

CALL FOR PAPERS**GOVPET GRADUATE WORKSHOP, 22-23 FEBRUARY 2018**

Intermediary associations and firms in collective skill formation systems

**Swiss Federal Institute for
Vocational Education and Training SFIVET
Bern/ Zollikofen, Switzerland**

‘Dual’ vocational education and training (VET) systems are based on a combination of work- and school-based learning and rely on the participation of firms in training. Cooperation between public authorities, intermediary associations and firms in VET has a long history and is to some extent path dependent. Nevertheless, the institutional arrangements underlying this collective type of skill formation are fragile and contingent. Current challenges of collective skill formation systems are for example technological and demographic changes, economic globalisation, or the emergence of European models in education. These challenges also affect existing institutional arrangements.

Intermediary associations such as employer and business associations, chambers as well as associations of employees, occupational groups, and unions are crucial stakeholders in VET systems. Among others, these intermediary associations are responsible for deciding the content of VET curricula and the further development of occupations. By delegating this task to private actors, public authorities aim to ensure that VET provides the skills the labour market needs, which can help to create smooth school-to-work transitions. In turn, these intermediary associations are supposed to represent members’ interests in the political arena and contribute to policy implementation. To do so, they need to mediate conflicts of interest among their often heterogeneous constituency with potentially diverging expectations. Thus, studying the characteristics and activities of intermediary associations allows insights into the dynamics of cooperation between private and public actors.

A core characteristic of dual VET systems is the prominent role of firms. Firms provide training places on the apprenticeship market, select applicants for apprenticeship positions, and influence their professional socialisation and future career through the workplace training offered. Most training firms are members of intermediary associations because they are interested in training regulations that correspond to their own needs and intermediary associations offer services and support for their member firms. Furthermore, they are also supposed to put training-related inclusion policies into practice.

The main objective of this graduate workshop is to discuss research on intermediary associations and firms involved in collective skill formation (initial, higher or continuous education) as well as the characteristics of systems of interest representations with regard to training activities in coordinated market economies. We are interested in comparative re-

search, studies on single countries or intermediary associations, and studies of specific policy implementation processes in skill formation systems.

For example:

- Research on policy implementation in collective skill formation systems
- Research on systems of intermediary associations involved in training activities
- Research on cooperation between intermediary associations and firms concerning training policies
- Case studies on intermediary associations from an organisational perspective
- Research on training firms and training-related inclusion policies and practices

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

The workshop will consist of presentations by senior faculty and discussion of graduate students' work. It is open to PhD students and early post-graduate researchers involved in research on relevant topics who submit a paper (max. 8000 words). 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 projects will be presented by students and discussed by GOVPET and invited senior faculty.

SENIOR FACULTY

- Carmen Baumeler, Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training
- Martin Behrens, Hans Böckler Stiftung (keynote, invited)
- Giuliano Bonoli, University of Lausanne
- Patrick Emmenegger, University of St Gallen
- Johann Fortwengel, King's College London (keynote)
- Lukas Graf, Hertie School of Governance
- Jürg Schweri, Swiss Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (keynote)

APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In order to apply, please send an abstract of about 500 words to Alexandra Strebel (alexandra.strebel@ehb.swiss) before 15 December 2017. If accepted, papers or project descriptions (max. 8000 words) need to be submitted before February 9 2018.

GOVPET can cover costs for accommodation and meals. Travel costs must be financed by participants. Upon request, GOVPET may make travel grants available on an exceptional basis for graduate students with interesting contributions whose home institutions cannot cover travelling costs. Please contact: alexandra.strebel@ehb.swiss

FURTHER INFORMATION ON GOVPET

GOVPET (Governance in Vocational and 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