

Progress REPORT of the IRN “International Research Network in Vocational Education and training” (IRNVET) for the years 2017-2018

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1. Introduction

This report covers the activities of the International Research Network in Vocational Education and Training” (IRNVET) for the years. During this period the network has taken further steps in the consolidation of cooperation frameworks, publication channels and exchanges in international Vocational Education and Training Research (below referred to as VET Research).

The main activities to be reported below are the following ones:

- 1) Development of the International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training (IJRVET) as a major journal for international VET research;
- 2) Cooperation with the European VETNET network and in the context of ECER conferences of the EERA.
- 3) Development of a tradition of IRNVET-related Spring Conferences and support for the conference publications.
- 4) Engagement in international VET research projects and enhancement of IRNVET activities in these contexts.

1. Development of the International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training (IJRVET)

During the period 2017-2018 the IJRVET has been published on regular basis and it has gained wider international visibility and recognition. (See the list of the issues published in 2017-2018 as Annex 1 to this report.) In order to improve the visibility and usability of the publications, the IJRVET has started to publish as a hard copy publication the IJRVET Yearbook, starting with Yearbook 2017 and Yearbook 2018. IJRVET Yearbooks (print) are available from Amazon ([com](#), [de](#), [es](#), [fr](#), [it](#), [uk](#), [jp](#)) and other retailers. (See the list of IRNVET-related book publications as Annex 2.)

As of 2018 the ILO Center for the development of vocational training (CINTERFOR) has started to support the IJRVET. Concerning the indexing of the IJRVET, it is currently recognised by the following registers: AIRITI, BASE, CNKI (China), COPAC (United Kingdom), DataCite, DOAJ, ECONSTOR, ECONBIZ, EDUDOC (Switzerland), ERIC (USA), ERIH Plus, OPENAIRE (Europe), PEDOCS (Germany), ProQuest, SCHOLAR, SCOPUS, SHERPA, SSOAR, VOCED Plus (Australia) and WorldCat/OCLC. Further indexation services will follow.

2. Cooperation with the European VETNET network and in the context of ECER conferences

Originally the founding of IRNVET as well as the founding of IJRNET have been initiatives of the European VETNET network and part of its strategy to develop wider international community ties in the field of VET research. In this respect the VETNET General Assembly during the ECER conferences 2017 and 2018 has been also a forum for reporting on the progress with IJRNET journal and IRNVET network. Also, the website of the VETNET network, [Vetnetsite](#) and the affiliated [Newsletter for European Research in Learning and Work \[L&W\]](#) have served as news channels.

In the previous ECER conferences there had been sessions dedicated to the founding phase of the IRNVET. In recent conferences no specific IRNVET-label had been used in VETNET-sessions. Instead, the wider international sessions have been taken into account in preparing contributions to the journal.

3. Development of a tradition of IRNVET-related Spring Conferences

In collaboration with the VETNET network the IRNVET has negotiated an arrangement that provides a continuity of two Spring conferences that are related to the network activities of VETNET and IRNVET networks.

The Stockholm International Conference on VET Research has been organised on annual basis as an invitational author conference on a cruise ship since May 2012. Based on the materials of the conference Stockholm University has produced book publications in the years 2017 and 2018. (See publications listed in the Annex 2.) The Crossing Boundaries in VET Research has been organised twice as an author conference shortly before the ECER conferences (September 2015 and August 2017). For the conferences the host organisations have produced book publications in both years. (See publications listed in the Annex 2.)

By the ECER 2017 a working agreement was reached between the conference organisers and the network representatives that the two conferences will be developed in the future as joint Spring conferences that will rotate with each other. Thus, the Stockholm conference will continue from 2018 on every two years (and the next one is to be organised in Stockholm in the year 2020). Likewise, the next 'Crossing Boundaries in VET Research' conference will take place in Valencia in May 2019 (and the next one is to be organised in Switzerland in the year 2021).

In addition, the IRNVET network has worked together with the INAP network and publicized its conferences and publications. (See publications listed in the Annex 2.)

4. Engagement in international VET research projects and enhancement of IRNVET activities in these contexts

The first phase of the WERA IRN-VET (2014 - 2016) was characterised by promoting *internationalisation* in VET research and building the frameworks for effective networking and knowledge sharing. In this respect the second phase of WERA IRNVET was outlined as cooperation in International VET Research. This has been greatly enhanced by several international research projects in which active members of the IRNVET network have been involved during the recent years.

From 2015 to 2018 a research group at the University of Bremen carried out studies on the preconditions for and limits to transfer of the German dual system of VET to German-owned companies in China, USA and South Africa. This research group initiated the first “Crossing Boundaries in VET Research” conference. Further results of these studies have been reported by doctoral dissertations, conference papers and journal articles. Cooperation with parallel research groups led to launch of a new book series ‘Internationale Berufsbildungsforschung’ (International VET Research) in the year 2018 (the first books are being published in 2019).

