

## Call for Papers

# International VET Conference

## Crossing Boundaries in Vocational Education and Training: Innovative Concepts for the 21th century

2nd - 4th of September 2015, Bremen, Germany

International Research Network Internationalisation in VET-Research (IRN-VET) / WERA  
Research Network in Vocational Education and Training (VETNET) / EERA  
Institute of Technology and Education (ITB), University of Bremen  
and the Chamber of Commerce, Bremen

### Keynote Speakers:

Professor Johanna Lasonen, University of South Florida, U.S.A.  
Dr Margaret Malloch, Victoria University, Australia  
Professor Martin Mulder, University of Wageningen, Netherlands  
Professor Lázaro Moreno Herrera, University of Stockholm, Sweden  
Professor Matthias Pilz, University of Cologne, Germany

Boundaries defining and shaping the field of vocational education and further training (VET):

- *Reference level 1 'Systems'*: Socio-culturally different VET systems have evolved along conceptual lines. The comparison of different skill formation systems and governance of VET systems are on the one hand of reflexive and on the other hand of practical importance in the context of international economic development and cooperation. The comparison allows for the identification of strengths as well as areas of improvement and recognising gaps. In a comparative perspective with regards to the current state as well as the necessary/possible developmental directions for the respective systems, what can we apply to the challenges of the 21st century?
- *Reference level 2 'Institutions'*: Formal and informal regulatory systems have formed within the different VET systems. These are not only an expression of professionalisation but also show the system boundaries and interfaces that are alike. In these inter-institutional spaces lie ever increasing innovation potentials: What rules have been established? How do the organised division of labour institutions interact? Which cooperations and what transitions were made possible or would be needed? What solutions have been developed and what rules would be required that are different from the previously established approaches?
- *Reference level 3 'Practices'*: In the institutions or systems of rules, practices have been established to cope with the central questions of teaching, learning, and competence development. Practices are constrained by the boundaries of the institution (intended practices), but also new practices (emerging) occur at this level that are both rule bound to the institutional boundaries and transcend them to create their own and original area for innovation. What are the different formal and informal practices, how do they relate to each other, and what developments are evident for the 21st century?

The three levels described are influenced by conceptual ideas, terms, and constructs. How do these conceptual ideas take shape, what are their boundaries, for what background are they valid, what are the underlying assumptions, what developments are evident, and which are fit for the future requirements of the 21st century? Both formal and informal learning occur at the level of skill formation systems, for example, the concept of 'collective and school-based VET systems', at the

level of the institutions, for example, the concepts ‘competence-based education’ and ‘school-to-work transition’, and on the level of practices, for example, ‘problem-based learning’ and ‘technology-enhanced learning’.

**With respect to the reference levels *Systems, Institutions, and Practices*, we invite researchers from the field of vocational education and training as well as from adjacent disciplines to participate and give presentations at the conference.**

Presentation time: 20 minutes

**Selection:**

Papers will be selected for presentation on the basis of a double-blind review-process. Criteria for selection are:

- Conceptual and theoretical framework
- Clarity of the research question explored
- Methods and empirical foundation
- New insight and originality

To ensure the integrity of the double-blind review the submission should include *in a separate document* full contact details, including the author(s)’ brief bio, institution affiliation, and e-mail address. Please delete your name in the *main document* from the text, with *Author* and year used in the references and footnotes, instead of the author’s name. Best papers will be selected and proposed for publication in a special edition of IJRNET International Journal for Research in Vocational Education: <http://www.ijrvet.net>

**Deadlines:**

Submission of the abstract:	February 27, 2015	500-1000 words
Notification of acceptance:	April 30, 2015	
Submission of the long paper:	June 30, 2015	up to 2000 words

Please send your abstract to [VETCONGRESS@uni-bremen.de](mailto:VETCONGRESS@uni-bremen.de)

**Conference Venue:**

The City Municipality of Bremen is a hanseatic city in north-western Germany. The Schütting, the conference venue, situated on the market square initially served the city’s merchants and tradesman as a guild house. In 1849, it became Bremen’s chamber of commerce. Bremen has its own city airport.

**Registration fee:** no fees

We are looking forward to receiving your abstract.

On behalf of IRN-VET WERA, VETNET EERA, ITB and Chamber of Commerce, Bremen

Prof. Gessler, Bremen, Germany