

Call for papers

A GOVPET Graduate Workshop

Improving inclusiveness in dual VET systems

University of Lausanne, 4-5 May 2017

Workshop topic

Vocational training systems based on a combination of school based and in-firm training, generally known as “dual systems”, have a good reputation. Apprentices learn professional skills in a real world context, and employers’ involvement in the system ensures that the skills taught reflect their needs. As a result, it is not surprising that the countries which have successfully implemented dual vocational education and training (VET) systems have some of the lowest youth unemployment rates in the OECD.

By definition, dual VET systems combine an education system logic with a labour market logic. Apprentices need to find an apprenticeship position in a firm, and these are allocated on a competitive basis, in a way that resembles very much the functioning of the labour market. The inevitable selectivity of dual VET systems is problematic particularly for academically weak candidates and often also for those who come from a disadvantaged background. If they cannot access vocational training, they are likely to lag behind throughout their life-course. As a consequence, they also face a very high risk of social exclusion and benefit dependency.

Consequently, the countries that rely on a dual VET system have developed some side measures that aim at maximizing the inclusiveness of these systems. Accompanying a purely market driven logic of matching between candidates and apprenticeships positions, in all these countries the state and the social partners intervene in order to facilitate access to the dual VET systems for disadvantaged groups.

The main objective of this graduate workshop is to discuss research on institutions, tools and interventions that aim at making dual VET system more inclusive, i.e. more accessible to youth with a disadvantaged background. In addition, we are also interested in research on other GOVPET general topics i.e. the governance of VET systems, the actors and constellations of actors involved in VET and the cooperation between these. We are particularly, but not exclusively, interested in studies such as:

- Research on access to dual VET training at the systemic level
- Evaluation studies/ in depth analyses of specific pro-inclusiveness interventions
- Studies about how such decentralised cooperation manages or fails to promote inclusiveness
- Studies of the role of employers in the selection of apprentices
- Studies on the politics of access to dual VET systems
- Comparative studies of VET policy in relation to system inclusiveness

And, beyond the focus on inclusiveness:

- Studies on how decentralised cooperation of public and private actors in VET work in general

Workshop structure

The workshop will consist of presentations by senior faculty and discussion of graduate students' work. It is open to PhD students doing research on relevant topics who submit a paper. A paper can be a proper research paper (preferable if available) or a description of the PhD project. A paper can be single or jointly authored. Papers and or projects will be presented by students and discussed by GOVPET and invited senior faculty.

Senior faculty

Carmen Baumeler, SFIVET
Giuliano Bonoli, University of Lausanne
Christian Ebner, University of Cologne
Patrick Emmenegger, University of St Gallen
Christian Lyhne Ibsen, University of Copenhagen
Christian Imdorf, University of Bern
Lukas Graf, University of St Gallen
Christine Trampusch, University of Cologne

Application and financial support

In order to apply, please send an abstract of about 500 words to Anna Wilson (Anna.Wilson@unil.ch) before 15th December 2016. GOVPET can cover costs for accommodation and subsistence. Travel costs must be financed by participants.

Further information on GOVPET

GOVPET (Governance in Vocational Professional Education and Training) is a Leading House project funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). For more information, please visit our webpage: www.govpet.ch.