Parallel to these activities the cooperating research groups have been involved in 2017-2018 in a preliminary monitoring study that has examined the impact of the developmental aid activities in Africa (Namibia, Nigeria, Ghana, Botswana und Kenia) and in Latin America (Chile, Peru, Colombia, Brazil and Costa Rica). Based on this work the said themes have been engaged in a long-term accompanying research project to evaluate educational cooperation in the field of VET with both developed and developing countries. These activities will be taken into account in the research cooperation agenda of the IRNVET network in the coming year.

Annex 1

List of Articles published in the International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training (IJRVET) 2017 - 2018

Vol 4 No 1 (2017) April

[Ensuring Curriculum Relevance in Vocational Education and Training: Epistemological Perspectives in a Curriculum Research Project](#)

Hilde Hiim

[Supporting Vocational Students' Development of Preventive Behaviour at Work: A Phenomenological Analysis of Teachers' Experiences](#)

Alexandra Lecours, Pierre-Yves Therriault

[Developing Schemas for Assessing Social Competences among Unskilled Young People](#)

Vibe Aarkrog, Bjarne Wahlgren

[Entrepreneurship Education at Indian Industrial Training Institutes – A Case Study of the Prescribed, Adopted and Enacted Curriculum in and around Bangalore](#)

Lea Zenner, Kumar Kothandaraman, Matthias Pilz

Vol 4 No 2 (2017) August

[Finnish WorldSkills Achievers' Vocational Talent Development and School-to-Work Pathways](#)

Laura Pylväs, Petri Nokelainen

[Humanistic Elements in the Educational Practice at a United States Sub-Baccalaureate Technical College](#)

Peng Chen, Carsten Schmidtke

[Three Types of Tightrope Dance in the Comeback Process](#)

Mette Bunting, Torill Aagot Halvorsen, Geir H Moshuus

[The Lack of Collaboration Between Companies and Schools in the German Dual Apprenticeship System: Historical Background and Recent Data](#)

Michael Gessler

Vol 4 No 3 (2017)

Special Issue - Editors: Louis Cournoyer, Geneviève Fournier & Jonas Masdonati

[Going Back-to-School in Vocational Education and Training: Introduction](#)

Louis Cournoyer, Geneviève Fournier, Jonas Masdonati

[Why Returning to VET? Results of a Qualitative Comparative Study about English and German Car Mechatronics](#)

Erika Edith Gericke

[Decision-Making Rationales among Quebec VET Student Aged 25 and Older](#)

Louis Cournoyer, Frédéric Deschenaux

[The Reasons Behind a Career Change Through Vocational Education and Training](#)

Jonas Masdonati, Geneviève Fournier, Imane Zineb Lahrizi

[When Work Comes First: Young Adults in Vocational Education and Training in Norway](#)

Anna Hagen Tønder, Tove Mogstad Aspøy

[VET Again: Now as a VET Teacher](#)

Henriette Duch, Karen Egedal Andreasen

Vol 4 No 4 (2017) December

[Short-Term Benefits, Long-Term Harm? Alternative Training to Apprenticeships in Norway](#)

Tove Mogstad Aspøy, Torgeir Nyen

[Towards the Compatibility of Professional and Scientific Learning Outcomes: Insights and Options in the Context of Competence Orientation](#)

Volker Rein

[Enhancing Social Competence for Disadvantaged Youth in Pre-Vocational Education: Model Development Through Design-Based Research](#)

Ida Kristina Kühn

[Resource Utilisation and Curriculum Implementation in Community Colleges in Kenya](#)

Peter Changilwa Kigwilu, Winston Jumba Akala

[Book Review: Vocational Education and Training in Times of Economic Crisis](#)

Larissa Freund, Michael Gessler

Vol 5 No 1 (2018) April

[Effects of Augmented Reality on Student Achievement and Self-Efficacy in Vocational Education and Training](#)

Mustafa Sirakaya, Ebru Kilic Cakmak

[The State-of-the-Art of Collaborative Technologies for Initial Vocational Education: A Systematic Literature Review](#)

Beat A. Schwendimann, Bram De Wever, Raija Hämäläinen, Alberto A. P. Cattaneo

[Vocational Teaching-Learning through the Eyes of Undergraduate Vocational Students in Malta: A Qualitative Exploratory Study](#)

Alison Said

[Who is Going to Build the Wall? A Building Trades Crisis in the U.S.A.](#)

Ian Toppin

[Book Review: Internationalization in Vocational Education and Training](#)

