualities.

a rethinking in society for VET ...

operational recommendations for the nearby future - to be discussed:

- how **politics** has to react, which top-down approaches and changes in legislation are necessary to support the future of vocational education?
- do **educational** institutions have the opportunity to react and support a further development process of VET? is a structured VET educational policy possible?
- what is the magic potion for **employers and employees**, enterprises, lobby organizations and institutions such as the trade unions and the chamber of commerce? to which extend do these institutions have an option to act and co-design the development?
- **a set of tools and instruments:**
 - communication and pro-active networking!
 - allowance of pilot-projects and readiness to accept shifts.
 - more pedagogical research supporting VET.
 - basic and supportive education reforms.

...

a rethinking in society for VET ...
***the day after* - workshop feedback**

a rethinking in society for VET ...
***the day after* - workshop feedback**

participants feedback 1. session

- more motivation and information for young people in order to consider the sheer existence of VET-based individual professional development - anyhow this conflicts very much with the statement of one young participant in the workshop:
“young people want a job and have ideas of utopian salaries. they run straight after the school to the universities and are basically lazy...”
- image: more attractively designed education programs with institutions welcoming trainees and high quality education standards...
- “over-regulated” bureaucracy in latvian education system; quote:
“not every profession can be regulated by the government”.
- the future: more modules supporting a steered, but flexible and individually framed education program.

a rethinking in society for VET ...
***the day after* - workshop feedback**

participants feedback 2. session

- regionally focussed and strengthened VET-network.
- professional associations, marketing their professions and educational possibilities.
- ESF projects are not sufficiently used and communication and cooperation among possible project partners is needed, thus = ESF info-strategies for education institutions and employers stimulating more communication.
- bureaucracy hinders positive developments = more flexibility.
- creative entrepreneurs.
- an exchange of positive examples in between regions and municipalities.
- a real shift in society!

a rethinking in society for VET ...
***the day after* - workshop feedback**

participants feedback 3. session

- career & training advisory; information starting already in 7. or 8. school grade.
- change of bad VET image by demonstrating positive examples.
- stimulating more employers to ask for more trainees by changing and opening questions of taxation laws.
- intensive collaboration and communication with entrepreneurs and companies.
- pro-active marketing of VET
- generally more information and communication!

paldies - danke - thanks

jonas büchel

jonas@urbaninstitute.lv

+37129410487