Network on Innovative Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship: A successful Tradition and Innovation of School-to-Work Transitions

INAP - International conference
Turin, September 17th and 18th, 2009

In cooperation with
TVET Research Group (IBB) - University of Bremen
European Training Foundation (ETF), Turin, and
European Research Network in Vocational Education and Training (VETNET)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Network on Innovative Apprenticeship (INAP) invites contributions to its international conference, which will address the following topics:

– Managing the transition from general schooling to vocational education
– Vocational literacy and vocational identity as a pre-condition for an effective transition from vocational education into the employment system
– Levels of governance and the role of stakeholders in the transition from school to VET

General guidelines

The conference organisers welcome contributions that are based on original research work and allow for a knowledge transfer on the basis of the international state of the art to regional and national as well as European policy-makers and practitioners. Papers will be selected for presentation on the basis of the recommendations of an academic review panel according to the procedure described below. Contributors are asked to submit an outline of their paper of approximately 2 pages including

– a summary of the paper of around 500 words,
– a tentative table of contents and
– a provisional bibliography.

In the summary, the issues addressed in the paper and their relevance for the conference topics (see below) should be described and the methodology used should be explained. The outlines should be sent to the organisers by April, 1st 2009. Detailed contact information on the authors should be provided on a separate sheet to allow for a blind review process. The outlines will be reviewed with regard to the appropriateness of the topics for the conference and the authors of the most interesting proposals will be invited to submit a full-length paper. Papers for all sessions should be of approximately 5,000 to 7,000 words in length with an abstract of no more than 500 words. The deadline for the submission of the papers will be May 15th, 2009.
**Topic 1: Managing the transition from general schooling to vocational education**

The transition from school to vocational education is of different quality and performance in the diverse national VET-systems. Primary and lower secondary education show a great variety in terms of career counselling and preparation for VET. ‘Managing transition’ comes into place, if transition from school to VET becomes problematic. Papers in this session should present analyses and critical reflections on the question, whether general education is able to deliver the necessary skills and competencies to start VET and discuss the criteria to assess these skills and competencies. Which forms of career counselling and preparation for VET are established in the different educational systems? And what is the role of practical training periods or internships?

**Topic 2: Vocational literacy and vocational identity as a pre-condition for an effective transition from vocational education into the employment system**

A core aspect of dual vocational education is to obtain the ability to exercise in an occupation. Intrinsically linked to competence development is the development of a vocational identity. Apprenticeship enables the apprentices to grow into the respective community of practice. Hence measuring the development of vocational identity and occupational motivation becomes a central task for VET research. Papers submitted should focus on scales to measure and evaluate apprentices’ development of occupational competence, large scale methods in the diagnosis of competence as well as measuring vocational identity and motivation and occupational motivation commitment.

**Topic 3: Levels of governance and the role of stakeholders in the transition from school to VET**

The transition from school to VET is heavily determined by the different spheres and structures of governance in the national education and VET systems. Additionally, the way stakeholders take part in the transition at local, regional and national level plays a crucial role. Papers are welcome that examine how the legislation forms a basis for the design of transition from school to VET (first threshold) and further discuss how the institutions are involved in career counselling and preparation for VET. Moreover, the role social partners play in the governance of the transition and the matter of institutional regulations for the interplay between labour market policies and educational policies shall be discussed.

**Conference location, organisation and fees**

The conference will take place in Torino, Italy, and will provide a forum for researchers in vocational education and training and experts to discuss innovative concepts of apprenticeship training. Detailed travel information will be provided by the organisers in due course. The working language is English.

In order to cover some of the organisational costs there will be fee of 100 Euro for active participants and 150 Euro for others. Conference proceedings will be handed out to every participant. The contributions will be published in an edited book.

**Conference committee:**

Prof. Felix Rauner (TVET Research Group (IBB), University of Bremen), Mag. Helmut Zelloth (European Training Foundation (ETF), Turin), Prof. Erica Smith (University of Ballarat, Australia) Dr. Ludger Deitmer (Institute Technology and Education (ITB), Bremen), Dr. Manfred Wallenborn (European Training Foundation (ETF), Turin)

**Conference organisation:**

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**Contact information:**

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Conference Secretary: Ursel Hauschildt, TVET Research Group (IBB), Bremen