Marco Perini, Pekka Kämäräinen

Vol 5 No 2 (2018) August

[The Prediction of Professional Success in Apprenticeship: The Role of Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Abilities, of Interests and Personality](#)

Jennifer Diedrich, Aljoscha C. Neubauer, Anna Ortner

[Decision-Making Processes Among Potential Dropouts in Vocational Education and Training and Adult Learning](#)

Vibe Aarkrog, Bjarne Wahlgren, Christian Hougaard Larsen, Kristina Mariager-Anderson, Susanne Gottlieb

[Critical Practice Study of Nursing Evaluated by Teachers](#)

Jessica B Shearer, Johanna Lasonen

[Factors Influencing the Value of CPD Activities Among VET Teachers](#)

Per Andersson, Mattias Hellgren, Susanne Köpsén

[Book Review: History of Vocational Education and Training in Europe](#)

Ruhi Tyson

Vol 5 No 3 (2018)

Special Issue - Editors: Franz Kaiser & Susann Krugmann

[Social Dimensions and Participation in Vocational Education and Training – An Introduction in the Special Issue](#)

Franz Kaiser, Susann Krugmann

[Crossing Boundaries: VET, the Labour Market and Social Justice](#)

James Avis

[Theme Centered Interaction in Critical Vocational Teacher Education – An Introduction Into an Ethical Founded Method and Model to Strengthen Self-reflexive Autonomy and Socially Responsible Action](#)

Franz Kaiser

[The ‘Future of Employment’ on the Shop Floor: Why Production Jobs are Less Susceptible to Computerization than Assumed](#)

Sabine Pfeiffer

[Professional Desires and Career Decisions: Effects of Professional Interests, Role Models, and Internship in Lower Secondary School](#)

Markus P. Neuenschwander, Jan Hofmann, Andreas Jüttler, Stephan Schumann

Vol 5 No 4 (2018) December

[“The Force that Keeps you Going”: Enthusiasm in Vocational Education and Training \(VET\) Teachers’ Work](#)

Sanna Wenström, Satu Uusiautti, Kaarina Määttä

[Higher Education in Switzerland: Predictors of Becoming Engaged in Higher Vocational or Higher Academic Education – The Role of Workplace Factors](#)

Christof Nägele, Markus P. Neuenschwander, Patsawee Rodcharoen

[Staying in the Loop: Formal Feedback Mechanisms Connecting Vocational Training to the World of Work in Europe](#)

Jörg Markowitsch, Günter Hefler

[The Experiences of Learners with Disabilities in Mainstream Vocational Training in Nepal](#)

Eka Raj Adhikari

[Book Review: Collective Skill Formation in Liberal Market Economies? The Politics of Training Reforms in Australia, Ireland and the United Kingdom](#)

Fabienne-Agnes Baumann

Annex 2

List of book publications related to the IRNVET network and affiliated conferences 2017 - 2018

1. IJRNET Yearbooks 2017 and 2018

[IJRNET International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training: Yearbook 2017: Volume 1 \(ISSN 2197-8638\)](#) by Michael Gessler, Karen Evans, et al. | 6 Jan 2018

[IJRNET International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training: Yearbook 2018 \(ISSN 2197-8638\)](#) by Michael Gessler, Karen Evans, et al. | 7 Jan 2019

2. Publications from the Stockholm International VET Research Conferences

Moreno Herrera, L., Teräs, M. & Gougoulakis, P. (Eds.): Emergent Issues in Vocational Education & Training. Voices from Cross-National Research. Stockholm: Premiss Förlag. 2018

Teräs, M., Gougoulakis, P. & Moreno Herrera, L. (Eds.): Comparative Issues and Research Concerns in the National Landscapes of Vocational Education & Training. Stockholm: Premiss Förlag. 2018

Gougoulakis, P., Moreno Herrera, L. & Teräs, M. (Eds.): Vocational Education & Training – The World of Work and Teacher Education. Stockholm: Premiss Förlag. 2018

3. Publications from the Crossing Boundaries in VET Research Conferences

Kaiser, F. & Krugmann, S. (Eds.) Social Dimensions and Participation in Vocational Education. Proceedings of the 2nd Crossing boundaries in VET Conference. Rostocker Papers of Vocational Education. Universität Rostock, Institut für Berufspädagogik. Rostock 2017. ISBN: 978-3-86009-481-5

4. Publications from the INAP Network Conferences

Lerman, R. & Adaye Okoli, E. (Eds.) Modern Apprenticeships: Widening Their Scope, Sustaining Their Quality. Proceedings of the Seventh Research Conference of the International Network for Innovative Apprenticeships, Washington D.C. 2017. https://www.inap.uni-bremen.de/inap_board.php