

WERA IRN's final progress report

IRN "International Research Network in Vocational Education and training" (IRNVET)

by Michael Gessler, Lazaro Moreno, Muchlas Samani & Pekka Kämäräinen

1. Introduction

This report covers the activities of the International Research Network in Vocational Education and Training" (IRNVET). During the last 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)


IJRVET has been published until today on regular basis and it has gained wider international visibility and recognition. 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, Yearbook 2018 and Yearbook 2019. IJRVET Yearbooks (print) are available from Amazon ([com](#), [de](#), [es](#), [fr](#), [it](#), [uk](#), [jp](#)) and other retailers.

As of 2018 the ILO Center for the development of vocational training (CINTERFOR) has started to support the IJRVET.

The journal is indexed in

 UNESCO/NCVER	 Elsevier	 Institute of Education Sciences (IES) at the U.S. Department of Education	 China National Knowledge Infrastructure, Chinesische Regierung
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Important for the establishment and recognition of the journal was its inclusion in SCOPUS on October 1, 2018.

Scopus Title Evaluation Team 1. Oktober 2018 um 15:01 

The review of your title for Scopus is complete
 An: M Gessler

Title: International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training
 ISSN / E-ISSN: / 2197-8646
 Publisher: European Educational Research Association / European Research Network Vocational Education and Training

Dear Prof. Dr. Michael Gessler,

The title mentioned above has been evaluated for inclusion in Scopus by the Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB). The review of this title is now complete and the CSAB has advised that the title will be **accepted** for inclusion in Scopus. For your information, the reviewer comments are copied below:

Thank you for submitting this publication for possible inclusion in Scopus. The editorial team is to be commended on the developing citations in Scopus journals and also the citedness of many of these papers. Publication ethics and author guidance clearly noted and there is an international Editorial Board in keeping with the international focus of the journal. These are additional evaluation comments as part of the evaluation process:

- + The journal consistently includes articles that are scientifically sound and relevant to an international academic or professional audience in this field.
- + The journal has scholarly relevance as evidenced by citations in other journals currently covered by Scopus.
- + The abstracts are in keeping with Scopus English Language requirements.
- + The abstracts are generally clear and provide an excellent summary of each article's content.
- + In general, the content of the articles is consistent with the scope and aims of the journal.
- + The articles are consistently of high academic quality, consistent with the journal's stated aims.
- + The articles are generally well written and understandable.
- + This title offers a valuable addition to the current publications in this field
- + The journal has clear aims and scope/journal policies that are consistent with the journal's content.
- + Peer review type is clearly stated and is supported by appropriate reviewer guidelines.

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Yours sincerely,

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As of today all issues are indexed. Thanks to the indexing at SCOPUS, we have received significantly more submissions since 2019, which will also further improve the quality of the journal. The evaluation procedure for indexing in the Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) was applied for after inclusion in SCOPUS in spring 2019. Since the Open Journal System (OJS) can no longer be maintained at the ITB due to a new update of OJS, I recently entered into a cooperation with the SUB of the University of Hamburg, which now hosts the journal. The office and thus the actual heart of the journal is still located at the University of Bremen.

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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 IJRVET 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 IJRVET 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, 'Crossing Boundaries in VET Research' conference took place in Valencia in May 2019 (and the next one is to be organised in Switzerland in the year 2021).

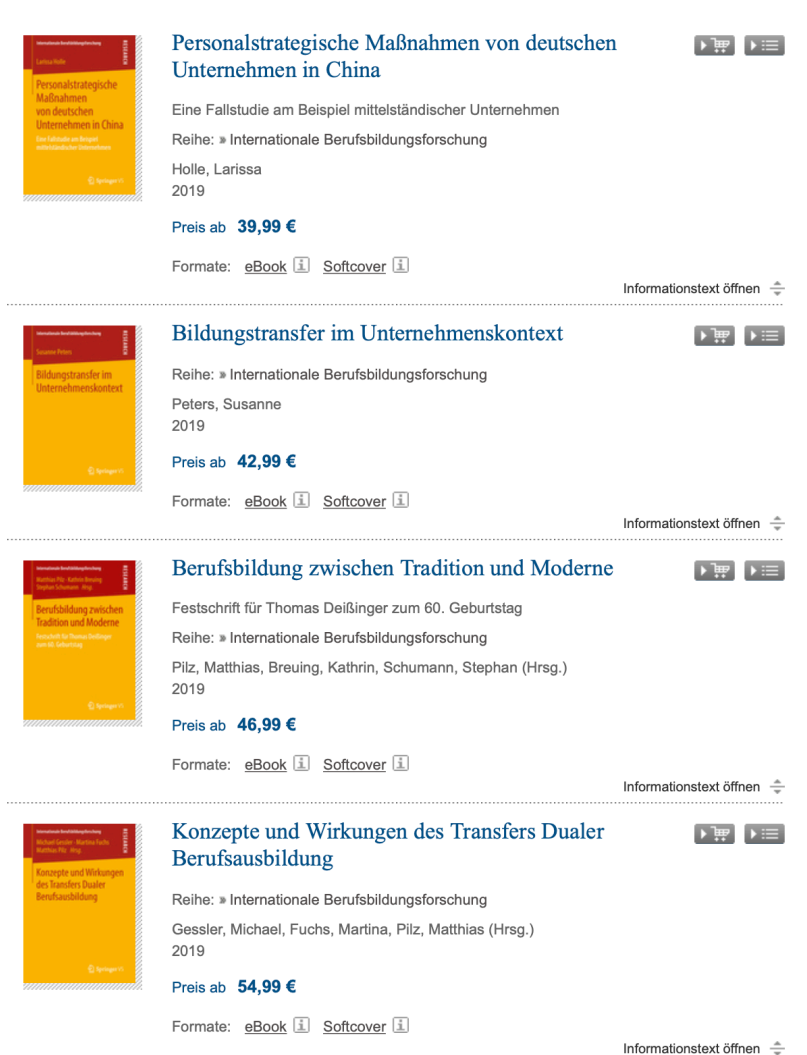
In addition, the IRNVET network has worked together with the INAP network and publicized its conferences and publications. (See publications listed in the Annex 2.)

