



Dear Readers,

The Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) is a governmental institution under the guidance of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). It was founded 39 years ago aiming in its research, development and consultative activities in the field of vocational education and training (VET) at identifying future challenges, to promoting innovation both, on a national and international level, and developing new, practice-oriented proposals for solving problems.

Globalisation and the rapid European integration towards a single market for education and employment have given rise to new challenges. National VET systems are caught in between the imperative of international competition and the necessity for cross-border cooperation. At the same time, there are increasing requirements for the planning of VET to embrace a European and international perspective. This prompts a need for action going beyond measures on the national level alone. It is vital to engage in transnational projects, knowledge transfer and international networks as a source of innovative and creative impetus for promoting a broader dialogue in VET. Learning from others, sharing experiences and working together on are essential maxims of VET policy and practice.

Intensifying the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge as a key instrument for promoting an international dialogue is a prominent aim of this journal. The articles are selected not only to provide information on current research, development and international advisory activities at BIBB, but also to give deeper insights into the ongoing development of structures and reforms within the German system of vocational education and training.



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This journal wants to encourage people to learn from another and to pass on their experience and knowledge. Accordingly, the articles presented are a compilation of the contributions which have appeared in BIBB's German-language journal "Berufsbildung in Wissenschaft und Praxis (BWP)" in recent months, and are now published in English to bring them to the attention of a wider international readership.

Gisela Dybowski