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 with four books published in 2019.

(<https://www.springer.com/series/15816?detailsPage=titles>).



The screenshot displays a list of four books from the 'Internationale Berufsbildungsforschung' series, published by Springer in 2019. Each entry includes a book cover, title, author, price, and format options (eBook and Softcover). The books are:

- Personalstrategische Maßnahmen von deutschen Unternehmen in China** by Larissa Holle. Price: 39,99 €. Series: Internationale Berufsbildungsforschung.
- Bildungstransfer im Unternehmenskontext** by Susanne Peters. Price: 42,99 €. Series: Internationale Berufsbildungsforschung.
- Berufsbildung zwischen Tradition und Moderne** (Festschrift für Thomas Deiflinger zum 60. Geburtstag). Edited by Matthias Pilz, Kathrin Breuing, and Stephan Schumann. Price: 46,99 €. Series: Internationale Berufsbildungsforschung.
- Konzepte und Wirkungen des Transfers Dualer Berufsausbildung** (Konzepte und Wirkungen des Transfers Dualer Berufsausbildung). Edited by Michael Gessler, Martina Fuchs, and Matthias Pilz. Price: 54,99 €. Series: Internationale Berufsbildungsforschung.

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 – 2019

Vol. 6 No. 3 (2019)

December

- Skills and Employment Under Automation: Active Adaptation at the Local Level
Odd Bjørn Ure, Tom Skauge
- Job Satisfaction, Work Engagement, and Turnover Intention of CTE Health Science Teachers
Kathleen A. Park, Karen R. Johnson
- Identifying Teachers' Competencies in Finnish Vocational Education
Annukka Tapani, Arto O. Salonen
- Cross-Country Comparison of Engagement in Apprenticeships: A Conceptual Analysis for Individuals and Firms
Maia Chankseliani, Aizuddin Mohamed Anuar
- The Function and Institutional Embeddedness of Polytechnics in the Indian Education System
Sebastian Schneider, Matthias Pilz

Vol. 6 No. 2 (2019)

August

- Training Marketing by German Companies – Which Training Place Characteristics are Communicated?
Margit Ebbinghaus
- Large Scale Studies of Holistic Professional Competence in Vocational Education and Training (VET): The Case of Norway
Leif Christian Lahn, Hæge Nore
- Dropout Prevention in Secondary VET From Different Learning Spaces: A Social Discussion Experience
Francesca Salvà, Carme Pinya, Nuria Álvarez, Aina Calvo

- Analysing Training Needs of TVET Teachers in South Africa: An Empirical Study
Bernd Zinn, Kevin Raisch, Jennifer Reimann
- Book Review: India. International Handbook of Vocational Education and Training
Uma Gengaiah

Vol. 6 No. 1 (2019)

April

-
- Attracting Women Into Male-Dominated Trades: Views of Young Women in Australia
Karen Struthers, Glenda Strachan
 - Transition to Company-Based Vocational Training in Germany by Young People From a Migrant Background – The Influence of Region of Origin and Generation Status
Ursula Beicht, Günter Walden
 - What Students who Perform in “Secondary Roles” can Learn From Scenario Training in Vocational Education
David Sjöberg, Staffan Karp, Oscar Rantatalo
 - Exploring Visual Languages Across Vocational Professions
Alessia Eletta Coppi, Alberto Cattaneo, Jean-Luc Gurtner
 - Book Review: Teachers and Teaching in Vocational and Professional Education
Joy Papier

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
-

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. 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. 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. 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. 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 Andreassen
-

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. 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
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Annex 2

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

1. IJRVET Yearbooks

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

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

[IJRVET International Journal for Research in Vocational Education and Training: Yearbook 2019 \(ISSN 2197-8638\)](#) by Michael Gessler, Karen Evans, et al. | 3 Jan 2020

2. Publications from the Stockholm International VET Research Conferences

Teräs, M., Gougoulakis, P., & Moreno Herrera, L., & (Eds.): Emergent Issues in Vocational Education & Training. Voices from Cross-National Research, Vol. 1. 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. Emergent Issues in Research on Vocational Education & Training Vol. 2. Stockholm: Premiss Förlag. 2018

Teräs, M., Gougoulakis, P., & Moreno Herrera, L. & (Eds.): Vocational Education & Training – The World of Work and Teacher Education. Emergent Issues in Research on Vocational Education & Training Vol. 3. Stockholm: Premiss Förlag. 2018

3. Publications from the Crossing Boundaries in VET Research Conferences

Fernando Marhuenda and María José Chisvert-Tarazona (Eds.). Pedagogical concerns and market demands in VET. Proceedings of the 3rd Crossing Boundaries in VET conference. Valencia 2019. ISBN: 978-1-09515-790-9

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. & Adaeze 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